



NIRB File No.: 09YN033
NRI File No.: 0202909N-M

February 26, 2014

John P. Smol
Queens University, Department of Biology
116 Barrie Street
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6

Sent via email: smolj@queensu.ca

Re: Application Acknowledgement for Queen's University's amendment request with the Nunavut Research Institute for "Limnology and Aquatic Ecology of High Arctic lakes and ponds on Cornwallis Island and surrounding islands" project

Dear John Smol:

On February 7, 2014, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an amendment to Queen's University's "Limnology and Aquatic Ecology of High Arctic lakes and ponds on Cornwallis Island and surrounding islands" project. On February 19, 2014 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09YN033) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on April 15, 2009. The proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4; Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on May 20, 2009 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Project components/activities included the following:

- Repeat monitoring project of 45 lakes and ponds at Cape Herschel, Ellesmere Island visited approximately every 3 years;
- 7 persons on site for approximately 12 days;
- Ferry to site, then overland helicopter transport;
- Collecting water samples (approx. 2L from each pond) for water quality assessment;
- Collecting mud samples (a few cm³ from each pond) for analysis;
- Temporary camp using:
 - Local water source collected in buckets;
 - Polar Continental Shelf Project guidelines for waste disposal;

- Burn combustible waste on site, and return to Resolute for disposal;
- 4-25lb tanks propane, and 2-8L gas tanks.

Amendment

Queen's University is proposing to amend their research permit to include the following additional components/activities:

- Repeat monitoring of water and sediment samples from lakes and ponds on Cornwallis Island (Resolute Bay); Prince Leopold Island (a Bird Sanctuary) and Tern Island from July 2014 to July 2017;
- Research will be based out of the Polar Continental Shelf Program research station;
- Sites near Resolute Bay to be sampled on foot;
- Travel to nearby islands (Prince Leopold Island and Tern Island) via twin otter;
- Collect water samples (approximately 2L from each pond) for water quality assessment;
- Collect mud samples (approximately 2L from each pond) for analysis, by an inflatable rowboat;
- Reconstruct past seabirds population changes from approximately 200 years ago or more;
- Publish literature and distribute to the Arctic and local hamlets.

The NIRB has determined that this request may result in a change to the original scope of the project.

The NRI application and the original NIRB screening file, 09YN033 are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2009/09YN033-John%20Smol/>

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.”*

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the amendment is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the attached May 20, 2009 Screening Decision Report, along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 10, 2014**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the inclusion of the additionally proposed component(s) and/or activity(ies) would significantly modify the project;
- Any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- Any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at pgross@nirb.ca or by phone at (867) 983-4621.

Sincerely,



Pamela Gross
Assistant Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 09YN033 (May 20, 2009)