



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

APR 22 2005

Mr. Albert Ehaloak
Acting Chair
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0



Dear Mr. Ehaloak:

I am writing in response to the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Screening Decision Report of March 7, 2005, indicating that the Miramar Hope Bay Limited Doris North Gold Mine Project requires a public review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

I have reviewed the Report and attached information and I support the Board's recommendation that the Project proceed directly to a Part 5 review. Pursuant to paragraph 12.4 (b), I am referring the Project to the Board for a review under part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The other Departments with jurisdictional responsibility in relation to the Project (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Transport Canada) concur with this decision.

Pursuant to section 12.5.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, I would like to identify specific issues for the Board to consider during the review. In its Report, the Board identified two particular issues of concern raised by reviewing parties relating to the scope of any subsequent review of the Project and the submission of the proponent's environmental impact statement. With respect to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's request to restrict the scope of a renewed Part 5 review to those matters which are related to the deficiencies or any changes made to the Project since it was first presented to the Board, I would like to provide the following comments.

The previous Part 5 review of the Project was concluded on December 6, 2004, with my decision to accept the Board's determination that the Project should not proceed. The decision was based on the fact that the proponent had not provided

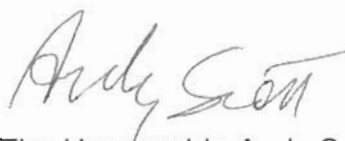
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adequate information on five significant environmental assessment categories. As a result, a major objective of this review should be to address the information deficiencies, as outlined in the Board's August Final Hearing Report. However, it is essential that this new information is not reviewed in isolation and that the potential effects of the Project as a whole are considered. The submission of a new and complete environmental impact statement that incorporates any new information provided by the proponent will help achieve this goal while providing for a more efficient review of the Project. I understand that the proponent has formally committed to this request in a letter to the Board dated March 7, 2005.

Finally, I would encourage the Board to consult with all parties prior to establishing review timelines in order to ensure that experts have the necessary time and information to prepare interventions.

I look forward to reviewing the Board's Final Hearing Report on the Project upon completion of the review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andy Scott', with a stylized, cursive script.

The Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Jean C. Lapierre, PC, MP
The Honourable Geoff Regan, PC, MP
The Honourable R. John Efford, PC, MP