



NIRB File No.: 09YN056
INAC No.: N2009N0010

May 12, 2011

Honourable Dan Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: GSC – Keith Dewing’s “Hydrocarbon Potential of Ellef Ringnes Island” project

Dear Mosha Cote:

On May 5, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an amendment to the scientific research license for the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) – Keith Dewing’s “Hydrocarbon Potential of Ellef Ringnes Island” project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09YN056) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on June 25, 2009 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On January 28, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB’s recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On April 28, 2010 the NIRB received a new application from the NRI for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the new application, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from further screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on June 1, 2010.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (09YN056) and related file information are available from the NIRB’s ftp site at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/09YN056-GSC%20-%20Keith%20Dewing/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 09YN056), the “Hydrocarbon Potential of Ellef Ringnes Island” project was located within the Qikiqtaaluk region, approximately 464 kilometres (km) northwest of Grise Fiord. The Proponent indicated in both the INAC application, then later in the NRI application that the intent of the project was to better understand the geology of Ellef Ringnes Island through collection and analysis of rock specimens and geological mapping between June 28, 2010 and August 6, 2010 with a second season of work anticipated for 2011.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Crews to perform daily traverses to sample rocks. Rocks will be collected by hand, usually 0.5-2 kilograms in size. These will be sent to Calgary and analyzed for their organic matter. Small samples of water or ice will be taken from creeks and springs to analyse for water quality (dissolved solids, microbes and chemistry).
- Temporary tent camp of 20 people for one month in 2010 and 15 people for one month in 2011;
- Caching of field equipment for use in 2011;
- Transport of personnel using a helicopter; and,
- Collection and analysis of rock, water and ice samples.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

GSC – Keith Dewing is proposing to amend their scientific research permit to include the following additional components/activities:

- Addition of two locations: Glacier Fiord on Axel Heiberg Island, and around the Eureka weather station on Ellesmere Island;
- Logistical support through the Polar Continental Shelf Project in Resolute Bay.

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 screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original January 28, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Autut', enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Keith Dewing, GSC (kdewing@NRCan.gc.ca)
Jeff Mercer, INAC (jeff.mercer@inac.ainc.gc.ca and landsmining@inac.gc.ca)
Tracey McCaie, INAC (Tracey.McCaie@inac.gc.ca)
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 09YN056 (January 28, 2010)