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Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence
NU-02-0117

May 20, 2005

Ms. Gladys Joudrey
Manager of Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
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via electronic mail:
gjoudrey@nirb.nunavut.ca

Dear Ms. Joudrey:

Subject: Doris North – May 9th Letter from Miramar Hope Bay Ltd to NIRB regarding upcoming environmental assessment review process and timelines.

I am writing with regard to your letter of May 11, 2005 which referenced a May 9th letter from Miramar Hope Bay Ltd. (MHL), wherein they brought forward a proposal for an expedited review process for the draft EIS of the Doris North Gold Project.

In their letter MHL requests that the guidelines from the previous review of the project be used for the current submission. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) does not generally object to using the previous guidelines as a basis for the guidelines in this latest review. However, DFO would recommend revisiting the previous guidelines and updating them as necessary to ensure that they still accurately reflect the project as it is being proposed today. This review and update would ensure that all potential relevant issues associated with the latest proposal are captured and therefore can be assessed by the proponent.

Secondly, in their letter MHL requests that a shorter review period be established for the draft EIS given that the project has been through a review previously, and that they would like to issue their final EIS as expeditiously as possible. Given the history of the project, DFO generally agrees that an expeditious review is appropriate, however, we also recognize that time will be needed for the interveners to adequately review the material so that meaningful input can be provided to MHL to guide the development of their draft EIS. With that in mind, we are hesitant to recommend the shortening of the review period for the draft EIS to any great extent since it may compromise our ability to provide quality advice to MHL for the development of their final EIS.

Thank you for the invitation to provide comment to the NIRB on the proposals made by MHBL. I trust these comments are helpful to the NIRB in their decision regarding the proposal made by MHBL in their May 9th letter.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at directly by telephone at 867-979-8007 or by fax at 867-979-8039.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Tania Gordanier
Habitat Management Biologist

c.c.: Michelle Wheatley, Area Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada