



NIRB File Nos.: 05AN070; 08YN017

May 27, 2010

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Environment
c/o, Siu-Ling Han, Head, Eastern Arctic Unit
Canadian Wildlife Service
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: Siu-Ling.Han@ec.gc.ca

**Re: Application Exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA:
CWS's amendment request for the "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project**

Dear Siu-Ling Han:

On April 23, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral from Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for an amendment to CWS' "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project. This project proposal requires the following authorizations to proceed:

- Scientific Permit (Canadian Wildlife Service)
- Wildlife Research Permit (Government of Nunavut)
- Water Use Licence (Nunavut Water Board)
- Access to Inuit Owned Lands (Kitikmeot Inuit Association)

Project activities in current proposal

In its amendment application, CWS is currently proposing to amend the "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project to include the following components/activities:

- Three (3) year period of authorization (June 1 – August 15 each year)
- Two (2) temporary camps for use by 6 people each (12 people total) for 12 days
- Two (2) temporary camps for use by 3 people each (6 people total) for 34 days
- Aerial and ground surveys throughout the Nunavut portion of Victoria Island, King William Island and surrounding areas
- Transport of personnel and equipment by Twin Otter and helicopter
- Temporary fuel caching with portable berms
- Removal of all combustible and non-combustible wastes

Please be advised that components contained in this project proposal have been previously screened under NIRB file numbers 05AN070 and 08YN017. These proposals were screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on June 7, 2005 and April 2, 2008 respectively, the NIRB issued the enclosed 12.4.4(a) screening

decisions to the Honourable Minister of Environment indicating the proposed projects could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Project components/activities included in the screenings of 05AN070 and 08YN017 were as follows:

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- Transport of 10 people by Twin Otter to the Queen Maud Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- Helicopter transport of ground crews to temporary camp sites
- Ground surveying for shorebirds
- Daily helicopter transport to survey sites

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- Ground surveying for shorebirds
- Aerial surveying for shorebirds within a 200 km radius of both Baker Lake and Arviat
- Two field crews (two people each) to overnight in Baker Lake and Arviat
- Daily transportation of field crew by helicopter from Baker Lake and Arviat to study area
- On-site transportation via ATV and by foot
- Production and burial of human wastes in the field

The current CWS application, the original NIRB screening files and Screening Decisions (NIRB File 05AN070 and 08YN017) can be accessed from the NIRB's ftp site at the following links:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2005_SCREENINGS/05AN070-Vicky%20Johnston/

http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2008_SCREENINGS/08YN017-Vicky%20Johnston/

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

On May 3, 2010 the NIRB distributed the current amendment application to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by May 13, 2010. On or before May 13, 2010 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (GN-DoE)

Comment submissions can be accessed from the NIRB's ftp site at the following links:
http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2008_SCREENINGS/08YN017-Vicky%20Johnston/1-SCREENING/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS

After completing a review of the information provided from CWS and the comments received from the parties, the NIRB has confirmed that the application does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original June 7, 2005 and April 2, 2008 Screening Decision Reports (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or lwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Jennie Rausch, Canadian Wildlife Service (jennie.rausch@ec.gc.ca)
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association (dirlands@kivalliqinuit.ca)
Stanley Anablak, Kitikmeot Inuit Association (sanablak@qiniq.com)
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 05AN070, June 7, 2005
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08YN017, April 2, 2008