



NIRB File No.: 11EN037

QIA File No.: Q11L3C006

AANDC File No.: N2011C0020

NRI File No. 02 013 13R-M

NWB File No. 2BE-WPP1116

April 12, 2013

Okalik Eegeesiak
President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
c/o Bernie MacIsaac, Director of Lands and Resources
Qikiqtani Inuit Association
P.O. Box 1340
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Sent via email: bmacisaac@qia.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Advanced Explorations Inc.'s "Anik Nickel-Copper" project, Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region

Dear Bernie MacIsaac:

On March 6, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application for access to Inuit Owned Lands from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) for Advanced Explorations Inc.'s (AEI) "Anik Nickel-Copper" project proposal. Additional information¹ associated with this application was requested by the NIRB on March 12, 2013 and was received from the Proponent on March 20, 2013.

Please be advised that the original project proposal, then the "Western" project, (NIRB File No. 11EN037) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada or AANDC) on May 30, 2011. On June 28, 2011, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this application and the NIRB commenced screening in accordance with Article 12, Part 4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On August 4, 2011, the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

¹Nunavut Impact Review Board Part 1 Form and Nunavut wildlife research permit application

On April 26, 2012 the NIRB received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for a Scientific Research Licence for the above mentioned project. On May 11, 2012, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the NPC for this application. After a thorough assessment of the NRI application, 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 May 15, 2012.

The current QIA application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 11EN037) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/11EN037-Advanced%20Explorations%20Inc-Western%20Project/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 11EN037), the "Western" project was located approximately 155 kilometres northeast of Hall Beach, South Baffin region. The Proponent indicated that it intended to undertake an early stage exploration program for banded iron formations from the summer of 2011 to the spring/summer of 2013.

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

- Prospecting, geological mapping, sampling, and ground geophysical surveys;
- Exploration drilling (diamond drilling);
- Helicopter supported drill program, including transportation of field crew to drill sites;
- Temporary tent camp facilities for a maximum of fifteen (15) people;
- Transporting supplies, equipment, fuel and personnel to and from the camp site using a fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter;
- Overland transportation to sites via snowmobiles and skidded equipment;
- Fuel and chemical storage at camp site (10,250 litres diesel, 10,250 litres aviation fuel, 5,125 litres gasoline, 1,500 pounds propane, and 10,000 kilograms calcium chloride);
- Temporary storage of other chemicals and hazardous materials on site;
- Water use for drilling purposes and camp activities;
- Disposal of sewage, greywater and waste generated from camp operations;
- Incineration of combustible waste; and
- Removal of non-combustible and hazardous waste to an approved disposal facility.

The activities and components associated with the previous April 26, 2012 NRI Application included:

- Use of three (3) field personnel for studies;
- Use of helicopter to transport personnel from existing Hall Beach and Tuktu camps to study sites;
- Installation of water sampling stations in the project area;
- Collecting water samples in the project area; and
- Submission of collected water samples to a laboratory in the South for analysis.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Advanced Explorations Inc. is currently applying for a new Land Use Licence from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to continue previously approved project activities for the “Anik Nickel-Copper” project. The project activities are scheduled to take place from April 2013 to May 2015. Advanced Explorations Inc. is also applying for a new Nunavut Wildlife Research Permit with the Government of Nunavut to continue environmental baseline studies from April 2013 to September 2013. The research activities include:

- Caribou studies to document the abundance and distribution of caribou;
- Sea mammal and seabird studies to document the presence of seabirds or sea mammals within the wildlife study area;
- Raptor studies to document the presence of nesting birds and examine potential nesting sites;
- Upland bird studies to document the presence and density of breeding birds by habitat type; and
- Record all other species (e.g., Arctic foxes and wolves) if observed during surveys.

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 Land Use Licence 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 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 August 4, 2011 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Tannis Bolt, Assistant Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4603 or tbolt@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Meghan Copeland, Advanced Explorations Inc.
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 11EN037 (August 4, 2011)