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By Manager of Licensing at 2:05 pm, Nov 03, 2011



NIRB File No.: 05MN047
NWB File No.: 2AM-DOH0713

November 3, 2011

Thomas Kabloona, Chairperson
Nunavut Water Board
c/o Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, NU

Via E-mail: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: HBML Notice regarding Proposed Modification - Airstrip Expansion and Bypass Road Design for the Doris North Gold Mine Project

Dear Phyllis Beaulieu:

On October 24, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received correspondence from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) regarding Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s (HBML) proposed modifications to its "Airstrip Expansion and Bypass Road Design" for the Doris North Gold Mine Project. The modifications pertain to HBML's Type A Water Licence (2AM-DOH0713) associated with the Doris North Gold Mine Project (the Doris North Project).

Please be advised that the Doris North Project has previously been reviewed by the NIRB pursuant to Part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and is currently being monitored by the Board through the provisions of NLCA Article 12, Part 7 and the Doris North Project Certificate No. 003 issued September 15, 2006.

PREVIOUS APPLICATION

On October 29, 2010, HBML submitted its second Type A Water Licence Amendment application to the NIRB, which included construction of a separate bypass road on the east side of the existing airstrip. After a thorough review of all information provided by HBML and comments received from interested parties, on January 14, 2011, the NIRB issued correspondence to the NWB which indicated that the proposed activities, including the construction of the bypass road, were exempt from the requirement for screening by the NIRB in accordance with NLCA Section 12.4.3, and that the activities therein could proceed subject to the recommendations made by the NIRB (enclosed), and the project-specific terms and conditions in the NIRB Project Certificate No. 003.

CURRENT APPLICATION

HBML is currently proposing to remove the separate bypass road and include an 8 metre wide attached bypass road that will be constructed along the east edge of the expanded airstrip.

All information pertaining to the current NWB amendment application, including additional information provided by HBML is available on NIRB's ftp site at:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/05MN047-DORIS%20NORTH%20GOLD%20MINE/06-AUTHORIZATIONS/NWB-TYPE%20A%20WATER%20LICENSE/06-AMENDMENT/2AM-DOH0713%20Amend%20No%202/>

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:

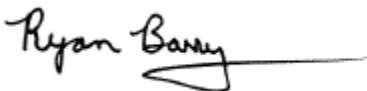
(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

After completing a review of the information pertaining to HBML's notification for the modification, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed activity does not constitute a significant change to the original scope of those activities included in the NIRB's review of the Project and addressed through the NIRB Project Certificate [No. 003] and therefore, that the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply in this case. This application is therefore exempt from the requirement for screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions included in the NIRB's Project Certificate [No. 003] for the Doris North Project¹.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor and NIRB Monitoring Officer for the Doris North Project, at (867) 983-4606 or liwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Chris Hanks, Hope Bay Mining Ltd.

¹ NIRB Doris North Project Certificate No. 003 available from the NIRB's FTP site at the following link:
http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/05MN047-DORIS%20NORTH%20GOLD%20MINE/01-PROJECT%20CERTIFICATE/060915-NIRB-DORIS-FINAL-Project_Certificate-OTAE.pdf

Enclosed: Stanley Anablak, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
NIRB Correspondence Re Application Exempt Pursuant to NLCA 12.4.3 (*January 14, 2011*)