



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

February 23, 2012

Christopher Hanks
Vice President Environmental Affairs
Hope Bay Mining Ltd.
Suite 300, 889 Harbourside Drive
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3S1

Sent via Email: chris.hanks@newmont.com

Re: Further Information Requested Regarding Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s Notification of Care and Maintenance

Dear Mr. Hanks:

On November 14, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application package from Hope Bay Mining Ltd. (HBML or the Proponent) which requested amendments to the NIRB Project Certificate (No. 003) and Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Type A Water Licence (NWB Licence No. 2AM-DOH0713) previously issued for the Doris North Gold Mine Project (Doris North Project, NIRB File No. 05MN047).

On December 16, 2011 the NIRB distributed the Doris North amendment application package and supplemental information to the Doris North Distribution List, and invited interested parties to provide comments to the Board.

On or before January 27, 2012 the NIRB received the comments from following parties:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Transport Canada (TC)

In addition to these submissions, on February 3, 2012 the NIRB received comments from Environment Canada (EC). The complete amendment application and comments from the noted parties are available online from the NIRB's public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/05MN047-DORIS%20NORTH%20GOLD%20MINE/01-PROJECT%20CERTIFICATE/03-PC%20AMENDMENTS/PC%20AMENDMENT%20No.1/>

In correspondence dated January 31, 2012 HBML advised the NIRB that its parent company, Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) had placed the development of the Doris North

Project and exploration of the Hope Bay belt into a care and maintenance suspension phase. While this notice also indicated that on-site activities would be limited to care and maintenance as a result of the decision, HBML further requested that the NIRB continue to process applications currently before the Board, namely:

- The amendment application consisting of proposed Doris North Project modifications and related amendments to NIRB Project Certificate No. 003 and NWB Type A Water Licence No. 2AMDOHO713; and,
- The Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project Proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN001).

Prior to proceeding with the assessment of HBML's amendment application, the Board requires additional information from the Proponent regarding its plans for development at Hope Bay. Specifically, the Board requests that HBML provide further clarification as to how the shift in project status into care and maintenance will affect HBML's project scheduling and implementation timelines as presented in its application for proposed amendments to the Doris North Project Certificate (No. 003).

The Board requests that HBML submit the requested update to the NIRB office via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to 867-983-2594, on or before **March 5, 2012**.

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

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Dave Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board
Doris North Distribution List