



The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Miramar Hope Bay Limited's (MHBL) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on June 13, 2005. The DEIS is available on NIRB's ftp-site at the following location:

As you recall, Honourable Andy Scott wrote to the Board April 22, 2005 and supported the Board's decision to proceed "directly to a Part 5 Review". Further, the Minister encouraged the Board to stress the five key deficiencies identified in the Board's August 2004 decision. These deficiencies are:

1. The wildlife mitigation and monitoring plan including cumulative effects assessment;
2. The Tail Lake water quality and water management strategy;
3. The assessment of alternatives to the use of Tail Lake for tailings disposal;
4. The design of the jetty and related issues including affects on fish habitat, shoreline erosion and the seabed; and
5. The socio-economic impact of the project on affected residents and communities of Nunavut.

For the first step of the review process, NIRB asks that all parties begin the immediate review of the DEIS for conformity purposes **using the attached table and keep it in excel format**. The conformity table is based on the project guidelines and has been formatted to emphasize the five focus areas mentioned above. Provisions in the guidelines referring to areas outside of the five key areas have been grouped into general sections. Provisions relating to the five key areas are detailed in the table and require a more thorough conformity review. Please take note that there is an additional section at the bottom of the table which asks Parties to identify whether the DEIS sufficiently addresses the five key areas for the purpose of satisfying conformity.

As guidance, conformity review is **not** intended to address the quality of the information contained in the DEIS, only its presence or absence. The question to ask while performing the conformity review is: does the DEIS address the requirement of the guideline? The question of whether or not the DEIS *satisfactorily* addresses the requirement of guideline is to be answered during the technical review which will be undertaken by Parties following NIRB's determination on conformity.

Please submit the completed conformity table (in excel format) and cover letter to Gladys Joudrey, NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration (gjoudrey@nirb.nunavut.ca). The deadline is **July 4, 2005, no later than 5:00 pm** Mountain Standard Time.

The Board has asked that I inform all parties of the proposed general timeline for the review process. At this time NIRB is proposing that all parties attend a Technical Meeting in Yellowknife, likely to be held the second week of August, 2005. The purpose of this meeting would be to clarify any technical issues in the DEIS and lead to instructions for the filing of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Subsequent final hearings could potentially be held in early fall, 2005. In suggesting this timeframe the Board is not prejudging the actual timeline or the quality of the DEIS which will affect the ultimate setting of the technical meeting date and eventual hearing date.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by)

Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director

cc: DIAND Minister – Honorable Andy Scott
Board

Enclosed: Conformity Table