

NIRB File No.: 05MN047 DFO File No.: 02-HCAA-CA7-00117

March 5, 2010

Christopher Hanks Director, Environment and Social Responsibility Hope Bay Mining Ltd.

Via E-mail: Chris.Hanks@newmont.com

Re: <u>Application Acknowledgement for Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s Request with DFO for</u> its "Doris North Jetty Improvements" proposal

Dear Mr. Hanks:

On March 4, 2010, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s (HBML) "Doris North Jetty Improvements" project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 05MN047) was initially proposed by Miramar Hope Bay Ltd. and reviewed by the NIRB pursuant to Part 5, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On September 15, 2006 the NIRB issued Project Certificate (No. 003) to the proponent allowing the Doris North project to proceed subject to the contained Terms and Conditions. Project components/activities in the original proposal included the construction, maintenance and operation of the Doris North Jetty.

In the current application, HBML is proposing the following activities for its Doris North Jetty associated with the Doris North Gold Mine Project (Doris North project):

- Install a new sheet pile bulkhead at the deepwater end of the jetty;
- Raise the surface elevation and stabilize rock slopes around the jetty; and
- Fish habitat compensation.

The current DFO application received by the NIRB includes:

- Doris North Jetty Improvements Application
- DFO Letter to the NIRB Re DFO Authorization Application

This application and all previous information associated with the reviewed file (NIRB File No. 05MN047) are available on the NIRB ftp site and can be accessed using the following link:

ftp.nirb.ca - /MONITORING/05MN047-DORIS NORTH/01-PROJECT CERTIFICATE/AUTHORIZATIONS/DFO-HABITAT ALTERATION AND DESTRUCTION/01-LICENSE OR PERMIT/

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

"Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

- (a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or
- (b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project."

The NIRB is of the opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project. Prior to making its final decision on this application, the NIRB would like to provide an opportunity for interested parties to provide comments for the Board's consideration regarding:

- whether the proposed component or activity was a part of the original proposal;
- whether its inclusion would significantly modify the project;
- any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at <u>info@nirb.ca</u> or via fax to (867) 983-2594 by **March 15, 2010**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at lwan@nirb.ca or by phone (867) 983-4606.

Sincerely,

Li Wan

Technical Advisor

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Doris North Distribution List

Gary Cooper, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (gary.cooper@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)