



NIRB File No.: 10DN055
AAND File No.: N2010S0019
NWB File No.: 8BD-GIN1112

August 22, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer, Manager, Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0B 0C0

Via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca and landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Stantec Consulting Ltd.'s "Geotechnical Investigation at the Nanisivik Naval Facility" project

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On August 12, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AAND) for an amendment to AAND Land Use Permit N2010S0019 for Stantec Consulting Ltd.'s (Stantec) "Geotechnical Investigation at the Nanisivik Naval Facility" project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 10D055) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC – now AAND) on August 4, 2010 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On September 3, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current AAND application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (10DN055) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/10DN055-Stantec%20-%20Nanisivik%20Naval%20Facility/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

This proposed geotechnical drilling program is located in the Qikiqtaaluk region, approximately thirty-three (33) kilometres (km) northeast of Arctic Bay. Stantec was hired by Defence

Construction Canada to complete a geotechnical drilling program at the existing mine port facility at Nanisivik, in support of the proposed Nanisivik Naval Facility Project. Information collected during this survey would enable designers and project managers to assess the stability of the wharf, design and construction of foundations for new infrastructure, and/or repairs/rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure components (e.g. existing tank farms, heliport, base structures and mechanical facilities). A test pitting program would also be completed at potential borrow areas near the port facility. The project was proposed to take place for approximately fourteen (14) days between August 23 and November 30, 2010.

Marine based, on-ice geotechnical drilling was also proposed in the area of the existing wharf; the conduct of which was to be determined following evaluation of data collected from the land based drilling. Marine based drilling, if required, was planned to take place in either May or June of 2011.

The proposed project activities included:

- Eight (8) Stantec personnel to be based out of Arctic Bay with daily transport by truck to Nanisivik;
- Test pitting at proposed borrow sites using backhoe or excavator;
- Geotechnical drilling using a skid-mounted drill with flight augers;
- Transportation of heavy equipment and drilling additives to project site by ship or marine barge; transportation of fuel from Arctic Bay to Nanisivik via truck haul;
- Storage of fuel and lubricants at Nanisivik;
- Collection of soil and rock samples for laboratory analysis;
- Installation of inclinometer tubing thermocouple thermistors; and,
- Potential marine-based geotechnical drilling in 2011.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Stantec is proposing to amend its AAND LUP N2010S0019 to include the following additional components/activities:

- Expansion of areas sampled in 2010 to identify potential borrow sources and quarry material.
- Potential collection of small amount of quarry materials (two or three 5 gallon pails) for testing if engineering testing is required.

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 amendment 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 September 3, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, 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

cc: Dan McQuinn, Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 10DN055 (September 3, 2010)