



**NIRB File No.: 05MN047**

May 27, 2009

Mr. Christopher Hanks  
Director, Environment and Social Responsibility  
Hope Bay Mining Ltd.  
300-889 Harbourside Drive  
North Vancouver BC V7P 3S1

Via E-mail: [Chris.Hanks@newmont.com](mailto:Chris.Hanks@newmont.com)

**Re: Request for Change of Name and Deferral of Doris North Project**

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Dear Mr. Hanks:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) acknowledges receipt of Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s (HBML) letter dated September 11, 2008, advising the NIRB that HBML has indefinitely deferred the Doris North Project as a stand-alone project in order to pursue a broader belt-wide strategy that will incorporate the Doris North deposit. Followings meeting with NIRB staff on March 17, 2009, and April 3, 2009 to clarify issues related to September 11, 2008, letter, NIRB further acknowledges receipt of a letter dated April 20, 2009, requesting a change of name for the Doris North Project Certificate # 003 (PC) and providing an update to NIRB related to HBML's project development and status of HBML's compliance with requirements of the PC.

The above documents are available from the NIRB ftp site located at:  
<http://ftp.nirb.ca/MONITORING/05MN047-DORIS%20NORTH/01-PROJECT%20CERTIFICATE/FOLLOW-UP/>.

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB) also advised the NIRB that on January 13, 2009, HBML provided notice pursuant to Part L, Item 2 of Doris North Type A Water Licence 2AM-DOH0713 (Water Licence) of the intent to enter into a care and maintenance phase. Supplemental information was provided to the NWB on April 21, 2009. These documents are available from the NWB ftp site located at:  
<ftp://nunavutwaterboard.org/PRUC/2%20MINING%20AND%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-DOH0713/1%20APPLICATION/2009%20Care%20and%20Maintenance/>.

At this time the NIRB is requesting comments from the parties on: 1) the request for a name change to the NIRB PC, and 2) whether the indefinite deferral of the Doris North Project as a stand-alone project in order to pursue a broader belt-wide strategy creates any issues of non-compliance with the PC. The NIRB notes that any future decisions to pursue a broader strategy will require impact assessment pursuant to Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The NIRB notes that under separate cover, the NWB is requesting comments from the Parties on HBML's proposed approach to deferring certain terms and conditions of the Water Licence pursuant to the notice of care and maintenance without an amendment to the Water Licence. The NWB is further seeking comments on the specific provisions of the Water Licence proposed to be deferred, and any other issues identified by the Parties. The NIRB brings this to the attention of the parties to facilitate concurrent reviews where appropriate.

The NIRB requests comments from interested parties on or before **June 5, 2009**. Please forward all forthcoming submissions to the attention of Leslie Payette, Manager of Environmental Administration, at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Autut', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Autut  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Doris North Distribution List  
Dionne Filiatrault, Executive Director, NWB