

Goose Banding” project proposal. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on May 20, 2009.

On March 6, 2012 the NIRB received a renewal and amendment application from the CWS *Bird Sanctuary permit* and *Scientific permit to take salvage or disturb migratory birds permit* (CWS File Nos.: NUN-MBC-12-02; NUN-SCI-12-03) for the project, and again the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on April 4, 2012.

The current CWS application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 05YN073) and related file information are available from the NIRB’s online public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2005/05YN073-Dale%20Casewell>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 05YN073), the “Arctic Goose Banding” project is located in the Harry Gibbons, East Bay, and McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Kivalliq Region, Queen Maude Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary in the Kitikmeot Region, and Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary in the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region of Nunavut. The Proponent indicated that it intended to determine the distribution of two species of Canada goose (large-bodied Canada goose and small-bodied crackling goose) in northern Canada. The original project was proposed to take place from July 15, 2005 to August 15, 2008.

The activities and components associated with the original proposal included:

- Six (6) researchers to be accommodated in tent frames, existing cabins, or hotels while conducting project work;
- Use of a helicopter for personnel pickup and drop-offs and for locating wildfowl;
- Banding of Canada geese;
- Collecting DNA samples from Canada geese across their nesting range in Nunavut using various sources; and
- Storage of a total of 21,730 litres of Jet A fuel and 110 litres of gasoline on site.

The activities and components associated with the March 30, 2009 renewal and amendment applications included:

- Continue research activities from July 13, 2009 to August 15, 2011;
- Twenty-two (22) researchers to be accommodated in either tent frames, existing cabins, or hotels while conducting project work;
- Use of a helicopter and/or ATV for personnel pickup and drop-offs and for locating wildfowl;
- Banding of six (6) different species of Arctic-nesting geese; and,

- Storage of a total of 16,400 litres of Jet A or B fuel at project sites (Perry River and Karrak Lake in Queen Maud Gulf, Coral Harbour on Southampton Island, Nikko Island in the Baffin Region, and McConnell River in the Kivalliq Region).

The activities and components associated with the March 6, 2012 renewal and amendment included:

- Continue research activities from July 1, 2012 to August 31, 2014
- Banding of Canada goose, snow goose, Ross' goose, Brant, swans and sea ducks.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is currently proposing to renew its NWB Type B water license and to renew its CWS *Bird Sanctuary permit*, CWS *Scientific permit to take salvage or disturb migratory birds permit*, to continue previously approved research activities from July 1, 2015 to August 31, 2017 and to amend the licence to also undertake a ground study of habitat degradation caused by midcontinent lesser snow geese and Ross' geese, including:

- Ground sampling along four 50-metre transects using detailed vegetation quadrants;
- Vegetation height measurements;
- Collection of biomass samples (two to four locations per site);
- Examination of species composition, phenology, and signs of herbivory; and
- Goose faecal pellet counts.

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 renewal 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 June 7, 2005 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Erika Zell, Assistant Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4622 or ezell@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

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
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
 Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 05YN073 (*June 7, 2005*)