



NIRB File No.: 12EN018
KIA File No.: KVL312C02
NWB File No.: 2BE-MVP

April 26, 2012

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Executive Offices
10 Wellington St.
Gatineau, QC, K1A 0H4

Via email: Duncan.j@parl.gc.ca and minister@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Vale Exploration Canada Inc.'s "Melville Peninsula" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. John Duncan:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above (KIA File No. KVL312C02, NWB File No. 2BE-MVP).

On February 15, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Vale Exploration Canada Ltd.'s (Vale) "Melville Peninsula" project proposal from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA). On March 14, 2012 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC). Further, on March 28, 2012 the NIRB received an application for access to Inuit Owned Land and a referral from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) to screen this project proposal. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 12EN018 and commenced Screening pursuant to NLCA Article 12 Part 4.

Following receipt of the initial application materials, the NIRB undertook a preliminary completeness check and found that the proposal as submitted did not contain sufficient information for the NIRB to permit proper screening. On April 5, 2012 the NIRB requested that additional information from the Proponent be provided to the Board by April 19, 2012. On April 9, 2012 the NIRB received the requested information in support of this project proposal.

Due to the need to collect additional information as required to permit proper screening of the current project proposal, the NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision within the 45 day time period as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed by May 14, 2012.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested parties on the extension.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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: Jason Richard, Vale
Sarah Gagné, Golder Associates Ltd.
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board