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Depardon of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

May 20, 2005

Ms Stephanie Briscoe  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
PO Box 2379  
Cambridge Bay

**RE: PART 5 REVIEW OF THE DORIS NORTH PROJECT**

The Department of Environment (DOE) has reviewed the May 9, 2005 letter from Mirimar Hope Bay Ltd (MHBL) to NIRB and has the following comments to make.

With respect to the guidelines for the EIS, DOE agrees that the previous guidelines issued in October 15, 2002 remain applicable. This recommendation is based on our review of the project description submitted by MHL in February 2005.

DOE commends MHL for preparing a new detailed draft EIS, recognizing the significant resources required to prepare such a document; we look forward to receiving it in the near future. However as outlined in our letter of February 23 2005 to NIRB, regulators and interveners equally require time to review these lengthy documents. DOE has to coordinate technical input from a number of divisions, all with a high volume of work and significant other duties. Additionally, the GN's internal review process may require DOE comments to be approved by Deputy Ministers and ultimately Cabinet before being submitted to NIRB. These processes can take up a significant amount of NIRB's allocated review period.

DOE always strives to provide responses to NIRB within the timescale allocated and will continue to do so, however, we ask NIRB to ensure that a conformity review of the DEIS is undertaken, and once in conformity a period of at least 60 days is given to review the draft EIS, as per the Meadowbank Goldmine Project. Additionally, a period of approximately 90 days should be allocated to prepare technical comment on the final EIS; again recognizing the resources required by DOE to review the documents and our internal approval process. Once again we believe this to be consistent with other projects.

With these timescales in mind, it would seem reasonable to prepare for technical meetings sometime in the late fall.

We thank NIRB for this opportunity to provide comment on the review process for the Doris North Project.

Yours sincerely

(original signed by)

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