



NIRB File No.: 08DN056
NRI File No.: 0203708N-M

May 16, 2012

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via Email: Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Defence Research and Development Canada's "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project

Dear Mosha Cote:

On May 3, 2012, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for a Scientific Research Licence for Defence Research and Development Canada's (DRDC; the Proponent) "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project proposal. On May 11, 2012, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08DN056) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada or AANDC) on May 13, 2008, and was screened by the Board in accordance with Article 12, Part 4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On June 19, 2008, the NIRB issued the enclosed 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Additional requests for amendment and extensions to the AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2008N0027) associated with this project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal. In each instance, the NIRB confirmed that the applications were exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original June 19, 2008 Screening Decision Report.

Authorization	Application			Correspondence Issued by NIRB
	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	
Land Use Permit	May 29, 2009	Amendment	Changes to camp infrastructure	June 2, 2009
Land Use Permit	July 15, 2010	Extension	Continue the Project	July 16, 2010
Land Use Permit	June 3, 2011	Extension	Continue the Project	June 14, 2011

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 08DN056) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08DN056-DRD-NWTD/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08DN056), the "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project was located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 110 kilometres from Resolute. The Proponent indicated that it intended to identify and characterize combinations of sensor systems for cost effective surveillance of unique maritime environment of the Canadian Arctic.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Establishment of 2 temporary structures at existing Gascoyne Inlet Camp site;
- Temporary fuel storage including 1,025 litres diesel, 410 litres gasoline, 2,050 litres aviation fuel and 500 pounds of propane;
- Aircraft use for research activities;
- On site use of an all-terrain vehicle and trailer;
- Placement of four bottom-mounted underwater arrays (include acoustic, magnetic, and electric filed sensors) and connecting submarine cable;
- Installation of land-based sensors (include a marine navigation radar, an Electro-Optical system, an electronic intelligence receiver and an automatic identification system); and
- Data collection and experiments.

The additional activities/components associated with the Proponent's May 29, 2009 application for an amendment to its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2008N0027) included:

- Construction of an additional 16 foot by 16 foot sleeping quarters;
- Installation of two (2) toilets at existing camp site; and
- Transportation of hazardous and human waste to approved disposal sites in Resolute Bay.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

DRDC is currently applying for a Scientific Research Licence from the Nunavut Research Institute to install and operate an unmanned surveillance demonstration system as part of its "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project in Lancaster Sound and neighbouring areas in the North Baffin Region. The project is proposed to occur from 2012 to 2016.

The currently proposed activities include:

- Use of existing Gascoyne Inlet Camp;
- Use of Canadian Forces Auxiliary Vessel;
- Deploying and operation of underwater sensors;
- Use of underwater cameras and bottom sampling devices for benthic (ocean floor) characterization;
- Use of underwater multi-beam transducers to gather bathymetric measurements;
- Conducting trials on a low power laser system; and
- Storage of fuel on bermed and lined sites (10,250 litres of diesel, 410 liters of gasoline and 400 pounds of propane).

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, the NIRB is of the understanding that the application received from the NRI 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 as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the June 19, 2008 Screening Decision Report dated (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Kofi Boa-Antwi, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4609 or kboa-antwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: David Hazen, Defence Research Development Canada (Dave.hazen@drdc-rddc.gc.ca)
Bruce Grychowski, Defence Research Development Canada (bruce.grychowski@drdc.rddc.gc.ca)
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association (bmacisaac@qia.ca)
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (Jeff.Mercer@aandc.gc.ca)
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
(tracey.mccaie@aandc.gc.ca)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08DN056 (June 19, 2008)