

NIRB File No.: 08DN056 AANDC File No.: N2008N0027

April 11, 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 and landsmining@aandc.gc.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, North Baffin Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On March 20, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit N2008N0027 for Defence Research and Development Canada's (DRDC's) "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 AANDC) on May 13, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On June 19, 2008, the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 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 authorization and extension requests associated with the "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No.: 08DN056). In each instance the NIRB confirmed that the applications were exempt from the requirement for further 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. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No.: 08DN056 are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Additional Applications Associated with NIRB File No.: 08DN056

	Application			NIRB Decision	
Authorization	Date Received by NIRB	Туре	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Туре
INAC Land Use	May 27, 2009	Amendment	Changes to camp	June 2, 2009	Reissued June
Permit			infrastructure		19, 2008 SDR
(N2008N0027)					
INAC Land Use	July 15, 2010	Extension	To continue	July 16, 2010	Reissued June
Permit			project activities		19, 2008 SDR
(N2008N0027)					
INAC Land Use	June 3, 2011	Extension	To continue	June 14, 2011	Reissued June
Permit			project activities		19, 2008 SDR
(N2008N0027)					
NRI Scientific	May 3, 2012	Licence	To install and	May 16, 2012	Reissued June
Research		Application	operate unmanned		19, 2008 SDR
Licence			surveillance		
			demonstration		
			system		

Notes: INAC= Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada); NIRB= Nunavut Impact Review Board; NRI= Nunavut Research Institute; SDR= Screening Decision Report.

The current AANDC 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 100 kilometres (km) southeast of Resolute Bay. The Proponent indicated that it intended to identify and characterize combinations of sensor systems for cost effective surveillance of the unique maritime environment of the Canadian Arctic.

The activities and components associated with the proposed project as received by the NIRB on May 13, 2008 included:

- Establishment of 2 temporary structures at existing Gascoyne Inlet Camp site;
- Temporary fuel storage including 1,025 litres (L) of diesel, 410 L of gasoline, 2,050 L of 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 (including acoustic, magnetic, and electric filed sensors) and connecting submarine cable;

- Installation of land-based sensors (including a marine navigation radar, an Electro-optical system, an electronic intelligence receiver and an automatic identification system); and
- Data collection and experiments.

The activities and components associated with DRDC's May 27, 2009 application for an amendment to its AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0027) included:

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

After a thorough assessment of the amendment request the NIRB determined that this request did not result in a change to the original scope of the project and re-issued the original screening decision report on June 2, 2009.

The activities and components associated with DRDC's May 3, 2012 application for a Scientific Research Licence with the Nunavut Research Institute included:

Application to install and operate an unmanned surveillance demonstration system as part of DRDC's "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project in Lancaster Sound and neighbouring areas in the North Baffin region to occur between 2012 to 2016.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

DRDC is proposing to extend its AANDC Land Use Permit N2008N0027 for one year to continue ongoing project activities at Gascoyne Inlet.

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 June 19, 2008 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Catherine Braun Rodriguez, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4607 or crodriguez@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Executive Director

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Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: David Hazen, Defence Research Development Canada

Bruce Grychowski, Defence Research Development Canada

Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

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