



NIRB File No. 09MN003

March 30, 2010

Sandra Inutiq
Chairperson
Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit
Iqaluit, NU

Sent via email: info@makik.ca

Re: Clarification on NIRB public scoping sessions and participant funding program

Dear Sandra Inutiq:

Thank you for your recent letter to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) on behalf of Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit, in which you have expressed concerns with the ability of parties to participate in NIRB's community meetings and the current schedule for the Part 5 Review of the Kiggavik project. Meaningful participation by the public is a vital element of effective environmental impact assessment, and as such I hope to respond to the concerns you've raised by clarifying several points from the Board's previous correspondence on this file (dated March 12, 2010), for the benefit of all parties.

The NIRB is currently finalizing logistical arrangements for its first round of community visits for the Part 5 Review of the Kiggavik project. Community scoping sessions will be held throughout the Kivalliq region and will be the first step in facilitating meaningful consultation with potentially affected communities and promoting effective public participation in the review process. These meetings will be facilitated by NIRB staff and scheduled during the evening over two days in each community, to ensure all interested parties have an opportunity to attend. Ample opportunity will be provided for community members to ask questions and express their comments or concerns in an informal setting, with simultaneous interpretation provided. NIRB staff will take notes and summarize comments throughout the meetings, which will then be used to produce a publically available summary report. Although the NIRB's public scoping meetings are open to all members of the public including community groups and other organizations, there will be no formal recognition of interveners and no requirement for presentations or submissions by outside parties.

In addition to informing community members about the proposed project, the NIRB will also use this opportunity to begin identifying Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs) that should be addressed by the Proponent's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As outlined in previous correspondence, the Board will ensure that participant funding has been awarded by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

(INAC) prior to inviting formal comment on the scope of the project and the assessment. There will be adequate opportunity provided during the review for public comment on the scope of the project and the assessment, as well as on guidelines for the development of an EIS (EIS Guidelines). A workshop will be held prior to the Board finalizing the EIS Guidelines, and it is the NIRB's expectation that participant funding will be provided to ensure meaningful participation by parties for these and further steps in the Part 5 Review process.

Finally, in response to your concerns regarding eligible expenses under the participant funding program, the NIRB notes that only costs associated with general operations and maintenance expenses have been deemed ineligible for funding. As such, the Board would encourage parties to clearly specify all items that require the provision of funding, and the participant funding review committee will be advised to exercise its discretion when determining what costs are eligible and appropriate.

The Board looks forward to the continued involvement of your organization and all members of the public as we move forward in the review of the Kiggavik project. If you have additional questions or require clarification, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4607 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Lucassie Arragutainaq
Chairperson

cc: Joan Scottie, Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit
Kiggavik Distribution List