



NIRB File No.: 10YN058
CWS File No.: NUN-SCI-11-01

February 28, 2012

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of Environment
c/o Jason Akearok, Habitat Biologist
Canadian Wildlife Service
Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: jason.akearok@ec.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Carleton University – Amie Black’s “Detecting Avian Cholera in the Hudson Bay Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima sedentaria*) in the Belcher Archipelago, Nunavut” project

Dear Mr. Akearok:

On February 23, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for an amendment to the *Permit for Scientific Take or Disturbance of Migratory Birds* (CWS File No. NUN-SCI-11-01) for Carleton University – Amie Black’s “Detecting Avian Cholera in the Hudson Bay Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima sedentaria*) in the Belcher Archipelago, Nunavut” project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 10YN058) was received by the NIRB from the CWS on December 14, 2010 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On January 14, 2011 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Nunavut which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB’s recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current CWS application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (NIRB File No. 10YN058) and related file information are available from the NIRB’s ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/10YN058-Carleton%20University-Amie%20Black/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 10YN058), the research project was located within the South Baffin region of Nunavut near Sanikiluaq, on the southern area of the Belcher Island Archipelago. The Proponent indicated that it intended to collect samples of Common Eiders, test them for avian cholera to assess whether the disease had reached the birds' Nunavut wintering grounds, and if the disease was detected, to possibly determine where the disease had originated. The samples were to be collected in 1-2 weeks and the entire program was to be finished by the end of March 2011.

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

- Use snowmobiles to move five people and scientific equipment from a previously established camp near Sanikiluaq to the study area;
- Use a helicopter for site to site pick-ups and drop-offs;
- Collection and preservation of cloacal and choanal swabs, as well as blood, feather, liver, kidney, and lungs samples from birds harvested by local hunters;
- Collection of any dead eiders found in the study area; and
- Shipment of samples to a laboratory at the Veterinary College in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec for cholera analysis.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is proposing to amend its CWS permit for this project to continue research efforts as originally permitted, and has applied to include the following additional components and activities:

- Deploy additional remote time-lapse photography equipment at polynya and floe edge habitats to collect information on the dynamics of sea ice extend throughout the winter, and the associated distribution, abundance, and behaviour of eider ducks and other wildlife using these habitats;
- Deploy oceanographic equipment such as salinity metres in winter sea ice habitats to provide additional information to evaluate sea ice dynamics in relation to eider foraging behaviour;
- Conduct sample testing at the University of Saskatchewan's, College of Veterinary Medicine lab facilities; and
- Removal of all equipment deployed prior to spring melt season.

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 amendment 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 January 14, 2011 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or tarko@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

cc: Amie Black, Carlton University
Robert St. Eloi, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 10YN058 (January 14, 2011)