



NIRB File No.: 05MN047

DATE: August 29, 2005.

TO: Miramar Hope Bay Limited and Doris North Distribution List

RE: Technical meeting commitments and Pre-Hearing Conference

Dear Parties,

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) would like to thank all Parties including the Public and Miramar Hope Bay Limited (MHBL) for their participation in NIRB's Technical meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) held last week (August 22 – 25, 2005) in Yellowknife.

Following productive discussions at the Technical meeting, participants reached consensus on a proposed list of commitments made by MHBL on a variety of topics. That proposed list is attached for your consideration. The list is divided into the following Key Areas which were discussed at the Technical meeting;

1. The assessment of alternatives to the use of Tail Lake for tailings disposal;
2. Tail Lake water quality and water management strategy;
3. The design of the Jetty and related issues including effects on fish habitat, shoreline erosion, and the seabed;
4. The wildlife mitigation and monitoring plan including cumulative effects assessment;
5. The socio-economic impact of the Project on affected residents and communities of Nunavut; and
6. Other issues.

Also, the (PHC) gave MHBL and Parties an opportunity to present written submissions and oral views on the following hearing issues:

1. Timing of the FEIS filing;
2. Final Hearing venue(s);
3. Final Hearing format; and
4. Timing of the Final Hearing.

First, what NIRB would like to do now is finalize instructions to MHBL for the filing of their FEIS. A major part of those instructions will likely be based on the Commitments List. However, before finalizing the Commitments List, NIRB would like your comments on it should you have any.

At the end of the PHC, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada raised the subject that perhaps not all of their Information Requests had been addressed during the Technical meeting. Although it was NIRB's intention and direction during the Technical meeting that all IRs be addressed at that time, this final review of the Commitments List will allow any party an opportunity to respond in writing, identifying the **original IR** and point out the outstanding need to have the original IR addressed, while having regard for: (a) MHBL's Presentation Binder passed out at the end of the PHC (presentations also available on NIRB's ftp site); (b) draft Commitment's List (attached); and (c) MHBL's written responses to the Parties who had made IRs.

Second, NIRB would like any additional comments you may have on the PHC issues as summarized above.

Please submit comments on the above mentioned items to Sylvia Novoligak, Environmental Administrator Trainee (snovoligak@nirb.nunavut.ca) **no later than Friday September 2, 2005 at 3:00 pm Mountain Time**. The Board will review those comments and issue a written decision to MHBL in a timely manner regarding the FEIS and Final Hearing matters.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Lines, Technical Advisor.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by)

Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director

Encl. Draft Commitments List