



NIRB File No. 13YN011

April 12, 2013

Marie-Claude Williamson
Natural Resources Canada
601 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E8

Sent via email: mwilliam@nrcan.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Natural Resources Canada's "Environmental Minerology and Geochemistry" project proposal

Dear Marie-Claude Williamson:

On March 6, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Natural Resources Canada's "Environmental Minerology and Geochemistry" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). On April 4, 2013 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file and assigned this project proposal file number 13YN011 - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project will be located on Axel Heiberg Island, North Baffin region. The program is proposed to take place from July 1, 2013 to August 31, 2013 and intends to determine how metals contained in the mine waste are dispersed in the ground and local streams in the area where permafrost encloses the waste.

The proposed project activities and components include:

- Set-up of a temporary camp;
- Use of a helicopter to transport personnel from camp to sampling locations;
- Collection of rock, soil, stream sediment and water samples;
- Transportation, storage and use of fuel at camp site;
- Transportation, storage and use of chemicals and hazardous materials;
- Use of water for domestic and production of human, non-combustible and grey-water wastes;
- Incineration of combustible wastes;
- Removal of ash and solid waste; and,
- Use of fixed-wing aircraft to transport personnel to the camp location.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/13YN011-NRCan-Environmental%20Minerology%20and%20Geochemistry/> including:

- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Application Form in English*
- *Maps*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in Inuktitut*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *NRI Scientific Research Licence Application in English*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

Be advised that the NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 22, 2013**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

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

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4603 or tbolt@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tannis Bolt
Assistant Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List

Mosha Cote, NTI
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB

Attachments: Appendix A – *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (2): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

Appendix A
Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Natural Resources Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to NIRB (NIRB Part 1 Form, April 5, 2013); NRI Scientific Research Licence Application, February 14, 2013; non-technical Project Proposal Summaries in English and Inuktitut.
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Waste

5. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily, and remove the ash from incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of. All wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
8. The Proponent shall store all chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
9. The Proponent shall report all spills of fuel, or other deleterious materials immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

10. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
11. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
12. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.

13. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
15. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e. with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
16. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
17. The Proponent shall ensure all project staff are trained in appropriate bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques.

Physical Environment

18. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Camp

19. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.

Restoration

20. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
21. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.

Other

22. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.