

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

AUG 27 2002

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chair
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 2379
CAMBRIDGE BAY NT X0E 0C0

Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 2002, indicating that the Hope Bay Joint Venture, Doris Hinge Gold Mine Project (project) requires review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

I have reviewed your letter and the additional project information obtained by the department, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (F&O) and concur with your decision to send the proposal to a review. Pursuant to Section 12.4.7(b), I am referring the proposal to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (the Board) for a review under Part 5 of Article 12 of the NLCA. F&O concurs that a Part 5 review is appropriate.

Pursuant to Section 12.5.1 of the NLCA, I would like to identify several issues for the Board to consider during the review. As you are aware, the proposal also triggers a Comprehensive Study under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). Given federal responsibilities under both the NLCA and the CEAA, I direct the Board to conduct its review in a manner that is broad enough to also meet the requirements of a Comprehensive Study under the CEAA and more specifically, to take into account the factors outlined under Sections 16(1) and (2) of that Act. If the factors mentioned above have been duly considered upon completion of the Board's review, the Board's report could be submitted to the Minister of the Environment in place of a separate Comprehensive Study Report.

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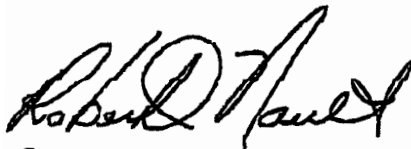
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Co-operation between the Board and the federal authorities under the CEEA (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, F&O, Environment Canada, Health Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada) will be critical to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays or duplication in the review process. As a starting point, I would recommend that the Board work with the federal authorities to jointly scope the project assessment so the proponent can respond to the requirements of both the Board and the federal authorities. In the absence of specific Nunavut resource management legislation, every effort must be made to streamline both processes in order to expedite the project review.

Finally, I would like to remind the Board that when screening a project proposal the Board must make sure it obtains enough information from the proponent to make a determination with respect to those items identified in Part 4, Section 12 4.2(a) of the NLCA. In screenings of future project proposals, the Board should not hesitate to request additional information from the proponent prior to concluding a screening as this would help in identifying clear and concise reasons for referral.

I look forward to receiving your report with respect to the project when the Board has completed its review.

Yours sincerely,



Robert D. Nault, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Robert G. Thibault, PC, MP
The Honourable David Anderson, PC, MP