



**NIRB File No.: 16DN061**  
NPC File No.: 148634

November 8, 2017

Major Gordon Prentice  
Department of National Defense  
701 Oxford Street East  
London, ON N5Y 4T7

Sent via email: [Gordon.Prentice@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Gordon.Prentice@forces.gc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Department of National Defence's "NOREX 18" project proposal**

Dear Major Gordon Prentice:

On October 20, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Department of National Defence's (DND) "NOREX 18" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on October 31, 2016 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because the Arctic Bay location has not been screened in the past.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **16DN061**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. Pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the NuPPAA, on October 20, 2017 the NIRB requested that the

additional information from DND be provided to the Board. On November 6, 2017 the Proponent provided the requested additional information and the NIRB commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### ***Project Scope:***

The proposed “NOREX 18” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, within 15 kilometres (km) of Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay and within 30 kilometers (km) of Resolute. The Proponent intends to conduct winter exercises involving the Arctic Response Company Group a division of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Canadian Rangers. The program is proposed to take place from February 4 to February 17, 2018. The scope of activities previously approved for these ongoing military exercises (NIRB File No. 16DN061) has been included within **Appendix A**.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following additional undertakings, works, or activities besides the activities outlined in Appendix A:

- Military exercises and patrols to be conducted by personnel within three (3) operational boxes (Grise Fiord, Resolute, and Arctic Bay); and
- Establishment of temporary camps near Resolute, Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay. A temporary camp near Resolute to be used as the primary temporary camp for military exercises and fuel cache.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: NOREX 18
- NIRB File No.: 16DN061
- Application No.: 125173

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting military exercise locations*
- *Spill Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Department of National Defence project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **November 20, 2017**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: NOREX 18
- NIRB File No.: 16DN061
- Application No.: 125173

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak  
Junior Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:                    Distribution List  
                         Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
                         Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
                         Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
                         Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
                         Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment  
                         Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Attachment: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

## APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 16DN061), was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Planning Commission on October 31, 2017 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement). On February 28, 2017 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Department of National Defence's (Proponent) original "NOREX 17" project was located in the Qikiqtani region, approximately 60 kilometres (km) northeast, south and west from the community of Resolute Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct winter exercises involving the Arctic Response Company Group a division of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Canadian Rangers. The program is proposed to take place from March 6 to March 31, 2017.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Military training to be staged from the Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre (CAFATC) located in Resolute Bay;
- Mobilization of up to 134 personnel to CAFATC for acclimatisation training;
- Military exercises and patrols to be conducted by personnel within three (3) operational boxes (Eureka or Polaris, Gascoyne Inlet, Resolute);
- Establishment of temporary camps near Eleanor Lake on northeast portion of Cornwallis Island, near Eureka or Polaris and Gascoyne Inlet. A temporary camp near Eleanor Lake to be used as the primary temporary camp for military exercises;
- Establishment of austere airfield on Eleanor Lake (ice airstrip);
- Use of snowmobiles and tracked over snow vehicles (BV-206) for transportation of personnel and equipment to temporary camp and military exercise locations;
- Use of aircrafts, helicopter and/or snowmobiles to transport personnel and equipment to additional exercise locations (Eureka or Polaris and Gascoyne Inlet);
- Use of area near Resolute as rifle range;
- Transportation, storage and use of 2000 litres of gasoline, 200 litres of diesel and 60 litres of naphtha;
- Use and transportation of water from existing facilities at CAFATC;
- Production and management of wastes:
  - Combustible wastes, sewage, and greywater to be disposed of at Resolute or at an approved facility down south;
  - Hazardous and non-combustible wastes to be shipped to an approved facility down south for disposal; and
- Demobilization and removal of equipment and materials on completion of military exercises.