

[illegible]

technical in nature and written for the proponent and not a public audience, to date these documents have not been translated into Inuktitut by the NIRB, just as proponents have not been required to submit an EIS which is fully translated into Inuktitut, but rather must translate the popular and executive summaries which are less technical in nature.

The NIRB endeavours to conduct a public review process which encourages effective public participation, and as such the Board recognizes the importance of providing Inuktitut translation and interpretation. In addition to the concerns raised by Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit, recently the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) also requested that the Board consider translating the EIS Guidelines issued for the Mary River Project into Inuktitut, to better encourage participation by the public. Upon consideration of QIA's request, however, the NIRB has encountered difficulties with the translation of certain sections of its EIS Guidelines which involve technical concepts and terminology that do not readily translate into Inuktitut. As such, the Board has recently requested assistance with this initiative from the Director of Official Languages with the Government of Nunavut department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, but at this point, we are uncertain regarding the timing and availability of this assistance. As a result, we do not know when or if meaningful translations of these technical aspects of the documentation can be completed at this time.

In closing, the NIRB appreciates the concerns raised by Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit and QIA regarding the need for NIRB documents to be made available in Inuktitut, and the Board is working to address these concerns by ensuring that to the extent possible (given the constraints noted above) the documentation that supports public participation in the NIRB's processes is translated. To this end, the NIRB is currently endeavouring to translate key sections of the EIS Guidelines for the Mary River Project and also key provisions of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines for the Kiggavik Project, and we will make these documents available for information purposes as soon as meaningful translations have been completed.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4607 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Stephen Bathory, QIA
Rhoda Cunningham, GN-CLEY
Michel Potvin, GN-CLEY
Kiggavik Distribution List