

NIRB File No.: 12XN020
AANDC File No.: N2012N0012
NWB File No.: 3BC-EUR1116

February 3, 2015

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Tracey McCaie
Manager Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: tracey.mccaie@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: Environment Canada’s “Eureka Weather Station Facility” project, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On December 18, 2014 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 N2012N0012 for Environment Canada's (EC or Proponent) "Eureka Weather Station Facility" project. On December 18, 2014 the NIRB received correspondence from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) stating that the extension request does not change the scope of the project to an extent that would warrant a further review by the NPC, and that the original terms and conditions previously issued with the April 19, 2012 positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) remain in effect.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 12XN020) was received by the NIRB from AANDC on April 19, 2012 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 30, 2012 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current AANDC Land Use Permit application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 12XN020) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 12XN020) the “Eureka Weather Station Facility” project proposal was located within the Qikiqtani Region, approximately 407 kilometres (km) northwest of Grise Fiord, on Crown Land Reserve #1021. The Proponent indicated that it intended to continued operations of the existing Eureka Weather Station which was originally established in 1983, and has been in operation since 1947. The facility would operate year round with the purpose of collecting meteorological information and providing logistical support for research, exploration, military operations, and tour groups.

The proposed project included:

- Operations and maintenance of all of the existing Eureka infrastructure, specifically:
 - Airstrip and all access roads,
 - Tankfarm and fuel supply system,
 - Water and sewage lagoons,
 - Heating and electricity,
 - Biotreatment cell (landfarm),
 - Disposal/burning of non-hazardous landfill,
 - Hazardous materials collected and barged off site to be disposed of appropriately, and
 - Accommodations, laboratories, and general storage and warehousing
- Ongoing use of the Eureka as a base camp and logistical support/staging areas for other entities/organizations such as the Department of National Defence and NRCan’s Polar Continental Shelf Program.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

EC is currently proposing to extend its Land Use Permit No.: N2012N0012 with AANDC from May 30, 2014 to May 30, 2016 to continue operations of the facility for previously approved activities.

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 May 30, 2012 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Marc Ste-Marie, Environment Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 12XN020 (*May 30, 2012*)