



NIRB File No.: 17AN040

Related to NIRB File No.: 06AN026

NIRB Application No.: 125084

NPC File No.: 148462

Related to NPC File No.: 148512

May 23, 2017

To: The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca and catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Shorebird Research – Prince Charles Island" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region

Dear Ms. McKenna:

On February 20, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) "Shorebird Research - Prince Charles Island" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (NPC File No. 148462). The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on March 14, 2006 for activities associated with "Breeding Biology of the Birds of South Hampton, Coats Island and Baffin Island" NIRB File No. 06AN026 in the current proposal continues to apply. Further, NPC determined that the project proposal was a significant modification to the project because activities on Prince Charles Island have not been screened.

In addition, on March 14, 2017 the NIRB received a notice from NPC noting that ECCC's "Coastal Surveys of Common Eider Nesting Islands Along the South Baffin Coast" (NPC File No.: 148512), though previously screened by the NIRB under File No. 06AN026, did not apply as per section 235 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA) and was exempt from screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement).

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the Nunavut Agreement and section 87 of the NuPPAA, the NIRB commenced screening ECCC's "Shorebird Research - Prince Charles

Island” and even though ECCC’s “Coastal Surveys of Common Eider Nesting Islands Along the South Baffin Coast” is related to the above proposal the “Coastal Surveys of Common Eider Nesting Islands Along the South Baffin Coast” project proposal was not considered as part of this assessment. The NIRB assigned the “Shorebird Research - Prince Charles Island” file number 17AN040.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Environment and Climate Change Canada’s “Shorebird Research – Prince Charles Island” project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the NuPPAA.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated May 23, 2017 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB’s assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Shorebird Research - Prince Charles Island
- NIRB File No.: 17AN040
- Application No.: 125084

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB’s Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 17AN040 (May 23, 2017)