



NIRB File No.: 05AN018

Previous NIRB File Nos.: 98Y06N023 99YN005

INAC File No.: N2008N0028

NWB File No.: 3BC-KAR0812

March 22, 2011

Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
c/o Jeff Mercer
Manager, Land Administration
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: jeff.mercer@inac-ainc.gc.ca; landsmining@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from Screening Pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Canadian Wildlife Service – Ray Alisauskas’ “Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding Waterfowl” project

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On March 8, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for an extension to INAC Land Use Permit N2008N0028 for Canadian Wildlife Service – Ray Alisauskas’ (CWS) “Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding Waterfowl” project.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 05AN018) was received by the NIRB from INAC on February 8, 2005 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 6, 2005 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB’s recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On May 1, 2008 the NIRB received a renewal request from INAC for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from further screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on May 7, 2008.

Furthermore, on February 18, 2010 the NIRB received an extension request from INAC for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB

determined that this subsequent application was exempt from further screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on February 23, 2010.

The current INAC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (05AN018) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2005/05AN018-Ray%20Alisauskas/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File Nos. 98YN06N023, 99YN005, and 05AN018), the "Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding Waterfowl" project was located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 200 kilometres (km) southwest of Gjoa Haven and approximately 205 km southeast of Cambridge Bay, in the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct research including the harvesting of birds for research purposes, live banding, and nesting studies of the following types of waterfowl from May to August, over multiple years of study throughout the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary: Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese, Canadian Geese, and King Eiders.

The activities and components associated with this proposal included:

- Studies based primarily out of Karrak Lake and Perry River areas;
- Nesting studies including finding nests, counting and possible removal of eggs, determining nest success and gosling and duckling survival;
- Banding studies including:
 - Capture and banding of up to 120 King Eiders and 30 Long-tailed ducks
 - Capture and banding of up to 15,000 geese using corral-type nets deployed with helicopter assistance
- Harvesting and collection of geese for measurements and evaluation of body condition, nest success, and productivity of waterfowl populations (*introduced under a scientific kill application and salvage application*):
 - Harvest 100 Ross' Geese and 100 Snow Geese
 - Harvest 50 King Eiders and 50 Long-tailed ducks
- Capture and ear tag up to 40 arctic fox;
- Sampling of small mammals (collared and brown lemmings, red-backed voles) using eight trap-lines over 10 consecutive nights;
- Access via fixed wing, helicopter, motorized boats, and on-foot travel;
- Establishment of temporary camp(s) and permanent buildings (cabin) at project sites (Karrak Lake and Perry River);
- Transportation and storage of fuel (up to 14,000 litres) and other hazardous materials;
- Generation and disposal of domestic, sewage, and non-combustible wastes;
- Backhaul of empty drums and non-combustible wastes; and,
- Use of water and production of grey water.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The CWS is proposing to extend its Land Use Permit N2008N0028 for this project for an additional year, to June 6, 2012. The CWS has not proposed any new activities with this request for an extension.

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 screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 6, 2005 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Hanson, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4615 or ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Dana Kellett, Environment Canada (Dana.Kellett@ec.gc.ca)
Jason Akearok, Environment Canada (Jason.Akearok@ec.gc.ca)
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 05AN018 (May 6, 2005)