

NIRB No.: 07YN019 INAC No.: N2006N0028

May 25, 2010

Honourable Chuck Strahl Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada c/o Spencer Dewar, Manager Land Administration Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Iqaluit, NU

Via email: Spencer.Dewar@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Re: Application exempt from NIRB Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA:

Dr. Wayne Pollard's Land Use Permit amendment request with INAC regarding the "Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change"

Project

Dear Spencer Dewar:

On May 18, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for an amendment to Land Use Permit N2006N0028 in support of Dr. Wayne Pollard's "Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change" project. The proposed amendment would allow the establishment of a temporary camp (for 28-36 person days) on the Fosheim Peninsula.

Please be advised that the original project proposal was received by the NIRB on January 25, 2007 from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) and screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On March 20, 2007 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister responsible for NRI, allowing the proposed project to proceed subject to project-specific recommended terms and conditions in the enclosed Screening Decision Report.

On June 16, 2008 INAC forwarded an application for an extension to the Land Use Permit for this project; the NIRB confirmed that the proposed activities had previously been screened and were exempt from further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the March 20, 2007 Screening Decision to the Minister of INAC.

The current INAC application and the original file information (NIRB: 07YN019) are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2007\_SCREENINGS/07YN019-Wayne Pollard/

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, the NIRB is of the understanding that the application received from INAC does not significantly change the original project scope, 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 March 20, 2007 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at <a href="mailto:lwan@nirb.ca">lwan@nirb.ca</a> or by phone 867-983-4606.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Autut Executive Director

Cc: Wayne Pollard, McGill University (pollard@geog.mcgill.ca)

Brian O'Mara, INAC (<u>Brian.OMara@inac-ainc.gc.ca</u>) Mosha Cote, NRI, (<u>Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca</u>)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No. 07YN019 (March 20, 2007)

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