



NIRB File No.:07YN003

January 14, 2015

Dr. Peter Huelse
CASP, West Building
181a Huntingdon Road
Cambridge, CB30DH, UK

Sent via email: peter.huelse@casp.cam.ac.uk

Re: Application Acknowledgement for University of Cambridge's Renewal Request with the Nunavut Research Institute for the "Paleoenvironmental and Structural Evolution of the Sverdrup Basin CASP" Project.

Dear Dr. Peter Huelse:

On November 28, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for a Scientific Research Licence for the University of Cambridge's (the Proponent) "Paleoenvironmental and Structural Evolution of the Sverdrup Basin- CASP" project¹. On December 17, 2014 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 07YN003) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on December 13, 2006 and a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) was received from the NPC on January 25, 2007. The proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on March 15, 2007 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Government of Nunavut Minister of Culture, Language Elders and Youth (now Department of Culture and Heritage) indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Project components and activities included the following:

- Research team of 4 people to collect observations from June 22 to July 21, 2007;
- Campsite at Bukken Fiord, Axel Heiburg Island
- Use of tents for shelter during project activities;
- Travel on foot between observation sites, and transport on Axel Heiberg island by Twin Otter and helicopter;

¹ Originally named "Provenance of classic sediments in the Sverdrup Basin" project.

- Water use for camp requirements and consumption; and
- Sewage buried and combustible garbage incinerated.

Previous renewals

On June 13, 2008 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for a renewal to the original Scientific Research License to continue conducting the previously permitted observation activities.

On March 26, 2009 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for a renewal to the Scientific Research License for the above mentioned project to include the following additional components and activities:

- Field work to be conducted during the summers of 2009-2011; and
- Extend the area of observation to include:
 - Ellesmere Island:
 - Quttinirpaaq National Park (Lake Hazen);
 - Central Ellesmere Island: Fosheim Peninsula, Raanes Peninsula to Princess Marie Bay;;
 - Cornwallis Island:
 - Resolute Bay.

On November 15, 2011 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for a renewal to the Scientific Research License for this project to continue the previously permitted observation activities as well as the following additional components and activities:

- Extend the area of observation from Axel Heiberg Island to include adjacent areas on Ellesmere Island;
- Conduct observations seasonally through 2014;
- Collect observations on rock types and fossils (permit pending) to determine the age of the rocks and further understand the history of the sites; and
- Collect surface rock samples to be further analyzed to examine the mineral make-up of the sandstones.

Current Renewal

The Proponent is currently proposing to renew their Scientific Research Licence for this project until 2018. The Proponent proposes to build on published information and on previous CASP field work conducted between 2007 and 2014 on Axel Heiberg and Ellesmere Islands. In addition, they have indicated the following additional proposed project components and activities:

- Field work to be conducted from June 20 to August 20, 2015-2018;
- Extend the area of observation and set up small field camps on:
 - Ellesmere Island:
 - Tanquary Fiord; and
 - Quttinirpaaq National Park (Tanquary Fiord and Lake Hazen);
 - Alex Heiberg Island:

- Bukken Fiord Area; and
 - Whitsunday Bay
- Ellef Ringnes Island;
- Mapping using notebooks, photographs, compasses and GPS;
- Collect rock samples (double fist sized) from surface using a rock hammer;
- Rock samples to be shipped to the United Kingdom (UK) to be analyzed (dated, chemical and physical properties); and
- Fossil samples will be returned to the Natural History Museum in Ottawa.

The NIRB has determined that this request may result in a change to the original scope of the project.

The NRI application and the original NIRB screening file, 07YN003 are available from NIRB's online public registry at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2007/07YN003-Robert%20Scott/>.

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.”

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the renewal is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the attached March 15, 2007 Screening Decision, along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 23, 2015**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the inclusion of the additionally proposed component(s) and/or activity(ies) would significantly modify the project;
- Any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- Any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4609 or johokannoak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jaida Ohokannoak
Manager Technical Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
 Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
 Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)
 NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.:07YN003 (March 15, 2007)