



NIRB File No.: 12MN001

November 9, 2012

To: Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Final Scope and Revised Draft Guidelines for Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project

Dear Parties:

On August 27, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) distributed a request for public comment and advice on the Revised *Draft* Scope for the assessment of Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s (the Proponent) Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project (the Project), as well as for the *Draft* Guidelines for Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project. Comment submissions were received by the NIRB on or before October 3, 2012 and have since been incorporated into the enclosed Final Scope and Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines documents where appropriate. A comment table has also been enclosed and is meant to serve as an accompaniment to the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines in order to describe how and where comments received have been addressed throughout the present version of the Guidelines.

As parties are aware, the NIRB facilitated Public Scoping Meetings in Kugaaruk, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kugluktuk, and Cambridge Bay between October 9, 2012 and October 23, 2012. The Scope has been updated to incorporate comments where applicable, including feedback gained during the NIRB's Scoping Tour, and has been enclosed for the information of parties.

The enclosed Final Scope and Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines as well as all comment submissions and other materials relating to the NIRB's scoping and guideline development process for the Project are available from the NIRB's ftp site at:

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

COMMENT REQUEST – Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines

It is the NIRB's intention that the EIS Guidelines provide instruction to the Proponent for its preparation of an EIS that addresses information requirements for both the NIRB and the public in order to allow for a thorough impact assessment of the Project. The NIRB asks that interested parties and responsible authorities review the enclosed Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines and

provide comments to the Board based on their area of expertise and/or mandate on or before **Friday, November 30, 2012**.

All parties are asked to ensure that their comments identify the following:

- The issue of concern,
- A rationale of the issue's importance to the environmental assessment process,
- Identify which section(s) of the EIS Guidelines to which that concern is addressed, i.e. page number, section number, or item number, and
- Clearly identify the edits being suggested, i.e. any items that should be included, removed, or suggested changes in wording associated with the issue.

NEXT STEPS

The NIRB will consider scheduling an EIS Guidelines workshop via teleconference in order to facilitate discussions regarding technical matters and to draw upon the expertise and advice of various parties in finalizing the EIS Guidelines. The NIRB anticipates potentially scheduling this workshop on December 6, 2012 and asks that interested parties include with their comment submission, an indication of their intent to participate in this workshop, on or before **November 30, 2012**.

The NIRB has prepared an updated review process map for the Board's Review of the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project, and has enclosed this map for the information of parties.

The NIRB invites interested parties to submit comments on the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines and to indicate their intention to participate in an EIS Guidelines Workshop via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594 by **November 30, 2012**.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project, please contact me directly at tarko@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4611.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Technical Advisor
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
Derek Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada
Meighan Andrews, Transport Canada

- Enclosures (4):
1. Final Scope List for the NIRB's Assessment of Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project (*November 9, 2012*)
 2. Revised *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Hope Bay Mining Ltd.'s Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project (*November 9, 2012*)
 3. Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines Comment Table (*November 9, 2012*)
 4. Review Process Map (*November 9, 2012*)