

February 26, 2004

Ms. Janice Traynor Environmental Scientist Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Nunavut Region PO Box 100 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Ms. Traynor:

Re: Doris North Mine Components Review

Thank you for the letter of Mr. Spagnuolo of Feb. 23, 2004 (copy attached) raising the question of the 'scope' of the Doris EA. Specifically, you reference the declines under Doris Lake. You express compelling reasons on page 1 of INAC's letter for the decline activities to be reviewed as part of NIRB's upcoming public hearing.

As you also may know, Miramar Hope Bay (MHBL) has already replied to NIRB on this issue (H. Wilson email 2/25/04/10:47 a.m.) and MHBL disagrees with your assertion. With respect, though, Mr. Wilson is wrong for impact assessment purposes when he states that the "declines are not part of the Doris North project." As a matter of NIRB's review and our general practice, and given the closeness of both 'projects' those activities adjacent to the Doris North mine that depend not only in large part but exclusively on the North mine to proceed, will be reviewed at NIRB's hearing. Significantly, the declines are part of the project description as well. It is for these reasons that the NIRB Pre-Hearing Decision requiring the explication of Alternatives *vis a vis* a larger mine operation at the same general location became part of NIRB's Part 5 Review requirements. I also note that this Alternatives requirement is in the Board's mind outstanding and should be properly documented and discussed at the March parties' technical meeting and

must be part of Miramar's supplemental information as per NIRB's February 12, 2004 letter of direction to the proponent.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Briscoe Executive Director

cc: Minister Mitchell Distribution List

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