



NIRB File No.: 06MN082

April 16, 2008

To: Zinifex High Lake Distribution List

Re: Pre-Hearing Conference for the High Lake Mine Project

Dear Parties:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has decided to set the dates and location for the Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) for the High Lake Mine project. This decision was made after reviewing the information required by Parties to complete the Technical Review of the High Lake Mine project, and the anticipated completion of the workshops in late May or early June by Zinifex Canada Ltd. (Zinifex) and interveners. **The dates and location of the PHC are hereby confirmed to be June 9 – June 11, 2008, in Kugluktuk.** The PHC will commence at 9:00 am in the Main Hall at the Community Complex on Monday June 9th, 2008.

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 report provided to Zinifex within 30 days following the PHC to guide Zinifex in the development of their Final Environmental Impact Statement. The PHC will be structured such that the following nine (9) specific objectives will be focused on:

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).

The NIRB requests that Parties, including Zinifex, submit a summary of comments regarding NIRB's nine (9) specific objectives for a PHC as listed above by Monday May 26th 2008.

Zinifex Overview Presentation

The NIRB suggests that Zinifex present an overview of the High Lake Mine Project at the PHC as outlined in the *draft* agenda. The project overview should also contain any project updates and improvements made as a result of the Information Requests process and the Technical Meetings and Workshops.

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

The NIRB requests that Zinifex submit the following to NIRB's Technical Advisors, Sophia Granchinho or Amanda Hanson, one week before the PHC meeting:

- 1) 20 hardcopies of their PHC overview presentation for the Board and staff;
- 2) 20 hardcopies of their PHC presentation that discusses the nine specific objectives for the Board and staff;
- 3) Enough hardcopies of their PHC presentations for the Public; and,
- 4) 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.

As 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.

Presentation by Interveners and the Public

Interveners and the Public will be given the opportunity to present information and question the proponent and vice versa if time permits. This will be done in an orderly manner as detailed in the attached *draft* agenda. The PHC presentations shall address the nine (9) specific objectives listed above. The Board shall conclude each presentation 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 Interveners submit the following to NIRB's Technical Advisors, Sophia Granchinho or Amanda Hanson, one week before the PHC:

- 5) 20 hardcopies of their PHC presentations for the Board and staff, including a summary on the of comments on the nine (9) issues related to the PHC;
- 6) Enough hardcopies of their PHC presentations for the Public; and,
- 7) 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.

Community Roundtable Session

NIRB has invited representatives from the potentially affected communities of Kugluktuk, 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.

At this time, the NIRB also asks that Parties confirm their attendance and the number of representatives being sent to Kugluktuk for the PHC. The *draft* agenda for the PHC is enclosed (Attachment #1). If you would like to recommend additions to the agenda, please do so when confirming your attendance.

A summary of comments regarding NIRB's nine (9) specific objectives for a PHC, 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.ca, or by fax (1-867-983-2594). All information must be submitted no later than Monday May 26th 2008.

On a separate but equally important note, the Board would like to remind Parties that Zinifex originally indicated the dates for the water quality and climate change workshops to be held in Yellowknife on or around May 13th and May 14th, 2008. Zinifex agreed to arrange the space for the workshops. At this time, NIRB is requesting that Zinifex confirm any arrangements which have been made for the workshops by **April 25, 2008**.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Technical Advisors: Sophia Granchinho at (867) 983-4607, or by email at sgranchinho@nirb.ca; or Amanda Hanson at (867) 983-4615 or by email at ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jeff Rusk –Director of Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Encl: 1) Draft Agenda for Zinifex High Lake Pre-Hearing Conference

