



NIRB File No.: 09DN009
AANDC File No.: N2007J0044
NWB File No.: 3BC-AWW0814

October 13, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer
Manager Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca and landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: the Department of National Defence's "Winter Warfare Advanced Course" project

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On October 12, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit N2007J0044 for the Department of National Defence's (DND) "Winter Warfare Advanced Course" project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09DN009) was received by the NIRB from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association on January 29, 2009. The project proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on March 13, 2009 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now AANDC) which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On October 21, 2010 the NIRB received an application from INAC for an extension to Land Use Permit N2007J0044 for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on October 22, 2010.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (09DN009) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 09DN009), the “Winter Warfare Advanced Course” was located within the Qikiqtani region, based in the community of Resolute Bay. Course participants planned, mounted and executed a mock sovereignty patrol, employed Canadian Rangers, and used GPS and astrocompass instruments to aid in navigation. The participants practiced skiing, ski-joring, using light over-snow vehicles (skidoo), medium over-snow vehicles (BV-206), and towing loads.

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

- Communicating in arctic conditions;
- Assessing the effects of cold on training;
- Conducting re-supply operations;
- Applying First-Aid in arctic conditions;
- Conducting casualty evacuations;
- Demonstrating arctic survival techniques;
- Establishing bivouacs;
- Constructing snow structures;
- Conducting tactical training; and
- Conducting community relations activities.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

On October 12, 2011 AANDC forwarded DND’s application for an extension to Land Use Permit N2007J0044 to the NIRB. The application indicates that the proposed activities and associated locations remain the same as those previously screened and permitted.

DND is proposing to extend its existing Land Use Permit for this project (N2007J0044) for an additional year in order to authorize the ongoing above mentioned activities and components.

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, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and that the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not

apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for 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 March 13, 2009 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director

cc: Justin Thomas, DND
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB
Robert St. Eloi, QIA
Tracey McCaie, AAND

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 09DN009 (March 13, 2009)