



**NIRB File No.: 05MN047**

**DATE:** November 9, 2005

**TO:** Doris North Distribution List

**RE:** Final Hearing Schedule, Associated Deadlines and Information

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Dear Parties,

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Miramar Hope Bay Limited's (MHBL) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Doris North Gold Project (the Project) on October 31, 2005. Since that time, NIRB has undertaken an internal conformity review of the FEIS to ensure that MHBL has complied with the Board's direction provided in the Preliminary Hearing Conference (PHC) Decision of September 13, 2005.

The results of NIRB's internal conformity review are attached and indicate that MHBL has answered most, but not all, of the Board's directives. However, the Board finds that the outstanding information, if provided in a timely manner, should not delay the timing of the Final Hearing. As a result, NIRB is pleased to provide the following schedule and direction for the FEIS technical review, the dates and location of the Final Hearing, and the filing of written submissions with the Board:

### **Internal Conformity Review**

NIRB has examined the FEIS for conformity with the PHC decision and finds that it *generally* conforms. Areas of non-conformity are highlighted in the attached table. MHBL *must* submit an addendum to the FEIS responding to the areas of non-conformity **no later than November 18, 2005**. An important highlight in the table is regarding the upcoming consultation (November 2005) MHBL plans to undertake with affected communities. Following the consultation, NIRB requires MHBL to submit a detailed report documenting the results of their consultation **no later than December 9, 2005**. In doing so, MHBL will be complying with condition 1 of NIRB's *10 Minimum EIS Requirements* which is the *Statement of consultation principles and practices*.

### **FEIS Technical Review**

All Parties should immediately begin the technical review of the FEIS in preparation for their participation in the Final Hearing. Parties should pay particular attention to the following:

1. Whether or not conclusions are supported by the analysis, and if not provide supporting evidence.
2. Whether Parties disagree with the conclusions regarding the alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, and significance of impacts, and the evidence supporting the Parties' disagreement.
3. Whether the appropriate methodology was used, and if not provide evidence.
4. An assessment of the quality of the information presented;
5. Whether the proposed monitoring is appropriate, and if not provide evidence and recommended monitoring; and
6. The preparation of submissions for the Final Hearing.

### **Deadline for filing written submissions**

In accordance with the PHC decision, the Board has allotted 60 days, not including Christmas holidays, for the technical review of the FEIS and the preparation of written submissions. Those Parties who intend to rely on a document at the Final Hearing must submit their written comments to NIRB **no later than January 18, 2005**.

*Further information regarding the format of written submissions will be issued at a later date.*

### **Final Hearing Dates and Location**

As stated in the PHC decision, the Board, in consultation with the Parties and community members, decided that the Final Hearing be held in Cambridge Bay. NIRB hereby confirms that the Final Hearing will be held in **Cambridge Bay from January 30 to February 3, 2006, inclusive**. The first three days of the Final Hearing will be for technical presentations while the last two days will allow for more community level involvement. This schedule will remain flexible and, depending on the Final Hearing proceedings, may include more or less community involvement.

*An agenda confirming the particulars of the Final Hearing will be circulated to all Parties beforehand.*

To promote public awareness and meaningful participation at the Final Hearing, NIRB is organizing its own community information sessions with interested residents and local organizations in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. Carolanne Inglis, NIRB's Hearing Coordinator, will be visiting the communities before the Final Hearing. Carolanne Inglis may be contacted by email ([cinglis@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:cinglis@nirb.nunavut.ca)). Following NIRB's community information sessions, NIRB will be selecting representatives from each community to attend the Final Hearing in Cambridge Bay. Residents of both Bathurst Inlet and Omingmaktok will also be sought to attend.

### **FEIS concerns, Information Requests and Exchanges**

Issues that were discussed during and following the technical meeting should be open for further discussion if required. NIRB has chosen to set the following process for information requests and discussions:

1. Parties must submit their information request or FEIS concern to NIRB **no later than November 25, 2005**.
2. The submission must contain the following information:
  - a. Identification of the issue;
  - b. The concern associated with the issue; and
  - c. A clear rationale of the issue's importance to the environmental assessment of the Project.
3. NIRB will make a decision on whether or not MHL must respond. If NIRB determines that the issue requires addressing, NIRB will forward the concern to MHL.
4. MHL will provide a response to the concerned Party and NIRB **no later than December 9, 2005**.
5. NIRB will post all MHL responses on the ftp-site (<http://ftp.nunavut.ca>) and notify the distribution list.

### **Public Registry**

All documents, as well as any correspondence related to the Project, have been filed in the NIRB public registry in the Cambridge Bay office as well as on NIRB's ftp site (<http://ftp.nunavut.ca>). Copies of the FEIS are also available at the Hamlet offices in affected communities and the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada office in Iqaluit.

All of the above-mentioned submissions should be sent to Gladys Joudrey, Manager of Environmental Administration ([gjoudrey@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:gjoudrey@nirb.nunavut.ca)), by the respective deadlines. Please do not hesitate to contact

Stephen Lines ([slines@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:slines@nirb.nunavut.ca)) for technical issues, or myself for any other matter related to the Final Hearing.

Sincerely,

*(Original signed by)*

Stephanie Briscoe  
Executive Director  
[sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca)

c.c. Honourable Andy Scott, Minister INAC  
David Long, MHLB Legal Counsel

Encl. NIRB FEIS Internal Conformity table