



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

November 25, 2011

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

Via Email: [Chris.Hanks@newmont.com](mailto:Chris.Hanks@newmont.com)

**Re: Proposed Modifications to the Doris North Gold Mine Project and Related Amendments to NIRB Project Certificate No. 003 and NWB Type A Water License 2AM-DOH0713**

Dear Christopher Hanks:

On November 7, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a summary application from Hope Bay Mining Ltd. (HBML) which outlined proposed amendments to NIRB Project Certificate No. 003 and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Type A Water Licence 2AM-DOH0713 (known collectively as the “amendment application”) for modifications to the Doris North Gold Mine Project (Doris North Project). A complete amendment application package was received by the NIRB in hard copy on November 14, 2011 and included the following:

- HBML Cover Letter to the NIRB and the NWB Re Doris North Project Modifications and related Amendments to the NIRB Project Certificate No. 003 and Type A Water Licence 2AM-DOH0713
- Project Proposal: Doris North Mine Modifications and Related Amendments to Project Certificate No. 3 and Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH0713 (including a summary in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)
- Supporting documentation for the application (a total of 24 appendices)

All documents received and pertaining to the amendment application can be obtained from the NIRB’s ftp site at the following link:

[http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/05MN047-DORIS\\_NORTH\\_GOLD\\_MINE/01-PROJECT\\_CERTIFICATE/03-PC\\_AMENDMENTS/PC\\_AMENDMENT\\_No.1/](http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/05MN047-DORIS_NORTH_GOLD_MINE/01-PROJECT_CERTIFICATE/03-PC_AMENDMENTS/PC_AMENDMENT_No.1/)

As you are aware, the Doris North project was previously subjected to public review by the NIRB pursuant to Article 12, Part 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and is

currently being monitored by the NIRB in accordance with Article 12, Part 7 of the NLCA. Since the issuance of NIRB Project Certificate No. 003 on September 15, 2006, the Proponent has requested various changes to approvals associated with the Doris North project in accordance with Article 12 of the NLCA and/or through applications for amendments to its NWB Type A Water Licence for the Project.

In its cover letter, HBML acknowledged that certain components as proposed in the amendment application may not have been included within the scope of the Doris North project as originally considered by the Board and may therefore warrant a new screening by the NIRB pursuant to Section 12.4 of the NLCA, while still others may be exempt from the requirement for screening in accordance with Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA which states:

*“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.”*

HBML has also indicated that certain changes to the Doris North Project as proposed in the amendment application may require further amendments to the terms and conditions of the NIRB Project Certificate No.003, pursuant to Section 12.8.2 of the NLCA.

While the Proponent refers to a future Phase 2 development Hope Bay belt throughout the amendment application materials, no details regarding this development are provided. It is also unclear to what extent the Phase 2 project components and activities might be dependent upon infrastructure currently associated with the Doris North Project, and more specifically, associated with the current amendment application for the Doris North Project. In order to properly assess the current application, the NIRB requires clarification regarding the relationship between the scope of the activities set out in the Doris North Project amendment application and the forthcoming Hope Bay belt Phase 2 project proposal. The NIRB requests that HBML provide the following additional information:

- A record of the dialogue between the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and HBML regarding the Kitikmeot Inuit Association’s request to preview the Doris North amendment application package prior to submission as indicated in HBML’s cover letter to the NIRB dated November 4, 2011;
- The rationale for HBML’s proposed changes to the Doris North Project;
- A description of how the project components and activities within the current Doris North Project amendment application will relate to the proposed Hope Bay belt Phase 2 development;
- Discussion of the scope of the proposed Hope Bay belt Phase 2 development;
- Identification of those project components and activities which are to be considered as part of the current amendment application and as part of the Phase 2 project development;

- Information regarding the scope of ongoing exploration on the Hope Bay belt (including a description of land tenure, regulatory instruments including permits and associated licensing, NIRB file numbers, etc.); and,
- Either a complete copy of HBML's Hope Bay belt Phase 2 project proposal or a summary of the scope of the project components and activities being proposed.

The NIRB respectfully requests that HBML provide the above noted information to our office via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or fax at (867) 983-2594 on or before **December 5, 2011**.

Recognizing that certain changes to the Project as requested may require amendments to both the terms and conditions in the NIRB's Project Certificate No.003 as well as the NWB Type A Water License for this file (2AM-DOH0713), HBML has requested that the NIRB and NWB coordinate review processes in order to efficiently process this application. The NIRB is committed to cooperating with the NWB and to coordinating the NIRB's efforts to the extent possible in order to realize increased efficiencies.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor and NIRB Monitoring Officer for the Doris North Project at (867) 983-4606 or [lwan@nirb.ca](mailto:lwan@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson  
Director, Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Cc: Lea-Marie Bowes-Lyon, HBML ([Lea-Marie.Bowes-Lyon@Newmont.com](mailto:Lea-Marie.Bowes-Lyon@Newmont.com))  
Dave Hohnstein, NWB  
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Doris North Distribution List