

NIRB File No.: 03YN010
NWB File No.: 3BC-CBA1015
AANDC File No.: N2011N0019

August 30, 2013

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer
Manager, Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca, landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Queens University-Scott Lamoureux’s “Land and Water Research at the Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory” Project, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On August 21, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to the Land Use Permit (No. N2011N0019) associated with Queens University-Scott Lamoureux's "Land and Water Research at the Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory" project.

Please be advised that the NIRB received the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 03YN010) from Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) on January 15, 2003. The proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On February 19, 2003 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (Government of Nunavut) indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On March 24, 2006 the NIRB received a renewal request from the NRI for the above mentioned project. On April 20, 2006 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on May 1, 2006.

On March 21, 2011 the NIRB received an application for a renewal from the NRI to the multi-year Scientific Research Licence (No. 02 074 10R-M) for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the renewal 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 March 31, 2011.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 03YN010) 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/2003/03YN010-Scott%20Lamoureux/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 03YN010), the "Landscape Processes at Cape Bounty-Melville Island" project was located within the Qikiqtaaluk region, approximately 426 kilometres (km) northwest of Resolute Bay. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct scientific field research in and around Cape Bounty.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Sediment coring in lakes;
- Soil measurements; and
- Vegetation mapping.

In 2006, this research program was renewed with additional work also delineated. The Proponent stated in application materials that it intended to develop a long record of past weather and river conditions using sediments collected in lakes and rivers around Cape Bounty.

The activities/components associated with this renewal included:

- Placing instruments in lake(s) and/or river(s).

The previous March 21, 2011 application included a renewal to the multi-year NRI Scientific Research Licence associated with this proposal (NRI File No. 02 074 10R-M).

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Queens University – Scott Lamoureux is proposing to extend its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2011N0019) to continue this multi-year research project within the scope of previously-approved activities.

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 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 February 19, 2003 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: Scott Lamoureux, Queens University
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 03YN010 (February 19, 2003)