



NIRB File No.: 07YN019  
INAC File No.: N2006N0028  
NRI Research Licence: #0205310R-M  
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July 19, 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](mailto:spencer.dewar@inac-ainc.gc.ca)

**Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Dr. Wayne Pollard's (McGill University) High Arctic research project**

Dear Spencer Dewar:

On July 16, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application for an extension to Land Use Permit #N2006N0028 from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for Dr. Wayne Pollard's High Arctic research project (which has previously consisted of two separate research studies entitled the "Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change" project and the "Nature and Significance of Perennial Springs in the Canadian High Arctic" project).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 07YN019) was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) on January 25, 2007 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On March 20, 2007 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister responsible for NRI indicating the proposed projects could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On June 16, 2008 INAC forwarded an application for an extension to the Land Use Permit for these projects; 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.

On May 18, 2010 the NIRB received an application for an amendment to Land Use Permit #N2006N0028 to allow the establishment of a temporary camp (for 28-36 person days) on the Fosheim Peninsula to support continued research activities. On May 25, 2010 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, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (07YN019) and related file information 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/1-SCREENING/](http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2007_SCREENINGS/07YN019-Wayne_Pollard/1-SCREENING/)

#### PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL

As previously screened by the NIRB under File No. 07YN019, Dr. Wayne Pollard's (McGill University) High Arctic research project (consisting of two separate research studies entitled the "Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change" project and the "Nature and Significance of Perennial Springs in the Canadian High Arctic" project) were located within the Qikiqtaaluk region, ranging from 300 to 400 kilometres (km) northwest of Grise Fiord. In its applications the Proponent indicated that it intended to complete various research field work activities that would study each of the topics to study components of climate change and permafrost.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Field work activities including the mapping of permafrost, groundwater and group ice;
- The establishment of small, temporary camps on Axel Heiberg Island; and
- Other research activities located at the Environment Canada station at Eureka.

#### CURRENT APPLICATION

Dr. Wayne Pollard (McGill University) is proposing to extend Land Use Permit #N2006N0028 for another year to allow for scientific research to be based out of the existing camp.

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 extension 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 March 20, 2007 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](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Best regards,

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  
Director, Technical Services

*For:*

Stephanie Autut  
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Wayne Pollard, McGill University  
Mosha Cote, NRI  
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB  
Tracey McCaie, INAC

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