

phase for the development beginning in 2015, and the mine operations beginning in 2017, with mine life lasting approximately twelve years. This would be followed by two to three years of closure and reclamation activities with an additional seven years for post-closure monitoring. MMG has indicated that it anticipates the total construction workforce would be approximately 1,140 employees and the total operation workforce to be approximately 710 employees. Pursuant to NLCA Section 12.5.1, the Minister highlighted the following specific issues of concern for the NIRB to consider as part of its review of the Izok Corridor Project:

- Due to the location, nature and scale of the Project, a thorough assessment of the potential transboundary impacts of the Project would be necessary. The Minister stated that: *“A thorough assessment of the potential transboundary impacts of the Project is necessary, including those impacts relating to shipping and transportation, watershed management, the Bathurst caribou herd and its habitat, and socio-economic impacts upon affected Aboriginal groups.”*
- The Minister highlighted the importance of engaging potentially affected groups in adjacent jurisdictions in the Review in order to facilitate a thorough assessment of transboundary impacts.
- The Minister stressed the importance of a thorough cumulative effects assessment of the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts for the Izok Corridor Project Review, noting that *“there are a number of proposed mines in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, many of which include significant infrastructure components which together could result in cumulative effects to barren-ground caribou due to habitat loss, disruption of migration patterns and habitat fragmentation. These impacts could also result in corresponding socio-economic impacts to stakeholders that depend upon these resources.”* However, the Minister urged *“the Board to focus its cumulative effects assessment on reasonably foreseeable mine and transportation infrastructure development.”*

The Minister also noted that while there is no continuing mechanism to allocate participant funding for NIRB reviews, additional funding will be allocated to the NIRB to undertake public information sessions and hearings outside of Nunavut in order to assess the concerns of affected communities associated with this project proposal. The NIRB looks forward to working with organizations and groups in adjacent jurisdictions to effectively engage with potentially affected parties and to facilitate a thorough assessment of transboundary impacts related to the Project.

The Minister’s decision, as well as all information pertaining to the NIRB’s Review of this project proposal is available online from the Board’s public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN043-MMG%20IZOK%20CORRIDOR/2-REVIEW/02-GENERAL%20CORRESPONDENCE/>

Please be advised that the NIRB will be issuing correspondence to all parties in the coming days outlining the next steps in the Board’s Review of the Izok Corridor Project proposal, including anticipated timelines and opportunities for public engagement.

In closing, the Board requests that all parties review the attached Izok Corridor Project distribution list (Appendix A) and notify the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594 should any additions or changes be required.

Should you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Izok Corridor Project proposal, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Senior Technical Advisor, at sgranchinho@nirb.ca or (867) 793-4633, or Catherine Braun Rodriguez, Technical Advisor at crodriguez@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4607.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
 Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
 Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources
 Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
 Charlie Evalik, President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Attachment: Appendix A: Distribution List for the NIRB's Review of the Izok Corridor Project

Enclosure: Minister of AANDC Decision Re: MMG's Izok Corridor Project proposal, NIRB File No. 12MN043 (April 8, 2013)

APPENDIX A

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR THE NIRB'S REVIEW OF THE IZOK CORRIDOR PROJECT

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