



NIRB File No.: 08YN017
NWB File No.: 3BC-ASM1010
CWS File No.: NUN-SCI-10-01

May 27, 2011

Jennie Rausch
Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 2310, 5019 - 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

Via email: jennie.rausch@ec.gc.ca

Re: Application Acknowledgement for Jennie Rausch's Amendment Request with the Canadian Wildlife Service for the "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program"

Dear Jennie Rausch:

On May 5, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for new National Wildlife Area entry permit as well as an amendment to Jennie Rausch's "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project. On May 26, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this new project component.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08YN017) was received by the NIRB from the CWS on February 19, 2008 along with the positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the NPC. The proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on April 2, 2008 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment indicating that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Project components/activities included the following:

- Ground surveying for shorebirds involving 12 hectare walkabouts;
- 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;
- Field activity to take place June 9-19 near Arviat, and June 19-30 near Baker Lake; and
- Production and burial of human wastes in the field.

Jennie Rausch's project was initially proposed to occur in the Kivalliq region. This monitoring project is part of a long term North American monitoring initiative of migratory birds supported through the Polar Continental Shelf Program. To date, the Proponent has completed monitoring in 3 of 13 Canadian Arctic

PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring) regions. The project proposal was initially screened by the NIRB for project activities in the Kivalliq region, has been reassessed by the NIRB as the project activities moved into the Kitikmeot region, and is being further assessed by the NIRB as the activities proceed into the North Baffin Region. On May 27, 2010 the following project activities/components were reviewed by the NIRB in relation to the scope of the previously screened project:

- 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.

Amendment-

Jennie Rausch is proposing to amend the existing CWS scientific research license to include the following additional components/activities:

- New study areas within the Kitikmeot and North Baffin regions to encompass Bathurst Island, Cornwallis Island especially around Resolute Bay, and Prince of Whales Island;
- Addition of a new three year National Wildlife Area entry permit;
- Construction of a temporary camp to support activities on the Prince of Wales Island from June 15-30, 2011;
- New water license for camp water requirements.

The NIRB has determined that this request may result in a change to the original scope of the project.

The CWS application and the original NIRB screening file, 08YN017 are available from NIRB's ftp site at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08YN017-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.”*

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the amendment is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the attached April 2, 2008 Screening Decision,

along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 7, 2011**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- whether the proposed component or activity was a part of the original proposal;
- whether its inclusion would significantly modify the project;
- any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Assistant Technical Advisor, Tara Arko, at tarko@nirb.ca or by phone 867-983-4611.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Assistant Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB
Jason Akearok, CWS
Robert St. Eloi, QIA
Stanley Anablak, KitIA

Attachment: Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun)
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08YN017 (April 2, 2008)