

SCREENING DECISION

May 6, 2005

Hon. Stephane Dion
Minister of Environment
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Minister:

**RE: Screening Decision of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) on Application:
NIRB: #05AN018 CWS
Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding Waterfowl – Ray Alisauska**

Authority:

Section 12.4.4 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement states:

Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;
- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.

Primary Objectives:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is referenced in the screening section 12.4.4 (a) are set out in section 12.2.5 of the Land Claims Agreement. This section reads:

In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The decision of the Board in this case is 12.4.4 (a) **the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;**

Reasons for Decision:

NIRB's decision is based on specific considerations that reflect the primary objectives of the Land Claims Agreement. Our considerations in making this decision included:

- Storage and disposal of fuel, garbage, sewage, and grey water, and impact of these on the ecosystem
- Clean up/restoration of the sites
- The impact and disturbance to nesting birds
- Impact and disturbance of wildlife
- Impact and disturbance to archaeological sites

Terms and Conditions:

- That the terms and conditions attached to this screening report will apply.

Waste

1. The Permittee shall incinerate all combustible garbage and debris to eliminate the potential for wildlife problems created by the attraction of wildlife to garbage.
2. The Permittee shall keep all ashes and non-combustible garbage in a covered metal container until disposed of to prevent attraction by wildlife and shall disposed of them in an approved community dump site.
3. The Permittee shall store dead samples in a sealed bag and covered metal container until dissection is undertaken. Following dissection, the samples shall immediately be incinerated.
4. The Permittee shall not let dead samples accumulate on the land.
5. The Permittee shall collect and backhaul all spent shotgun casings for disposal at an approved dumpsite.
6. The Permittee shall ensure that no substances, including any chemicals, fuels or wastes associated with the project are deposited into any other water body.
7. The Permittee shall not locate any sump within thirty (30) metres of the normal high water mark of any water body and shall ensure that the contents do not enter any waterbody.
8. The Permittee shall remove all scrap metal, discarded machinery and parts, barrels, kegs, buildings and building materials that are no longer required at the site.
9. The Permittee shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.
10. The Permittee shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Fuel Use and Storage

1. The Permittee shall ensure that all sumps, wastes and fuel caches be located a minimum of thirty (30) metres from the normal high water mark of any water body.

2. The Permittee shall have one extra fuel storage container on site equal to, or greater than the size of the largest fuel container.
3. The Permittee shall use drip pans when refueling equipment.
4. The Permittee shall report all spills of fuel, or other deleterious materials immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

1. The Permittee shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
2. The Permittee shall ensure that there is minimal disturbance to any nesting birds and wildlife in the area. Harassment of wildlife is prohibited. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals.
3. Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Convention Act Regulations the Permittee shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of migratory birds.
4. Unless absolutely required for research, the Permittee shall avoid nests containing eggs or young birds until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
5. The Permittee shall avoid raptor nesting sites and contact the Regional Wildlife Officer to identify areas which should be avoided.
6. The Permittee shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou , until the caribou have passed or left the area.
7. The Permittee shall not conduct any activity associated with the land use operation if critical periods of wildlife cycles are observed (eg. caribou migration, calving, fish spawning or raptor nesting). The Permittee shall note that the caribou calving season occurs between May 15th and July 15th.
8. The Permittee shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter pilots adhere to flight altitudes of greater than 300 m above ground level as to not disturb wildlife.
9. The Permittee shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
10. The Permittee should take the utmost precautions to avoid Bear interactions/conflicts and contact the regional Wildlife Officer for information prior to the commencement of project activity.
11. The harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat is prohibited under the *Fisheries Act*. No construction or disturbance of any stream/lake bed or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted unless authorized by DFO.
12. The Permittee shall ensure that no sediment is released into waterbodies frequented by fish during research activities.
13. The Permittee shall not hunt or fish, unless the appropriate permits and licenses are acquired from GN Renewable Resources Officer.

Camp

1. The Permittee shall use existing camp facilities located at the research station.

Archaeological

1. The Permittee shall ensure that any archaeological or palaeontological sites encountered are not disturbed.
2. The Permittee should be aware of the law regarding disturbance of archaeological and palaeontological sites and the removal of artifacts found. If a site is found it should remain undisturbed and its location should be reported to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youths. See attached letter.

Restoration

1. The Permittee shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
2. The Permittee shall backfill all sumps.

Recommendations

1. NIRB would like to encourage the Permittee to hire local people and to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.
2. NIRB would like the Permittee to submit the results of their research to the Board once it is complete.

Validity of Land Claims Agreement

Section 2.12.2

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated _____ at Cambridge Bay, NU

Albert Ehloak, A/Chairperson