

NIRB File No.: 05MN047

May 27, 2005

Mr. David Long Miramar Hope Bay Limited 300-889 Harbourside Drive North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3S1

BY EMAIL (dlong@miramarmining.com)

Re: Direction to Miramar Hope Bay Limited on preliminary steps for the Part 5 review of the

Doris North Project

Dear Mr. Long,

Following your letter of May 9, 2005 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) asked Parties to comment on the Minister's decision and your letter by May 24, 2005. By that time the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Government of Nunavut – Department of the Environment, and Environment Canada had submitted comments. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association submitted comments a day late. All comments were posted on NIRB's ftp-site at the following link: ftp://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/Reviews/05MN047%20-%20DORIS NORTH/2-REVIEW/01-DECISION/

In formulating its preliminary action plan for the Part 5 review, as outlined in this letter, NIRB took into consideration its decision of August 2004, the Minister's decision on NIRB's 2005 screening determination, the letter from Miramar Hope Bay Limited (MHBL) of May 9, 2005, and comments from the Parties.

NIRB understands that, since last year, MHBL has undertaken work on a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with the assumption that the original guidelines from October 15, 2002 were applicable. Furthermore, NIRB is informed that MHBL intends on submitting the DEIS this June, 2005. With this in mind NIRB finds that requiring a second guideline development process at this stage would unnecessarily extend the review period. Moreover, the previous guidelines are very comprehensive and if fully considered along with NIRB's decision of August 2004, would direct MHBL towards the submission of a complete DEIS for all areas including especially the previous information deficiencies.

Once in receipt of the DEIS, NIRB assisted by the Parties will undertake a conformity assessment to verify that the DEIS responds to the provisions set out in the guidelines. MHBL will be required to respond to all deficiencies identified by NIRB's conformity assessment decision before the technical review of the DEIS begins.

Once NIRB establishes conformity, the Parties will be asked to undertake a technical review to assess the quality of the data and information contained in the DEIS. A technical meeting will be held, where all technical matters relating to the DEIS will be discussed. At that time NIRB may consider additional information requirements outside of the guidelines if necessary, as identified by the Parties during the

technical review of the DEIS and finalized by NIRB thereafter. Following the technical meeting MHBL will be required to address those issues decided upon by NIRB.

After hearing technical comments on the DEIS and a potential Pre-Hearing Conference, NIRB can accept the DEIS as a Final EIS if it deems this appropriate. This option might require MHBL to submit an addendum following the technical meeting and is contingent upon the standards with which the DEIS is prepared.

The Board will notify MHBL and the Parties of its decision on a Pre-Hearing Conference in due course (it is premature to do so now) and will set specific timelines as the process moves forward. Like everything else however, the timely execution of the process depends on the quality of the DEIS.

The Board's major objective in this review is to address the information deficiencies outlined in its previous decision and the Minister's letter. NIRB encourages dialogue between MHBL and Interveners to resolve additional information concerns which may arise, reserving the right for NIRB to make final decisions.

NIRB directs MHBL to contact the Parties to determine how many copies of the DEIS they will require. Local Hamlets should always be provided with a copy. For NIRB's purpose please send 3 hardcopies and 2 electronic copies to the footnoted address and contact NIRB's Executive Director, Stephanie Briscoe (867-983-4603), for a list of Board members.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by)

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c.c. Honourable Andy Scott, Minister INAC
Doris North Distribution List