



NIRB File No.: 06MN082  
INAC File No.: IQA-N 5510-5-21 UNC

November 13, 2007

To: Zinifex Distribution List

**Re: Receipt of Supplemental Information Addressing Information Request and Submission of Technical Review Comments – Zinifex High Lake Mine Project**

Dear Parties:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is now in receipt of Zinifex Canada Inc.'s (Zinifex) responses to Information Requests pertaining to the proposed High Lake Mine project. The response package is now available on the NIRB ftp site at the following location:

[http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/NIRB\\_REVIEWS/CURRENT\\_REVIEWS/06MN082-ZINIFEX\\_HIGH\\_LAKE/2-REVIEW/07-CONFORMITY%20TECH%20REVIEW/02-INFORMATION%20REQUESTS/02-RESPONSES/](http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/NIRB_REVIEWS/CURRENT_REVIEWS/06MN082-ZINIFEX_HIGH_LAKE/2-REVIEW/07-CONFORMITY%20TECH%20REVIEW/02-INFORMATION%20REQUESTS/02-RESPONSES/)

The dates and location of the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) are hereby confirmed to be November 30 to December 3, 2007 in Cambridge Bay and December 5 to December 7, 2007 in Kugluktuk, respectively.

The main objective of the Technical Meeting is to discuss all technical issues that Parties discern through their technical reviews of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Accordingly, the NIRB is advising Parties to prepare their Technical Review Comments for submission to the NIRB prior to the Technical Meeting.

The NIRB is requesting that Parties submit their Technical Review Comments to the NIRB in a text format, preferably by email. As these comments will form the basis for discussions at the Technical Meeting and PHC, Parties are asked to ensure the submission reflects, where relevant, all previous submissions to the NIRB related to the Part 5 Review of the High Lake Project. Technical Review Comments should be submitted to the NIRB no later than **November 23, 2007** and include the following:

- Determination of whether Parties agree/disagree with the conclusions in the DEIS regarding the alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, significance of impacts, and monitoring measures – and reasons to support the determination;
- Determination of whether or not conclusions in the DEIS are supported by the analysis – and reasons to support the determination;
- Determination of whether appropriate methodology was utilised in the DEIS to develop conclusions – and reasons to support the determination, along with any proposed alternative methodologies which may be more appropriate (if applicable);
- Assessment of the quality and presentation of the information in the DEIS; and
- Any comments regarding additional information which would be useful in assessing impacts – and reasons to support any comments made.

Parties are asked to provide their Technical Review Comments in the format indicated below:

- An executive summary of technical comments in English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut;
- A detailed list of technical comments organized by heading indicating the DEIS document, Section No., Page No., and Paragraph No., where appropriate; and
- A summary of comments regarding NIRB's nine (9) specific objectives for a PHC (see Attachment #1).

At this time, the NIRB also asks that Parties confirm their attendance and the number of representatives being sent to Cambridge Bay for the Technical Meeting and to Kugluktuk for the PHC. Please review Attachment #1 for further information regarding procedures and/or requirements for the Technical Meeting and PHC. The draft agenda for the Technical Meeting and PHC is enclosed (Attachment #2). If you would like to recommend additions to the agenda, please do so when confirming your attendance.

Technical Review comments, confirmation of attendance and any comments on the agenda can be submitted to the NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration, Leslie Payette at [lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca), or by fax (1-867-983-2594). All information must be submitted no later than **November 23, 2007**.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Technical Advisors: Sophia Granchinho at (867) 983-4606, or by email at [sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca); or Ryan Barry (867) 983-4615, or by email [rbarry@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:rbarry@nirb.nunavut.ca).

Sincerely,



Jeff Rusk –Director of Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Encl: 1) Procedures for Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for Zinifex High Lake  
2) Draft Agenda for Zinifex High Lake Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference

## **ATTACHMENT #1**

### **Procedures for Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for Zinifex High Lake Mine Project**

The following document outlines the procedures for the Zinifex High Lake Mine Project (Zinifex) Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC).

#### **Technical Meeting (November 30, December 1, 2, 3):**

##### **Meeting Format**

The Technical Meeting will be facilitated by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) staff and will proceed in the format outlined in the attached draft Agenda for the Technical Meeting. The scope of the Technical Meeting will include discussions on the technical content of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and supplementary reports.

The NIRB reserves the right to convene break-out sessions, where required during the Technical Meeting, to provide Parties an opportunity for more in depth discussion on key topics.

##### **Expert Technical Team**

The NIRB encourages experts from both Zinifex and from the Interveners to attend the Technical Meeting to participate in an open, informal discussion of technical issues.

##### **Zinifex Presentation and Submission**

As detailed in the attached Technical Meeting Agenda, Zinifex will present an in depth presentation of the project, including a reply to the issues presented by Interveners in the Technical Review comments submissions. Following the introduction of each topic, NIRB shall facilitate a discussion that provides all Parties present with an opportunity to raise their concerns and exchange technical information such that issues presented by Parties in their November 23, 2007 submissions are addressed.

The NIRB requests that Zinifex submit the following to NIRB's Technical Advisors, Sophia Granchinho or Ryan Barry, at the time of the Technical Meeting:

- 1) 20 hardcopies of their Technical Meeting presentation for the Board and staff;
- 2) Enough hardcopies of their Technical Meeting presentations for the Public; and,
- 3) A Microsoft Power Point version of their presentation for the Technical Meeting.

All presentations will be presented at the Technical Meeting from a laptop computer provided by the NIRB.

##### **Participation**

The NIRB requests all Parties to confirm their attendance at the Technical Meeting with the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Sophia Granchinho (867-983-4606 or [sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca)) or Ryan Barry (867-983-4615 or [rbarry@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:rbarry@nirb.nunavut.ca)) by November 23, 2007.

## **Pre-Hearing Conference (December 5, 6, 7):**

### **Meeting Format**

The scope of the PHC will include timelines for submissions, meetings, possible interventions, evidence, document exchange and any other matters related to the logistics of the Public Hearing. These proceedings will be concluded by the issuance of a Pre-Hearing Decision provided to Zinifex within 30 days following the PHC to guide Zinifex in the development of their Final EIS.

### **Zinifex Overview Presentation**

As detailed in the attached PHC Agenda, Zinifex will present an overview of the project at the PHC. The project overview should also contain any project updates and improvements made as a result of the Information Requests process and the Technical Meeting. Zinifex is expected to submit a summary of comments on the nine (9) issues related to the PHC by November 23, 2007.

The topics discussed following Zinifex's presentation will include at a minimum the nine (9) issues listed below, but will also depend on the issues brought forward by Interveners and the Public at the PHC.

### **Community Roundtable Session**

NIRB has invited representatives from the potentially affected communities of Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok to attend the PHC in Kugluktuk. During the PHC, these community representatives will have the opportunity to participate in a community roundtable discussion facilitated by the Chairperson of the Board, whereby they can ask questions and voice their comments about the proposed Project.

### **PHC Presentation and Questioning**

The PHC presentations and questioning by Zinifex, Interveners and the Public shall address the following nine (9) issues:

1. The schedule for the PHC exchange of information;
2. Intervener identification and registration;
3. The list of issues to be dealt with at the Final Public Hearing and clear statements of the issues;
4. Technical reports and other documents needed for the Final Public Hearing;
5. The schedule to be followed by the Parties for completion of reports needed *prior* to the Final Public Hearing;
6. The schedule, dates, times, and place(s) of the Final Public Hearing;
7. Special procedures, if any, to be followed at the Final Public Hearing;
8. Any motions that may be needed before the Final EIS is filed, or the Final Public Hearing commences; and

9. Any other matters that may aid in the simplification of the hearing (i.e. the segregation of the hearing into different segments, technical hearing vs. non technical community meetings).

Zinifex, Interveners and the Public will be given the opportunity to present information and question each other if time permits. This will be done in an orderly manner as detailed in the attached PHC Agenda. The Board, of course, shall conclude each presentation on the above nine issues with their own questions. However, where necessary, the Board may ask questions during any presentation.

During the PHC, a time limit of up to 30 minutes will be enforced by the Board, and Parties should prepare their presentations and questioning with these limits in mind. If Interveners combine presentations, additional time will be allocated to finish their combined comments.

The NIRB requests that Zinifex and Interveners submit the following to NIRB's Technical Advisors, Sophia Granchinho or Ryan Barry, at the time of the PHC:

- 1) 20 hardcopies of their PHC presentation for the Board and staff, including a summary on the of comments on the nine (9) issues related to the PHC;
- 2) Enough hardcopies of their PHC presentations for the Public; and,
- 3) A Microsoft Power Point version of their presentations for the PHC.

All presentations will be presented at the PHC from a laptop computer provided by the NIRB.

Since the burden of proof is on Zinifex, the Board will permit Zinifex to make a brief final closing statement at the end of the PHC following closing statements by all other Parties.

### **Participation**

The NIRB requests all Parties to confirm their attendance at the PHC with the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Sophia Granchinho (867-983-4606 or [sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca)) or Ryan Barry (867-983-4615 or [rbarry@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:rbarry@nirb.nunavut.ca)) by November 23, 2007.

## ATTACHMENT #2

### Draft - AGENDA

**NIRB File No.:** 06MN089 – High Lake Project (Nunavut)  
**Proponent:** Zinifex Canada Inc.

#### Technical Meeting Agenda

**Location:** Luke Novoligak Community Hall, Cambridge Bay, NU

**Dates:** Friday November 30, 2007

**Start time:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Dates:** Saturday December 1, 2007 and Sunday December 2, 2007

**Start time:** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm with possible evening session

**Dates:** Monday December 3, 2007

**Start time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

1. Introduction of Participants
2. Presentation of project by Zinifex Canada Inc. (Zinifex)
3. General questions on the presentation from interested Parties
4. Open discussion facilitated by NIRB staff on technical issues related to the Zinifex High Lake Project draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), including supporting documentation (supplemental information and information request responses). Discussions shall proceed based on the scoping list in the following order:
  - a. Atmosphere, including climate change, air quality and noise factors
  - b. Hydrology and Hydrogeology
  - c. Freshwater Aquatic Environment (Groundwater, Surface Water and Sediment Quality; Freshwater Aquatic Organisms and Habitat)
  - d. Marine Aquatic Environment (Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Marine Fish and Fish Habitat)
  - e. Marine Mammals and Marine Habitat; Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
  - f. Landforms, Soils, and Vegetation
  - g. Human and Ecological Health
  - h. Socio-Economics, Archaeological Resources, and Traditional Knowledge (TK)
  - i. Cumulative Effects, Transboundary Effects, Accidents and Malfunctions
  - j. Monitoring/Post Project Analysis
  - k. Other Factors, which includes:
    - a. Geology of the entire Project footprint
    - b. Closure and reclamation planning and estimates for security
    - c. Effect of climate change on the project design, including mine waste management
    - d. Effect of thermal status of High Lake on general containment strategy
    - e. Effects of the environment on the Project
    - f. The spatial scope (i.e. geographic extent) of the effects of each project component on the environment

- g. The temporal scope of the effects of each project component on the environment corresponding to their anticipated lifespan
- h. All navigable water crossings along the winter and all-season roads, facilities and infrastructure at or in Grays Bay, and various structures associated with the development of the mine site and processing facilities
- i. Purpose of the project
- j. Alternatives to, and alternative means of carrying out the Project, and the environmental effects of any such alternative means.
- k. The capacity of the renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.

5. Closing of the meeting

## **Pre-Hearing Conference Agenda**

**Location:** The Community Complex, Kugluktuk, NU

**Dates** Wednesday December 5, 2007 – Friday December 7, 2007

**Start time:** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (times may vary)

1. Opening Prayer;
2. Opening remarks by the Chairperson, which include the purpose of the Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) and the scope of the matters to be considered by the Board;
3. Identification and introduction of the Parties; includes identification and introduction of any individuals or groups who have not submitted interventions but who have expressed a desire to speak at the hearing;
4. Project Overview Presentation by Zinifex;
5. General questions on the presentation from interested Parties;
6. Community Roundtable Session;
7. Presentation by any individuals or groups who have advised the Chairperson that they wish to speak (members of the Public);
8. PHC Presentation by Zinifex;
9. Questions by interested Parties on the PHC Presentation;
10. PHC Presentation by Interveners;
11. Questions by interested Parties on the PHC Presentations;
12. Final closing statement by Parties;
13. Reply and closing statement by Zinifex;
14. Closing remarks by the Chairperson; and
15. Closing of the meeting and Closing Prayer.

### **NOTES:**

- ⇒ *Elders may speak at any time during the PHC.*
- ⇒ *The Board will recess the PHC for breaks as it deems necessary.*
- ⇒ *The Board reserves the right to allow written submissions on the above points if necessary.*