



NIRB File No.: 10YN009

April 24, 2012

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Arctic College
P.O. Box 2410
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: University of Calgary's "Arctic Carbonates" Project, North Baffin Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

On March 25, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for a new Scientific Research Licence for the University of Calgary's "Arctic Carbonates" project proposal. On March 25, 2013 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 10YN009) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on January 26, 2010 and a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) was received by the NIRB from the NPC on January 29, 2010. The proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on March 1, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed 12.4.4 (a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Nunavut, indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current NRI application and the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No.: 10YN009) are available from NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/10YN009-U%20of%20Calgary-Arctic%20Carbonates/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No.: 10YN009), the “Arctic Carbonates” project was located within the North Baffin region on Raanes Peninsula, southwest Ellesmere Island, approximately 220 kilometres (km) north of the community of Grise Fiord and 185 km south of the Eureka weather station. The Proponent intended to investigate ocean acidification during the late Palaeozoic-early Mesozoic transition period in the Sverdrup Basin. The program was proposed to take place over a three week period from June 25 to August 6, commencing in 2010 and continuing annually until 2013.

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

- Examination of outcrops of large ancient reefs west of Blind Fiord (southwest section of Ellesmere Island);
- Examination of outcrops of carbonates and sandstones east of Blind Fiord;
- Collection of approximately 50 small rock samples (less than 0.5 kilograms each) for geochemical analysis from five research sites;
- Establishment of temporary tent camps to be used by 3 research personnel; camps to be located near research sites and to be removed after approximately 4 days of research at each site (total of 5 research sites);
- Use of helicopter to relocate personnel between research sites;
- Temporary fuel storage;
- Water consumption and waste production;
- Incineration of combustible wastes; and
- Transportation of non-combustible wastes to Resolute for disposal.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The University of Calgary is proposing to amend its Scientific Research Licence with the NRI to conduct research activities in a new area on Ellesmere Island and would include the following components/activities:

- Examination of outcrops of volcanic rocks, carbonates (i.e., large ancient reefs) and sandstones on northwest Ellesmere Island in the Sverdrup Basin area;
- Collection of approximately 50 small rock samples (less than 0.5 kilograms each) for geochemical analysis from four research sites;
- Establishment of temporary tent camps to be used by 5 research personnel located near research sites and to be removed after approximately 4 days of research at each site (total of 4 research sites);
- Use of helicopter to relocate personnel between research sites;
- Temporary fuel storage;
- Water consumption and waste production;
- Incineration of combustible wastes; and
- Transportation of non-combustible wastes to Resolute for disposal.

The program is proposed to take place from June 16 to July 13, commencing in 2013 and continuing annually to 2015.

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 April 8, 2013 the NIRB distributed the current request to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by April 17, 2013.

The following comments were received from Environment Canada (EC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding the proposed request from the University of Calgary for its “Arctic Carbonates” project proposal:

- Potential impacts to migratory birds from low level flights and the disturbance of nests or eggs during field program;
- Proponent should be aware of changes to the status and listing of the species potentially present in the project area;
- Comments previously submitted by EC to the NIRB on February 15, 2010 regarding the project still apply to this proposal; and
- The project proposal does not trigger the Fisheries Act and therefore does not require review by DFO.

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received from interested parties, the NIRB is of the understanding 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 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 March 1, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Catherine Braun Rodriguez, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4607 or crodriguez@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 10YN009 (March 1, 2010)