



**NIRB File No.: 12XN020**

NPC File No.: 148746

Related to NPC File No.: 148232

INAC File No.: N2017N0017

NWB File No. 8BC-EUR1621

April 3, 2018

Jean-Philippe Cloutier-Dussault, Property Manager  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
160 Chemin Tour de L'isle, Ile Ste-Hélène,  
Montreal, QC H3C 4G8

Sent via email: [jean-philippe.cloutier-dussault@canada.ca](mailto:jean-philippe.cloutier-dussault@canada.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Amended Land Use permit application for Eureka Weather Station" project proposal**

Dear Jean-Philippe Cloutier-Dussault:

On March 7, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) "Amended Land Use Permit application for Eureka Weather Station" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on April 19, 2012 and April 14, 2016 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of construction of the new road, water stream crossings, work camp relocation and new quarry site.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **12XN020**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

## INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 7, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and that sufficient information has been provided to commence screening.

On March 26, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### ***Project Scope:***

The "Eureka Weather Station Facility" project activities as previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 12XN020) included continued operations and maintenance of the existing Eureka Weather Station infrastructure, and upgrades to existing infrastructure including construction of a new airside apron, an access road and use of aggregate from the existing Black Top Creek Quarry. A complete description of the scope of activities previously approved has been included within **Appendix A**.

ECCC is currently proposing the "Amended Land Use Permit application for Eureka Weather Station" project which would be located in the same area as previously approved and would be located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, approximately 407 km northwest from Grise Fiord. The Proponent intends to amend the scope of activities previously approved as the Black Top Creek Quarry site was identified as not being a viable source of granular material for the proposed Eureka Recapitalization Runway Project following sampling and testing at this location. ECCC intends to develop a new quarry site located at West Remus Creek and an access road from the Eureka Weather Station to the new quarry site with the program proposed to take place from June 2018 to October 2018.

According to the current project proposal, the scope of the amended project includes the following additional undertakings, works or activities:

- Upgrade an existing ATV path/trail to a six (6) metre wide permanent road from West Remus Creek to the current Eureka runway for a total length of approximately 12kilometres (km);
- Development of a new borrow area located at West Remus Creek for use of up to 75,000 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) aggregate to construct road;
- Placement of culverts along to road to drain melt runoff including two (2) Arch culverts in Blacktop Creek to create a culvert bridge;
- Movement of crusher and temporary 24 person camp from Blacktop Creek to West Remus Creek, with removal of camp at completion of road construction works;
- Use of water from Station Creek and Remus Creek for domestic purposes;
- Use of top load waste incinerator for incineration of combustible wastes at the temporary camp;
- Disposal of sewage and grey water in sewage lagoon from temporary camp activities; and

- Storage and use of fuel for improvement activities with facility to be located at Remus Creek.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

#### REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Amended Land Use permit application for Eureka Weather Station
- NIRB File No.: 12XN020
- Application No.: 125295

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, French and Inuktitut*
- *Figures noting project location with road and quarry site*
- *Interim Abandonment and Restoration Plan*
- *Emergency Plan for Petroleum and Allied Petroleum Products*
- *Equipment List*
- *Indigenous and Northern Affairs 2018 Land Use Permit Application and 2017 Land Use Permit*
- *Indigenous and Northern Affairs Quarry Permit Application*
- *Type "B" Water License (issued by the Nunavut Water Board August 11, 2016)*
- *Environmental Impact Assessment and Addendum*
- *Letter from Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by ECCC project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 24, 2018**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;

- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Amended Land Use permit application for Eureka Weather Station
- NIRB File No.: 12XN020
- Application No.: 125295

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-857-4829 or [sgranchinho@nirb.ca](mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc., EP  
Manager, Impact Assessment  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Attachment: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

## APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 12XN020), was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Planning Commission and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on April 19, 2012 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*. On May 30, 2012 the NIRB issued a *Nunavut Agreement* 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the then Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (now Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs) which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Environment Canada's (now Environment and Climate Change Canada or Proponent) original "Eureka Weather Station Facility" project was located in the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, approximately 407 kilometres (km) northwest of Grise Fiord on Crown Land Reserve #1021. The Eureka Weather Station Facility was originally established in 1947 with additional building added in subsequent years and a Research Support Opportunity established in 1987. The primary purpose of the facilities was to collect meteorological information. The secondary purpose was to provide logistical support and a staging location for science based research, exploration and military operations as well as serve the small tourist trade that visits the area. At the time of the 2012 application, the Eureka station was to be used by both the Department of National Defence and the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Polar Continental Shelf program. Operations were to continue year round at the various facilities that are now in place.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- 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.

Additional authorization and extension requests associated with the "Eureka Weather Station Facility" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 12XN020). In each instance where the NIRB received applications up to and including December 18, 2014, the NIRB confirmed that the applications were exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and that the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the

original May 30, 2012 Screening Decision Report. On September 22, 2015, after receiving an application for additional activities, the NIRB issued additional terms and conditions associated with the “Eureka Weather Station Facility” project as per 12.4.4(a) of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

The following is a summary of the previously screened project activities as received by the NIRB:

- 1) The scope associated with the previous December 18, 2014 extension request included continued operations of the facility for previously approved activities.
- 2) The scope associated with the previous June 29, 2015 amendment application included:
  - Upgrading infrastructure at the Eureka site between August 2015 and September 2017;
  - Construction of a new airside apron and rehabilitation of existing airstrip, airside apron and access road at the Eureka Weather Station Facility; and
  - Removal of up to 160,900 cubic metres of aggregate from the existing Black Top Creek Quarry.