



NIRB File No.: 07YN003

Previous NRI File Nos.: 0201407N-A, 0204710R-M,
0200512R-M, 0202313R-M, 0200114R-M

February 3, 2015

The Honourable Paul Quassa
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

Via email: Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: University of Cambridge's "Paleoenvironmental and Structural Evolution of the Sverdrup Basin CASP" project, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

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 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 was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On March 15, 2007 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Culture, Language Elders and Youth, Government of Nunavut 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 "Provenance of classic sediments in the Sverdrup Basin" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 07YN003). 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

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

conditions recommended in the original March 15, 2007 Screening Decision. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 07YN003 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 07YN003

Authorization	Application			NIRB Decision	
	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Type
NRI 0201407N-A	June 13, 2008	Renewal/ Amendment	Continue research and extend area of observation	June 24, 2008	Reissued March 15, 2007 SDR
NRI 0204710R-M	March 26, 2009	Renewal/ Amendment	Continue research and extend area of observation	April 6, 2009	Reissued March 15, 2007 SDR
NRI 0200512R-M	November 15, 2011	Renewal/ Amendment	Continue research and extend area of observation	November 17, 2011	Reissued March 15, 2007 SDR

Notes: NRI=Nunavut Research Institute NIRB= Nunavut Impact Review Board; SDR= Screening Decision Report

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 07YN003) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2007/07YN003-Robert%20Scott/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 07YN003), the "Provenance of classic sediments in the Sverdrup Basin" project was located within the Qikiqtani region, on Axel Heiberg Island, approximately 300 kilometres northwest of Grise Fiord. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct geological observation and mapping of five field locations to assess the Axel Heiberg sediment provenance for a PhD project.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Research team of four people to collect observations from June 22, 2007 and July 21, 2007;
- Campsite at Bukken Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island
- Use of tents for shelter during project activities;
- Travel on foot between observation sites, and transport to the Axel Heiberg island by Twin Otter and helicopter;
- Water use for camp requirements and consumption; and,
- Sewage buried and garbage incinerated.

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 and to extend the area of observation to include Quttinirpaaq National Park on Ellesmere Island.

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, specifically the Quttinirpaaq National Park (Lake Hazen) and Fosheim Peninsula, Raanes Peninsula to Princess Marie Bay;
 - Cornwallis Island, specifically 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 APPLICATION:

The Proponent is currently proposing to renew its Scientific Research Licence for this project until 2018. The Proponent proposes to build on published information and on previous field work conducted on Axel Heiberg and Ellesmere Islands, with inclusion the following additional proposed project components and activities:

- Field work to be conducted from June 20 to August 20, 2015 to 2018;
- Extend the area of observation and set up small field camps on:
 - Ellesmere Island: Quttinirpaaq National Park (Tanquary Fiord and Lake Hazen);
 - Alex Heiberg Island: Bukken Fiord Area and Whitsunday Bay; and
 - Ellef Ringnes Island;
- Collect rock samples (double fist sized) from surface using a rock hammer for analysis in the United Kingdom (UK); and
- Fossil samples would be returned to the Natural History Museum in Ottawa.

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.”*

On January 14, 2015 NIRB distributed the current application for a scientific research licence to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by January 23, 2015.

The following comments were received from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Environment Canada (EC) regarding the proposed renewal:

- AANDC: No concerns or additional comments.
- EC: recommend compliance to applicable legislation and regulations noting where specific research locations may be of particular applicability, as well as recommend standard mitigation measures to reduce impacts from aircraft, and chemical use, storage and waste deposition.

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, as well as the comments received from interested parties, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed renewal and amended activities do 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 March 15, 2007 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jaida Ohokannoak, Manager Technical Administration, at (867) 983-4609 or johokannoak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director

cc: Peter Huelse, University of Cambridge
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 07YN003 (*March 15, 2007*)