



NIRB File No.: 07LN014

INAC File Nos.: N2003J0001; 58H07002

NRI File No.: 0202507R-M

July 5, 2010

Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
c/o Spencer Dewar, Manager Land Administration
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: spencer.dewar@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Mars Society's "Devon Island Research Facility" project

Dear Spencer Dewar:

On June 23, 2010 the NIRB received an application for an extension to Land Use Permit #N2003J0001 from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for the Mars Society's "Devon Island Research Facility" project.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 07LN014) was received by the NIRB from INAC on February 20, 2007 and was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On April 3, 2007 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC indicating that the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended terms and conditions.

The current application, the original NIRB screening file and Screening Decision (07LN014), are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2007_SCREENINGS/07LN014-Robert_Zubrin/1-SCREENING/.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB under File No. 07LN014, the Mars Society's "Devon Island Research Facility" project was located on Devon Island within the Qikiqtaaluk region, approximately 168 kilometres (km) northeast of Resolute. The proposed research facility and related activities were to be located at the Haughton impact crater site on Devon Island, within the general vicinity of a separate research camp operated by the Mars Institute. The Proponent had identified three main goals:

1. To provide a testbed for studying the many aspects of field exploration operations on a human mission to Mars
2. To provide a capable field research laboratory to help further our understanding of the Arctic, the Earth, Mars and the possibilities and limits of life on our planet and beyond.
3. To inform and inspire people around the world to greater interest in space and science by bringing before them in a tangible form the vision of human exploration of Mars.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Simulate a landed spacecraft on Mars;
- Six or seven person crew in a habitat/laboratory module;
- Liquid waste concentrated and flown from the site and solids incinerated and flown from site;
- Fuel to be properly stored on site;
- All terrain vehicles and generators to be used; and
- Research activities to be conducted every other year.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

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 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 April 3, 2007 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Best regards,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Robert Zubrin, Resident, Mars Society

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 07LN014 (April 3, 2007)