



NIRB File No.: 12MN001

August 27, 2012

To: Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Revised Draft Scope and Draft EIS Guidelines for Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s "Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt" project proposal

Dear Parties:

As you are aware, Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s (HBML or "the Proponent") "Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt" Project proposal (the Project) is currently undergoing a Review by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) under Part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

Section 12.5.2 of the NLCA states:

"...The NIRB shall, upon soliciting any advice it considers appropriate, issue guidelines to the proponent for the preparation of an impact statement. It is the responsibility of the proponent to prepare an impact statement in accordance with any guidelines established by NIRB."

The NIRB has initiated a comprehensive public scoping process to identify the scope of the Project and the factors to be assessed through the Board's Review, as well as to assist in the NIRB's development of guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement by the Proponent pursuant to NLCA Section 12.5.2. On June 8, 2012 the NIRB issued an initial *Draft Scope* of the Project and requested that Parties provide comments for the NIRB's consideration, based upon their mandate, jurisdiction and areas of expertise or interest.

On or before August 17, 2012 comments were received from the following Parties:

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Environment Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Government of Nunavut

All submissions received regarding the *Draft* Scope of the Project are available online from the NIRB's public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN001-HBML%20PHASE%202%20HOPE%20BAY%20BELT/2-REVIEW/04-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/01-SCOPING/03-COMMENTS/>

Following a review of all comments received by the Board, the NIRB has prepared the enclosed *Revised Draft* Scope for the Project. The NIRB has also developed the enclosed *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (*Draft* EIS Guidelines) for HBML's "Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt" project proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN001). Please be advised that, while some comments received regarding the initial *Draft* Scope for the Project have not been directly incorporated into the enclosed *Revised Draft* Scope for the Project, the NIRB has taken this feedback into consideration during its preparation of the enclosed *Draft* EIS Guidelines.

As previously communicated, the NIRB intends to schedule public scoping meetings in potentially impacted communities in order to assist with the development of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines for the Project, to finalize the scope of the Project and to determine the factors to be assessed in the NIRB's Review. The NIRB will ensure that adequate public notice is provided in advance of the public scoping meetings in accordance with the NIRB's Rules of Procedure (2009).¹

At present, the Board is requesting that interested parties review both the enclosed *Revised Draft* Scope and the *Draft* EIS Guidelines for the Project, and provide their comments to the NIRB based upon their mandate, jurisdiction and areas of expertise or interest.

All parties are asked to ensure that their comment submissions:

- Identify the issue(s) of concern;
- Include a clear rationale of the issue's importance to the environmental assessment for the Project;
- Identify any specific information requirements or direction which should be incorporated into the documents to address each issue of concern; and,
- Reference the page, section, paragraph and item numbers of the respective documents to which comments are applicable.

Parties are asked to forward all comment submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594. The NIRB will continue to accept comment submissions regarding the enclosed *Revised Draft* Scope for the Project and the *Draft* EIS Guidelines for the Project until **September 27, 2012**.

¹ Available online at: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/06-RULES/>

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the NIRB's Review for this project proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Technical Advisor

for:

Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Chris Hanks, Hope Bay Mining Ltd.
Geoff Clarke, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Derrick Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada
Doug Soloway, Transport Canada

Enclosures (2): 1. *Revised Draft* Scope List for the NIRB's Assessment of the Hope Bay Mining Ltd. Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project, August 2012.

2. *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Hope Bay Mining Ltd. Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project, August 2012.