



NIRB File No.: 12MN001

January 19, 2012

Chris Hanks
VP Environmental Affairs
Hope Bay Mining Ltd.
300-889 Harbourside Dr.
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3S1

Sent via email: Chris.Hanks@Newmont.com

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s "Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt" Project Proposal

Dear Chris Hanks:

On December 8, 2011, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the "Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt" project proposal (the Project) directly from Hope Bay Mining Ltd. (HBML; the Proponent). On January 12, 2012, the NIRB received a request to screen this project proposal from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA). The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **12MN001** – please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project is located approximately 125 kilometres southwest of Cambridge Bay, within the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut. The Proponent's stated objective of the Project is to begin mining for gold at the Madrid/Patch and Boston mineral deposits in the Hope Bay Greenstone Belt using both open pit and underground mining methods. The Proponent has estimated a milling rate of up to 2 million tonnes of ore per year, with anticipated total waste rock and tailings production of 350 million tonnes and 25 million tonnes, respectively. HBML proposes to commence project development in 2014 – 2015, with a projected mine life of 15 years.

The following is a *summary* of the main project components associated with the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project Proposal:

Proposed facilities at Roberts Bay:

- Deep water port;
- Waste management building;
- Maintenance shops;
- Barge camps; and
- Bulk fuel storage and dispensing systems.

Proposed facilities at Doris:

- Operations camps;
- Heliport;
- All-weather airstrip;
- Potable water and sewage treatment plants;
- Maintenance shops;
- Reagent storage;
- Batch plant;
- Administration buildings;
- Underground mining;
- Crushing circuit;
- Mineral processing plant;
- Waste rock and ore storage;
- Surface water management;
- Fuel storage;
- Mine dry;
- Tailings conveyance and storage;
- Quarry landfill;
- Power generation and distribution;
- Mine water conveyance and treatment facilities; and
- Other support facilities.

Proposed facilities at Madrid/Patch:

- Exploration and operations camps;
- All-weather airstrip;
- Administration buildings;
- Power generation and distribution;
- Fuel storage;
- Open pit and underground mining;
- Crushing circuit;
- Maintenance shops;
- Potable water and sewage treatment plants;
- Mine dry;
- Sanitary landfill;
- Ore and waste rock storage areas; and
- Other support facilities.

Proposed facilities at Boston:

- Exploration and operations camps;
- Heliport;
- All-weather airstrip;
- Potable water and sewage treatment plants;
- Maintenance shops;
- Reagent storage;
- Batch plant;
- Administration buildings;
- Underground and open pit mining;

- Crushing circuit;
- Mineral processing plant;
- Waste rock and ore storage;
- Surface water management;
- Fuel storage;
- Mine dry;
- Tailings conveyance and storage;
- Quarry landfill;
- Power generation and distribution;
- Mine water conveyance and treatment facilities; and
- Other support facilities.

Proposed Mid-belt facilities:

- Exploration camps;
- Fuel storage;
- Administration buildings;
- Maintenance shops;
- Potable water and sewage treatment plants; and
- Heliport.

All facilities will be connected by all-weather roads and winter roads. Ice airstrips will also be used in support of site activities.

Parties are advised that within its various application materials, HBML indicated that it anticipated the results of the Project screening may lead to a determination that the Project has significant impact potential and will therefore require a Review pursuant to Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

All documents received and pertaining to HBML's project proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN001) can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/12MN001-HBML-Phase%20%20Hope%20Bay%20Belt/01-APPLICATION/> including:

- *NIRB Part 1 Form (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)*
- *NIRB Part 2 Project Specific Information Requirements Form*
- *HBML's Project Proposal*
- *Plain Language Summary of Project Proposal (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)*
- *Maps and figures*
- *Identification of Potential Environmental Impacts*
- *Emergency Response and Spill Contingency Plans*
- *Landfill Management and Hazardous Waste Management Plans*
- *Project Monitoring and Follow-up Plan*
- *Wildlife Mitigation and Management Plan*
- *Confirmation of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Operational Statements*
- *HBML's Proposed Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines*

Pursuant to Article 12, Part 4 of the NLCA, the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by HBML's project proposal with this letter, and invites interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 9, 2012**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

The Board requests that interested parties submit comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594 by **February 9, 2012**.

In preparing a response to this request for comments, parties are advised that the current Hope Bay Phase 2 proposal before the Board is being considered as a separate and distinct application from the Doris North Gold Mine project which was previously reviewed by the NIRB (NIRB No. 05MN047) in accordance with Article 5 of Article 12 of the NLCA. Information pertaining to the NIRB's Review of the Doris North project can be obtained from the Board's public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/COMPLETED%20REVIEWS/05MN047-DORIS%20NORTH%20GOLD%20MINE%202006/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4609 or kboa-antwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc.
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Lea-Marie Bowes-Lyon, Hope Bay Mining Ltd.
Geoffrey Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Stanley Anablak, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)