Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project - Phase 2 Proposal Updated Application for Amendment No. 2 of Type A Water Licence 2AM-MRY1325

# **Attachment 9.5**

# Geochemistry Summary Memo (2007 to 2019)

(9 Pages)





# **MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** March 22, 2019 **File No.:** NB102-00181/53-A.01

Cont. No.: NB19-00237

To: Mr. Lou Kamermans
Copy To: Sara Wallace, Stantec

From: Amber Blackwell

Re: Mary River Project - Phase 2 Proposal - Summary of Geochemistry Testing of

Rock and Overburden Samples Representative of Quarries, Borrow Pits and Rock

**Cuts Along the North Railway** 

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Knight Piésold Ltd. (KP) is pleased to provide a summary of the geochemical testing that was completed to date along the proposed North Railway for the Mary River Project. This summary was prepared to support Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (Baffinland's) response to technical comments on the Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared for the Phase 2 Proposal (Baffinland, 2018).

# 2.0 APPLICABLE STUDIES

Regional bedrock geology is presented on Figure 1. Starting from Milne Port and moving south, the bedrock geology along the current Milne Inlet Tote Road and the proposed North Railway can be summarized as follows (Scott and de Kemp, 1998):

- Km 0 to Km 20 Precambrian terrane, consisting of metamorphic magmatitic gneisses.
- **Km 20 to Km 93** Paleozoic rocks of the Gallery and Turner Cliffs Formations, Ship Point Formation, and the Baillarge Formation. These formations comprise primarily sedimentary rocks that are carbonate dominant (i.e. dolomitic sandstone, dolomite, and limestone).
- KP 93 to Km 107 Precambrian terrane, consisting of metamorphic magmatitic gneisses.

A total of 76 samples have been tested as part of four separate geochemical evaluations (KP, 2007; AMEC, 2010; Hatch Ltd., 2017 and Hatch Ltd., in-progress). Table 1 identifies the number of samples collected in each rock type encountered within the transportation corridor.

Authors have used different descriptions of rock type, and so the rock type specified in the report was included in the table without interpretation. For example, Hatch's 2018 sampling (report in-progress) did not describe the geologic unit but included mineralogy testing that identified the presence or absence of calcite or dolomite. The carbonate-rich samples are likely the dolomitic limestone and sandstone of the Gallery and Turner Cliffs Formations and the non-carbonate-rich rocks are likely the Archean granitic gneiss.



Table 1 Summary of Geochemical Testing by Rock Type

Geological Unit	KP 2007	AMEC 2010	Hatch 2017/2018	Total
Overburden	6	14		20
Granitic Gneiss	6	21	7	34
Schist		3		3
Carbonate		9	6	15
Sandy Carbonate		3		3
Diabase			1	1
Total	12	50	14	76

#### NOTES:

- 1. GEOLOGY TAKEN FROM THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS.
- 2. THE SCHIST SAMPLE IS A PART OF THE ARCHEAN METAMORPHIC BEDROCK AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MINOR LITHOLOGY.
- 3. THE DIABASE IS A DYKE THAT INTRUDED THE HOST BEDROCK AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MINOR LITHOLOGY.

## 3.0 ASSESSMENT OF ACID ROCK DRAINAGE POTENTIAL

Table 2 presents a summary of the results for key parameters used to establish acid rock drainage (ARD) generating potential. These results have been interpreted using the guidelines by Price (1997 and 2009), as follows:

- **Criterion 1:** If the sulphide concentration is greater than 0.3% by weight, the suggested classification is potentially acid generating (PAG).
- **Criterion 2:** If the neutralizing potential / acid potential (NP/AP) ratio is less than 1, the suggested classification is PAG. The NP and AP values are reported as equivalents of t CaCO<sub>3</sub>/1,000 t.
- **Criterion 3:** If the NP/AP ratio is greater than 2, the suggested classification is Non-PAG. If the NP/AP ratio is between 1 and 2, the suggested classification is Uncertain.
- **Criterion 4:** If the sulphide concentration is less than 0.3% by weight, the suggested classification is Non-PAG. However, samples with a sulphide concentration between 0.01 and 0.3% by weight and an NP/AP ratio between 1 and 2 are characterized as Uncertain (due to the material being primarily composed of minerals that have poor NP values; Price, 2009).

With respect to Criterion 2 to 4, it should be noted that AP is calculated using the sulphide sulphur concentration. Therefore, if the sulphide concentration is below the laboratory minimum detection limit (MDL), the AP value is calculated from the MDL, which results in an AP value that is erroneously high. Similarly, if the carbonate concentration is below the MDL, the calculated NP value is inaccurate and erroneously high as well.

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Of the 76 tested samples that were tested for ARD/ML potential:

- The average Total Sulphur concentration was 0.02% (by weight), with a maximum concentration of 0.07% (by weight).
- 11 samples had a Sulphide Sulphur concentration above the minimum detection limit (MDL), with an average concentration of 0.02% (by weight).
- The average Total Carbon concentration is 3.05% (by weight), with a minimum concentration of 0.02% (by weight).
- The minimum NP/AP value was 6.94, which is well above the conservative PAG cut-off of 2.0. It should
  be noted that most of the AP values were 0.62 t-CaCO<sub>3</sub>/1000 t, which is calculated from a sulphur
  content below minimum detection limit (MDL). This suggests that the NP/AP ratios with sulphur
  content < MDL are higher than calculated and shown on Table 2.</li>
- The average Net NP value was 269.2 t-CaCO<sub>3</sub>/1000 t, which indicates good buffering capacity (NP).
- X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) on the 11 samples collected by Hatch (in-progress) was conducted and the
  results do not indicate the presence of sulphide species.
- ARD is not likely, given that all the samples have little to no AP with low to moderate NP.

# 4.0 ASSESSMENT OF METAL LEACHING POTENTIAL

The potential for the rock and overburden samples to leach metals was reviewed by screening short-term leach test results against the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations (MDMER, 2019 and the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, 2019). The water quality limits are outlined in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Water Quality Objectives

Parameter	MDMER <sup>1,2</sup>	CEGQ-PAL <sup>3</sup>
рН	6-9.5	6-9
Aluminum		0.1
Arsenic	1.0	0.005
Boron		29
Cadmium		0.001
Chromium		0.001
Copper	0.6	0.004
Lead	0.4	0.007
Nickel	1.0	0.15



Parameter	MDMER <sup>1,2</sup>	CEGQ-PAL <sup>3</sup>
Molybdenum		0.073
Phosphorus		0.1
Selenium		0.001
Silver		0.0003
Thallium		0.0008
Uranium		0.033
Zinc	1.0	0.037

### NOTES:

- 1. METAL AND DIAMOND MINING EFFLUENT REGULATIONS (MDMER), 2019. METAL AND DIAMOND MINE EFFLUENT REGULATIONS. SOR/2002-222.
- 2. MDMER LIMITS ARE BASED ON SCHEDULE 4, MAXIMUM GRAB SAMPLE LIMITS.
- CANADIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, 2019. CANADIAN WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR THE PROTECTION OF AQUATIC LIFE.

AMEC (2010) and Hatch (2017 and in-progress) used shake flask extraction (SFE) tests. The SFE test analysis is used to determine the mass of soluble constituents within the sample at higher water to solid ratios. A 3:1 deionized water to solid ratio is used to represent the higher volume of water present. The water added to the sample is considered neutral, with a pH of approximately 7.0. Samples are gently shaken in a flask for 24 hours and supernatant fluids are analytically measured for dissolved constituents to help determine which elements are susceptible to leach at high water volumes. The use of a neutral pH water is more applicable if the rock is not acid-generating, which is the case with all the samples presented in Table 2. It should be noted that the SFE test is conservative (i.e. aggressive) in terms of evaluating acid-generating potential, despite the use of neutral pH water.

KP (2007) used the synthetic precipitation leaching procedure (SPLP 1312) test. The SPLP test was designed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to mimic metal leaching under acid rain conditions. The leaching reagent is a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids adjusted to pH 4.2, with a 20:1 liquid to solid ratio (by wt.). The sample is crushed (if required) to less than 9.5 mm and both the sample and leaching reagent are placed in a flask, which is rotated end over end over a 24hr period. The leachate is then drained, filtered and analysed. An SPLP 1312 test is conservative and more aggressive than an SFE test due to the lower pH of the reagent.

Of the 76 samples, 9 exceeded the MDMER upper limit of 9.5 pH, and none were below the MDMER lower limit of 6.0 pH. One single sample from the 2007 dataset exceeded MDMER for copper. Several metals exceeded the CEQG-PAL limits under short-term leaching conditions. These include: aluminum, chromium, copper, iron, phosphorus, nickel, and zinc. Most of the metal exceedances were from the SPLP 1312 dataset, which indicates that they are prone to leaching under acidic conditions. However, based on the Modified ABA data, acid conditions are not expected, as most of the samples were net neutralizing. As such, metal leaching is not likely a concern, given the low ARD potential of the samples.



Both the SFE and the SPLP 1312 tests as they are completed on a crushed sample (increased surface area, compared to field conditions) exposed to either lower pH water or aggressive shaking. As such, the final pH derived from these short-term leach tests may overstate what is measured in the field. Many of the samples returned a high pH, and these same samples measured an aluminum concentration greater than the CEQG-PAL limit. This is not unexpected, as the solubility of aluminum is lowest at between pH 6 and 7 and increases at high pH (Langmuir, 1997).

# 5.0 SUMMARY OF ARD/ML POTENTIAL

None of the 76 tested samples are PAG. Additionally, most of the samples have low to no potential for ML, given the neutral to alkaline nature of the tested material. Though some samples did demonstrate some elevated concentrations of metals above CEQG-PAL (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, 2007), this was primarily under acidic laboratory conditions and is not indicative of field conditions.

### 6.0 REFERENCES

- AMEC Earth & Environmental (AMEC), 2010. Memorandum to: Greg Wortman, AMEC. Re: Baffinland Mary River Project Trucking Feasibility Study Interim ML/ARD Assessment of Tote Road Quarry and Borrow Pit Samples. December 10. Mississauga, Ontario. Project No. TC101510, File No. 017.
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2018. Mary River Project Phase 2 Proposal Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Statement Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. August. NIRB File No. 08MN053.
- Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, 2019. Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life.
- Hatch Ltd. (Hatch), 2017. Memorandum to: M. Weaver. Re: *Investigations Acid Rock Drainage Assessment*. September 11. Ref. No. H353004.
- Hatch Ltd. (Hatch), in-progress. *Borrow Source Investigation Factual Data Report.* Ref No. H353004-30000-229-230-0002, Rev A.
- Knight Piésold Ltd. (KP), 2007. Memorandum to: Rodney Cooper. Re: *Preliminary Results of Phase I Geochemical Characterization Program*. March 16. North Bay, Ontario. Ref. No. NB07-00232 (NB102-181/4).
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- Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations (MDMER), 2019. *Metal and Diamond Mine Effluent Regulations*. SOR/2002-222.
- Price, W.A., 2009. *Prediction Manual for Drainage Chemistry from Sulphidic Geological Materials*. December. Smithers, British Columbia. MEND Report 1.20.1.

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Price, W.A., 1997. Draft Guidelines and Recommend Methods for the Prediction of Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage at Minesites in British Columbia. Energy and Minerals Division, Ministry of Employment and Investment. British Columbia.

Scott, D.J. and de Kemp, E.A., 1998. Bedrock geology compilation, northern Baffin Island and northern Melville Peninsula, North West Territories. Geological Survey of Canada. Open File, 3633. scale 1:500,000. Retrieved from: <a href="https://doi.org/10.4095/210027">https://doi.org/10.4095/210027</a>

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Yours truly,

Knight Piésold Ltd.

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PERMIT NUMBER: P547

The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of NWT/NU

Approval that this document adheres to the Knight Piésold Quality System:



Attachments:

Table 2 Rev 0

Geochemical Testing Summary - North Railway

Figure 1 Rev 0

Regional Bedrock Geology and Geochemical Sample Locations Along North Railway

/ab



# TABLE 2 BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION MARY RIVER PROJECT

### SUMMARY OF GEOCHEMISTRY TESTING OF ROCK AND OVERBURDEN SAMPLES REPRESENTATIVE OF QUARRIES, BORROW PITS AND ROCK CUTS ALONG THE NORTH RAILWAY GEOMECHANICAL TESTING SUMMARY- NORTH RAILWAY

Modified Acid Base Accounting (ABA) Result ching Tests Static Metal Le Sample Location NP AP Net NP Total Sulphur Sulphide Carbonate Metals Exceeding CEQG - PAL 506,120 7,971,575 KP, 2007 172 < 0.005 2.11 9.25 pH >9.5 Low 529,371 7,926,671 KP, 2007 316 < 0.31 316 1020 < 0.005 < 0.01 3.82 16.2 Al Low 7,915,009 KP, 2007 0.035 KP, 2007 7,826,413 5.1 < 0.31 4.8 16.4 < 0.01 0.019 Al, Fe KP, 2007 0.028 0.05 Non-PAG KP, 2007 Granitic Gneiss 581,795 7,849,686 7.9 7.6 25.5 < 0.01 0.087 < 0.31 < 0.005 Al, Cr, Cu, Fe Moderate KP, 2007 KP, 2007 8.2 26.5 28.1 < 0.01 0.08 Granitic Gneiss 605,673 7,848,344 0.007 0.058 Al, Cr, Cu, Fe, Zn Non-PAG 8.4 0.015 Al, Cr, Cu, Fe, P, Zn Granitic Gneiss 563,246 7,913,150 < 0.31 0.11 541,089 7,926,876 KP, 2007 45.2 0.1 Al, Cr, Cu, Fe, Ni, Zn Non-PAG 0.14 12.5 0.31 0.054 10-TR-036 BH10-12 Schist AMEC, 2010 10.4 0.41 9.99 25.6 0.023 0.01 0.049 0.023 7.59 0.014 0.103 AMEC, 201 26.1 0.101 2+100 8.1 0.31 2+100 8.8 7.5 8.49 7.19 28.4 <0.005 0.064 0.137 10-TR-007 BH10-06 4+100 AMEC, 2010 0.31 <0.005 <0.01 0.036 Non-PAG Granitic Gneiss 7.3 0.025 0.31 6.99 23.5 <0.01 AMEC, 2010 7.39 24.8 <0.01 0.035 0.075 pH >9.0, Al pH >9.5 0-TR-010 BH10-07 AMEC, 2010 9.5 0.36 26.2 0.035 0.01 0.027 0-TR-012 BH10-07 Granitic Gneiss 5+000 AMEC, 2010 11.5 0.31 11.2 37.1 0.019 <0.01 0.036 0.052 Non-PAG 20.3 AMEC, 201 0.38 0-TR-014 BH10-08 9.6 0.31 9.29 31 0.02 < 0.01 0.044 pH >9.5 pH >9.0, Al 0.062 <0.01 AMEC, 2010 6.2 10-TR-016 BH10-09 5.89 20 0.012 <0.01 0.02 Granitic Gneiss 0.31 0-TR-017 BH10-09 0.07 0.048 <0.005 7+000 AMEC, 201 pH >9.5 pH >9.0, Al, Cr Non-PAG AMEC, 201 Granitic Gneiss 6.6 0.31 6.29 21.3 <0.01 AMEC, 201 7.69 25.8 pH >9.5 pH >9.0, Al, Cr Non-PAG 28.4 AMEC, 201 8.8 0.31 8.49 0.006 < 0.01 0.046 0.065 -TR-023 BH10-13 Carbonate Bound Quartz Sandstone With Silty Interlayers 39+100 AMEC, 201 252 0.31 252 813 <0.005 <0.01 2.98 12.5 AMEC. 201 273 881 3.25 14 pH >9.0, Cr AMEC, 201 54.3 -TR-025 BH10-14 0.31 pH >9.0, Al 930 956 0.31 2998 742 <0.01 10.8 52.3 54 45+200 AMEC, 201 929 955 <0.005 10-TR-027 BH10-14 45+200 AMEC, 2010 0.071 Sandy Carbonate 10-TR-028 BH10-15 Carbonate With Minor Shale And Mudstone 50+000 AMEC, 201 978 0.31 978 3155 0.014 <0.01 10.9 53.2 Non-PAG 51.3 10-TR-030 BH10-15 Carbonate With Minor Shale And Mudstone 50+000 AMEC, 2010 945 0.34 945 2749 0.01 Non-PAG



# BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION MARY RIVER PROJECT

# SUMMARY OF GEOCHEMISTRY TESTING OF ROCK AND OVERBURDEN SAMPLES REPRESENTATIVE OF QUARRIES, BORROW PITS AND ROCK CUTS ALONG THE NORTH RAILWAY GEOMECHANICAL TESTING SUMMARY. NORTH RAILWAY

Static Metal Leaching Tests NP AP Net NP Total Sulphur Sulphide Carbonate Metals Exceeding MDMER Schedule 4 Limits Metals Exceeding CEQG - PAL 3114 0.31 53.5 Carbonate Carbonate 961 954 3099 3076 10-TR-032 BH10-16 AMEC, 201 0.31 960 <0.005 <0.01 10.7 52.9 Non-PAG 0.059 0.033 0.028 10-TR-004 BH10-05 Granitic Gneiss 3+100 AMEC, 2010 7.4 0.31 7.09 23.9 0.02 < 0.01 0.041 Non-PAG 21.3 14.2 pH >9.0, Al AMEC, 201 6.2 0.44 33.9 450-10 AMEC, 2010 699 0.31 699 2256 <0.005 < 0.01 8.02 36 Non-PAG AMEC, 2010 AMEC, 2010 237 249 765 805 <0.005 0.014 11.7 452-10 0.31 <0.01 2.89 0.31 <0.01 13.9 0.016 454-10 AMEC, 2010 <0.01 0.31 121 482 0.255 6.2 S455-10 Sand/Gravel AMEC, 2010 37.5 37.2 <0.005 <0.01 0.41 Non-PAG AMEC, 2010 0.007 149 S456-10 Sand/Gravel 150 1.82 S457-10 AMEC, 2010 172 0.31 171 554 <0.005 < 0.01 1.44 5.37 Non-PAG 86.7 309 280 998 4.17 16.2 AMEC, 2010 137 136 441 7.29 AMEC, 2010 621 0.005 10.2 pH >9.0, Al, Cr \$461-10 192 0.31 192 <0.01 2.33 Low 0.31 <0.01 3.75 16.7 NF17-07 Granitic Gneiss ~ km 3 Hatch, 2017 Hatch, 2017 6.1 0.67 5.43 9.1 < 0.02 0.044 0.11 NF17-08 0.67 10.6 16.9 1608 < 0.02 0.061 < 0.025 54.1 Granitic Gneiss Hatch, 2019 Non-PAG 504,087 7,975,305 0.62 10.9 18.5 < 0.005 < 0.02 0.106 0.145 pH >9.0, Al None 505,934 7,972,277 0.62 18.9 0.006 0.048 < 0.025 Hatch, 2019 < 0.02 Al, Cu PQ4B 523,505 7,941,976 Hatch, 2019 958 0.62 958 1546 < 0.005 < 0.02 50.9 Non-PAG None 54 52.9 Hatch, 2019 0.62 0.02 52 42.1 0.105 528,798 7,929,044 Hatch, 2019 0.62 PQ12A 696 8.71 7,921,138 Hatch, 2019 870 1.25 0.032 0.04 11.2 pH >9.0 Non-PAG Non-PAG 4.78 542,481 7.923.782 5.4 0.62 0.07 PQ15B Granitic Gneiss 555,185 7,915,620 Hatch, 2019 4.8 0.62 4.18 7.74 < 0.005 < 0.02 0.05 0.1 Al, Fe Non-PAG

- NOTES

  1. NORTH PERLO LTD, (PP), 2007. RE PREJAMANY PERLALTS OF PHASE (DECORMOLA, OHARACTERIZATION PROSPAM, MARCH 18, MORTH BAY, ORTRING, REF NO. 1807-02022 (98/50-3114).

  2. NARCE SARTH SE ENVIRONMENTAL (JAMES, 29/6) BAFFRAJADO (JAMPY ROKER PROJECT). TRUJONG FEARBELTY STILDY INTERNAL ARCH ASSESSMENT OF TOTE ROAD QUARRY AND BORROW PAY SAMPLES. DECEMBER 19, MESSSMUGA PROJECT NO. 17(16/50, FLE NO. 197.)

  3. NATIO, AT JORGEOGRAGOUT ROAD WASHES RE: INVESTIGATIONS -ACCO PROCLEMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT AND ASSESSMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT AND ASSESSMENT OF TOTE ROAD QUARRY AND BORROW PAY AND BORROW PAY AND PROTECTION FOR THE ASSESSMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT ASSESSMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT AND ASSESSMENT OF TOTE ROAD QUARRY AND BORROW PAY AND BORROW PAY AND PROTECTION OF THE ASSESSMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT ASSESSMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT ASSESSMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT ASSESSMENT SETTINGENT IN REPORT ASSESSMENT OF TOTE ROAD QUARRY AND BORROW PAY AND BORROW PAY

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