



NIRB File No.: 08YN017

CWS File Nos.: NUN-NWA-11-03, NUN-SCI-11-06;
NWT-MBS-09-03

May 30, 2014

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada
c/o Jason Akearok, Habitat Biologist
Canadian Wildlife Service
Iqaluit, NU

Sent via email: jason.akearok@ec.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Canadian Wildlife Service - Jennie Rausch's "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project proposal, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, Qikiqtani Regions

Dear Jason Akearok:

On May 21, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for an extension to Canadian Wildlife Service – Jennie Rausch's "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project proposal. On May 11, 2011 and April 24, 2013 the NIRB received positive conformity determinations (North Baffin and Keewatin Regional Land Use Plans, respectively) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file. As no amended activities or new areas are currently being proposed within the application as submitted May 21, 2014, the previous determinations will continue to apply.

The original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08YN017) was received by the NIRB from CWS on February 19, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On April 2, 2008 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment, Government of Canada which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Additional authorization and extension requests associated with the "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 08YN017). In each instance the NIRB confirmed that the applications were exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions

recommended in the original April 2, 2008 Screening Decision Report. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 08YN017 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 08YN017

Authorization	Application			NIRB Decision	
	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Type
CWS NWT-MBS-09-03	April 23, 2010	New Permit	Additional survey locations	May 27, 2010	Reissued April 2, 2008 SDR
CWS NUN-NWA-11-03, NUN-SCI-11-06	May 5, 2011	New Permit	Continue research	June 9, 2011	Reissued April 2, 2008 SDR
CWS NWT-SCI-13-01	May 7, 2013	New Permits	Continue research and include new locations	June 20, 2013	Reissued April 2, 2008 SDR

Notes: CWS = Canadian Wildlife Service; Scientific Permit = Scientific Permit to take, salvage, disturb or display migratory birds; NWA = National Wildlife Area Entry permit; SDR = Screening Decision Report

The current CWS application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 08YN017) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08YN017-Vicky%20Johnston/03-DECISION/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08YN017), the "Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program" project was originally proposed to take place within the Kivalliq region, near the communities of Arviat and Baker Lake. The objective of the proposed project was to monitor several species of shorebirds that breed in the Arctic to obtain better estimates for their population size. The project was to be carried out in the summer season and was planned as a long-term, multi-year project designed to help fully understand the trend in arctic shorebird population sizes and the cause of a historic decrease in arctic shorebird populations.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Ground surveying for shorebirds involving 12 hectare walkabouts;
- Aerial surveying for shorebirds within a 200 kilometre radius of both Baker Lake and Arviat;
- Two field crews (two people each) to overnight within each community;
- Daily transportation of field crew by helicopter from Baker Lake and Arviat to study area;
- Surveys conducted on the ground using all-terrain vehicles and by foot, as well as aerial surveys with the potential for landing and continuing survey on foot;
- Field activities 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.

The activities and components associated with the previous April 23, 2010 application for additional permits included:

- 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; and
- Removal of all combustible and non-combustible wastes.

The activities and components associated with the previous May 5, 2011 application for additional permits included:

- Study areas proposed within the Kitikmeot and North Baffin regions on and around Bathurst Island, Prince of Wales Island, and Cornwallis Island near Resolute Bay;
- Multi-year access to Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area;
- Construction of a temporary camp to support activities on the Prince of Wales Island from June 15-30, 2011; and
- New Type B NWB Water License for camp water requirements.

The activities and components associated with the previous May 7, 2013 application for additional permits included:

- Application for new CWS Bird Sanctuary permit - three (3) year period of authorization (May 15 – August 31 each year);
- Applications for new CWS National Wildlife Area permit - three (3) year period of authorization (May 15 – August 31 each year);
- Aerial and ground surveys throughout the following locations and/or surrounding areas:
 - Communities: Arviat, Baker Lake, Bathurst Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Repulse Bay, and Resolute Bay;
 - National Wildlife Areas: Akpait National Wildlife Area, Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area, Nirjutiqqavvik National Wildlife Area, Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area, and Qaulluit National Wildlife Area;
 - Migratory Bird Sanctuaries: Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary, East Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Harry Gibbons Migratory Bird Sanctuary, McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
 - National Parks: Auyuittuq National Park, Sirmilik National Park, and Ukkusiksalik National Park.
 - Wildlife Sanctuary: Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Temporary camp to consist of:
 - Two (2) large tents (10'x12') for kitchen and storage;
 - One (1) personal sleeping tent for each person in camp (10 in total);

- Power sources to include propane for cooking and small solar panels to re-charge scientific equipment.
- Transport of personnel and equipment by Twin Otter and helicopter;
- Temporary fuel caching to utilize portable berms; and
- Removal of all combustible and non-combustible wastes.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Canadian Wildlife Service – Jeannie Rausch is currently proposing to amend the term of its previous 3-year permit application from 2013-2016 to 2014-2017 owing to the fact that the field work was not conducted during 2013.

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.”

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension 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 the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original April 2, 2008 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jennie Rausch, Canadian Wildlife Service
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clarke, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08YN017 (April 2, 2008)