



NIRB File No.: 13DN041
NPC File No.: 148152

November 23, 2015

Captain Andrew Ngo
Northern Environmental Coordinator
3rd Canadian Division Support Group
CFB/ASU Edmonton
P.O. Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Sent via email: andrew.ngo@forces.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Canadian Forces' "Exercise Arctic Ram 2016" project proposal

Dear Captain Andrew Ngo:

On November 6, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Canadian Forces' (Canadian Forces or the Proponent) "Exercise Arctic Ram 2016" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On November 9, 2015 the NIRB received application materials from the Canadian Forces. Pursuant to section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it File number 13DN041.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. On November 16, 2015 the NIRB requested that the Canadian Forces provide additional information in support of this proposal by November 30, 2015. On November 23, 2015 the NIRB received the requested additional information to commence with the screening.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "Exercise Arctic Ram 2016" project is located within the North Baffin region, with activities and components located in the community of Resolute Bay and up to approximately 115 kilometers (km) northwest of the community. The Proponent intends to conduct military exercises to train Regular, Reserve Forces and Canadian Rangers in emergency

response training, surveillance patrols and survival training on Cornwallis and Little Cornwallis Islands.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following works or activities:

- Operation of a main base camp, and utilize existing infrastructure with the potential for use of temporary shelter (tents) with use of naphtha based stoves and lanterns and small generators, at the Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre (CAFATC) located at the Resolute Bay airport;
- Construction, operation and decommissioning of a forward operating base camp (at Intrepid Bay) and three (3) smaller temporary field camps or temporary outposts for scenario exercises at locations on Cornwallis Island;
- Training exercises including overland searches would occur within the pre-defined areas and/or Op Boxes for up to 165 personnel per exercise;
- Use of the Resolute Bay airport for access by CC-130 Hercules and CC-138 twin otter aircrafts for travel as well as scenario/excess demands. Additionally, approximately 100 snowmobiles, snowcat (BV-206), trucks and foot based transportation would be utilized to transport equipment and personnel within the vicinity of Resolute Bay;
- Potable water would be delivered from Resolute Bay's water station or ice from local lakes;
- Conduct training exercises including live fire weapons training, snowmobile training, survival training;
- Use and storage of 740 litre (L) or 4 x 185 L barrels of fuel, which would be cached using temporary berms near the former Polaris Mine on Little Cornwallis Island. Barrels would be picked up and returned to base via plane.
- Use and storage of 740 L of Naphtha or 4 x 185 L, which would be cached using temporary berms at Intrepid Bay in a BV 206 trailer;
- Fuel would be sourced from CAFATC; and
- Waste management would be self-contained with all human and liquid waste being contained on site in steel drums then shipped south for disposal at proper facilities.

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 the following location <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2014/13DN041-Canadian%20Forces-Arctic%20Ram%202014> and include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Questionnaire and Conformity Determination*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *NIRB Part 1 Form in English and Inuktitut*
- *Project Description*

- *Maps*

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

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Canadian Forces' project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **December 14, 2015**.

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 is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide 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 at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4619 or at kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Melissa Paquette, Canadian Forces
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Enclosures (2): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)