



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

April 4, 2014

The Honourable Paul Quassa  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
Government of Nunavut  
c/o Mosha Cote  
Manager, Research Liaison  
Nunavut Research Institute  
P.O. Box 1720  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

*Sent via email: [mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca](mailto:mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca)*

**Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Queens University's "Limnology and Aquatic Ecology of High Arctic lakes and ponds on Cornwallis Island and surrounding islands" project, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region**

Dear Mosha Cote:

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 the Scientific Research License (No. 0202909N-M) associated with Queens University's "Limnology and Aquatic Ecology of High Arctic lakes and ponds on Cornwallis Island and surrounding islands" project proposal. 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 NIRB received a positive conformity determination from NPC for the original project proposal on April 17, 2009. The project proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on May 20, 2009 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 09YN033) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 09YN033), the “Limnology and Paleoecology of Lakes and Ponds” project was located within the Qikiqtani region (North Baffin), near to the communities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord and Resolute. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct research activities during the month of July from 2009 to 2011.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- 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 (approximately 2 Litres (L) from each pond) for water quality assessment;
- Collecting mud samples of up to a few cubic centimetres (cm<sup>3</sup>) from each pond for analysis;
- Temporary tent 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; and
  - Four (4) 25 pound tanks of propane and two (2) 8 L tanks of gasoline.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Queens University is currently proposing to amend its Scientific Research License with the NRI to continue research activities as previously approved. In addition, Queen’s University is proposing the following additional components/activities:

- Repeat monitoring of water and sediment samples from lakes and ponds on Cornwallis Island; Prince Leopold Island (164 km southeast of Resolute), and Tern Island (133 km tern northwest of Resolute) 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;
- Reconstruct past seabird population changes from approximately 200 years ago or more; and
- Publish literature and distribute to the Arctic and local hamlets.

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.”*

On February 26, 2014 NIRB distributed the current amendment request to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by March 10, 2014.

The following parties provided a response indicating that the proposed amendment request is not considered be a significant change to the project and confirmed that no comments would be provided:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Environment Canada

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received, 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 the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 20, 2009 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Pamela Gross, Assistant Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4621 or [pgross@nirb.ca](mailto:pgross@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: John P. Smol, Queen's University  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 09YN033 (May 20, 2009)