Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Mary River Project - Steensby Component
Application for an Authorization Under the Fisheries Act for the Steensby Component Interactions with Freshwater Fish and Fish
Habitat (DFO File Referral No. 23-HCAA-01144)

# **APPENDIX E**

# **Hydrological Assessment of Water Withdrawals**

(Pages E-1 to E-64)



Prepared for

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NB102-181/94-1

# **MARY RIVER PROJECT**

# WATER WITHDRAWAL NOTIFICATION AND HYDROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - STEENSBY COMPONENT

Rev	Description	Date
0	Issued in Final	November 28, 2023





#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) currently operates the Mary River Project (the Project) under Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-MRY1325 (herein referred to as, the Licence) (NWB, 2015). Part A of the Licence describes the scope of the Approved Project, which includes the 4.2 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) "Early Revenue Phase" (ERP) operation currently underway, as well as the 18 Mtpa Steensby Component of the Project, inclusive of the Steensby Railway and Steensby Port. Baffinland is proposing to initiate construction of the Steensby Component of the Project in late 2024.

Minimal changes to water use are proposed from what was assessed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (Baffinland, 2012). These changes include the following:

- The length of all-season construction access road that is separate from the railway has been reduced
  in favour of building construction access into the railway embankment and using winter roads (which
  were previously contemplated) to stage camps, equipment, and materials at key work fronts.
- Winter road alignments have been confirmed, as well as the associated water use for their construction.
- Minor increases in domestic water requirements, and the use of the 3 Km Lake water source into the
  operation phase. The operation phase water source (10 Km Lake) will continue to be carried forth as
  an alternate water source, if needed.
- Sewage will be treated in package sewage treatment plants at rail construction camps. Previously, sewage was going to be trucked to the Mine Site or Steensby Port for treatment in facilities at these locations. A modification request is being prepared as separate submission for this change.
- Changes to the Steensby Port layout have been proposed within the previously identified Potential Development Area (PDA).

Baffinland has refined its water needs for the Steensby Component of the Project, and proposed changes to the Project's water use include:

- Administrative and volumetric changes to the domestic and industrial water uses during construction
- Additional water withdrawals for winter road construction
- Additional dust suppression water withdrawal sites along the Steensby Railway

The overall maximum daily and annual limits of the current Licence will remain unchanged.

This document serves as notification under Part E, Item 9 of the Licence, which states:

The Licensee shall notify the Inspector and the Board at least ten (10) days in advance of using Water from any sources not identified in the Application or requiring approval as per Part E, Item 8.

This document also provides the information required under Part E, Item 14 of the Licence, which states:

- 14. The Licensee shall, where the use of Water of a sufficient volume would likely result in the drawdown of the source Water body involved or dewatering of the specific Water body is anticipated, submit the following for the approval of the Board in writing:
- a. the volume of Water required;
- b. a hydrological overview of the Water body;



- c. details of impact; and
- d. Proposed mitigation measures.

Proposed changes to water withdrawals are summarized in below.

			stic and trial Use	Dust Suppression		
Water Station	Waterbody Name	Camps	Winter Road	Daily Maximum Volume	Maximum Pumping Rate	
		(m³/day)	(m³/season)	(m³/day)	(m³/min)	
MS-MRY-1	Camp Lake	657.5	70,000	160	n/a	
BR-0-1	Mary River	-	-	300	5.7	
BR-25-1	Unnamed River	-	-	300	3.2	
Ravn Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Ravn Camp Lake")	245.2	40,000	160	n/a	
BR-37-1/CV-R21	Ravn River	-	-	300	5.7	
BR-46-1	Unnamed stream	-		300	5.7	
Mid-Rail Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Nivek Lake")	100	-	160	n/a	
BR-95-1		-		160	n/a	
Cockburn tunnels camp	Cockburn Lake	242.5	200,000	160	n/a	
South Cockburn camp		212.5		160	n/a	
BR-137-1	ST352 outlet stream	-	-	300	5.7	
ST352 Lake	Unnamed lake	-	150,000	-	n/a	

#### Note(s):

1. Streams are shaded green and lakes are shaded blue.

Assessments were completed to determine if the proposed water withdrawals will comply with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) guidance regarding water extraction from streams and lakes beneath ice cover (DFO, 2010a and 2013a) and thresholds for withdrawals from lakes during open water established in the FEIS (Baffinland, 2012). All proposed water withdrawals are within applicable thresholds, except for an exceedance of the 10% threshold during June at the Ravn Camp Lake water station arising from winter water withdrawals. Considering several other factors, including that most of June flows occur in the second half of the month, and that fish do not start moving out of lakes into local streams until the end of June, this threshold exceedance is judged not to represent a significant effect to fish and fish habitat.

Withdrawals from other water stations in the Licence not assessed in this notification remain unchanged.



The potential impacts of flow withdrawal on fish and fish habitat can be assessed by understanding the mechanisms and stressors that cause effects in the aquatic environment. Water withdrawal has the potential to impact fish and fish habitat through the following mechanisms (DFO, 2010b):

- · Placement of structures in water
- Entrainment in pumps / impingement on screens
- Use of industrial equipment near fish-bearing waters (i.e., risk of spills and inadvertent sedimentation and/or erosion)
- Oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat, and/or reductions in littoral habitat during winter water withdrawal from ice-covered waterbodies
- Changes in flow volumes or timing, duration, and frequency of flow

The following plans describe the mitigation measures Baffinland implements to protect fish and fish habitat during water withdrawals:

- Environmental Protection Plan (EPP; Baffinland, 2021a)
- Fresh Water Supply, Sewage and Wastewater Management Plan (FWSSWMP; Baffinland, 2018)
- Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Management Plan (SWAEMP; Baffinland, 2021b)
- Spill Contingency Plan (SCP; Baffinland, 2021c)

The latest versions of these plans are found on Baffinland's online Document Portal:: https://baffinland.com/document-portal/.

The assessment determined that these proposed withdrawals are within applicable thresholds, with the exception of an exceedance of the 10% threshold during June at the Ravn Camp Lake water station. Considering several factors, including that most June flows occur in the second half of the month due to the timing of spring freshet, and that fish do not start moving out of lakes into local streams until the lake temperatures increase around the end of June, this threshold exceedance is judged not to represent a significant effect to fish and fish habitat.



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# **Abbreviations**

the Project	Mary River Project
Baffinland	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
BCLOs	Baffinland Community Liaison Officers
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EHS	Environmental, Health and Safety
EPP	Environmental Protection Plan
ERP	Early Revenue Phase
	Flow Duration Curve
	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FWSSWMP	Fresh Water Supply, Sewage and Wastewater Management Plan
	Geographical Information System
	The Hunters and Trappers Organization
	Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
,	Kilometre post
	Mean Annual Discharge
	Mean Annual Unit Discharge
	Marine Environment Working Group
	Mary River Inuit Knowledge Study
•	Million tonnes per annum
	Nunavut Impact Review Board
	Nunavut Planning Commission
	North/South Consultants Inc.
	Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Ac
	Operational High Water Mark
	Potential Development Area
	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
	Socio-Economic Monitoring Report
	Socio-Economic Environment Working Group
	Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Management Plan
	Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-MRY1325
	Terrestrial Environment Working Group
	Milne Inlet Tote Road
WSC	Water Survey of Canada



#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) currently operates the Mary River Project (the Project) under Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-MRY1325 (herein referred to as, the Licence) (Nunavut Water Board [NWB], 2015). Part A of the Licence describes the scope of the Approved Project, which includes the 4.2 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) "Early Revenue Phase" operation currently underway, as well as the 18 Mtpa Steensby Component of the Project, inclusive of the Steensby Railway and Steensby Port. Baffinland is proposing to initiate construction of the Steensby Component of the Project in late 2024.

Part E of the Licence describes conditions applying to water use and management, including approved water sources, and site-specific, daily, and annual withdrawal limits.

Baffinland has refined its water needs for the Steensby Component of the Project, as described in this document. Proposed changes to the Project's water use include:

- Administrative and volumetric changes to the domestic and industrial water uses during construction, as identified in Part E, Item 3 and Table 2 of the Licence
- Additional industrial water use for winter road construction, as contemplated in Part E, Item 3 of the Licence
- Additional dust suppression water withdrawal sites along the south railway, keeping with the overall daily and annual limits identified in Part E, Item 25, and Table 2-3 of the Licence

Each of these are described further in Section 2.

This document serves as notification under Part E, Item 9 of the Licence, which states:

The Licensee shall notify the Inspector and the Board at least ten (10) days in advance of using Water from any sources not identified in the Application or requiring approval as per Part E, Item 8.

This document also provides the information required under Part E, Item 14 of the Licence, which states:

- 14. The Licensee shall, where the use of Water of a sufficient volume would likely result in the drawdown of the source Water body involved or dewatering of the specific Water body is anticipated, submit the following for the approval of the Board in writing:
- a. the volume of Water required;
- b. a hydrological overview of the Water body;
- c. details of impact; and
- d. Proposed mitigation measures.

The following information is provided in this document:

- Section 2 the volume of water required
- Section 3 relevant community engagement and Inuit knowledge work
- Section 4 hydrological assessment
- Section 5 mitigation measures
- Section 6 an assessment of effects following the implementation of mitigation measures



NB102-181/94-1 Rev 0 November 28, 2023

## 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STEENSBY COMPONENT

The Steensby Railway construction phase layout is presented on Figure 2.1, and the Steensby Port layout is presented on Figure 2.2. Minimal changes are proposed from what was assessed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS; Baffinland, 2012). These changes include the following:

- The length of all-season construction access road that is separate from the railway has been reduced
  in favour of building construction access into the railway embankment and using winter roads (which
  were previously contemplated) to stage camps, equipment, and materials at key work fronts.
- Winter road alignments have been confirmed, as well as the associated water use for their construction.
- Minor increases in domestic water requirement, including the use of the 3 Km Lake water source into the operation phase. The operation phase water source (10 Km Lake) will continue to be carried forth as an alternate water source, if needed.
- Sewage will be treated in package sewage treatment plants at rail construction camps. Previously, sewage was going to be trucked to the Mine Site or Steensby Port for treatment in facilities at these locations. A modification request is being prepared as separate submission for this change.
- Changes to the Steensby Port layout have been proposed within the previously identified Potential Development Area (PDA).

This notification focuses on proposed changes to water withdrawals, including for domestic and industrial water uses and for dust suppression.

#### 2.2 DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL WATER USE

#### 2.2.1 CONSTRUCTION CAMPS

Temporary construction camps will be constructed at kilometre post (KP) 35 (north of the Ravn River crossing), near the existing Mid-Rail Camp, east of the tunnels along Cockburn Lake, at the south end of Cockburn Lake, and at Steensby Port. Equipment maintenance and storage depots will be established at KP 81.6 and KP 130.

Water for temporary camps will be extracted from nearby water sources without permanent infrastructure in the same manner as water is extracted from Km 32 Lake for Milne Port. A permanent water intake/jetty will be constructed in 3 Km Lake at Steensby Port for the pioneering construction camp and permanent accommodation facility.

The proposed domestic and industrial water uses for camps are presented in Table 2.1. Several administrative changes are proposed as summarized in the notes following Table 2.1. Increased domestic and industrial water withdrawals are proposed at Ravn Camp Lake and Mid-Rail camp, and thus these are assessed in Section 4.



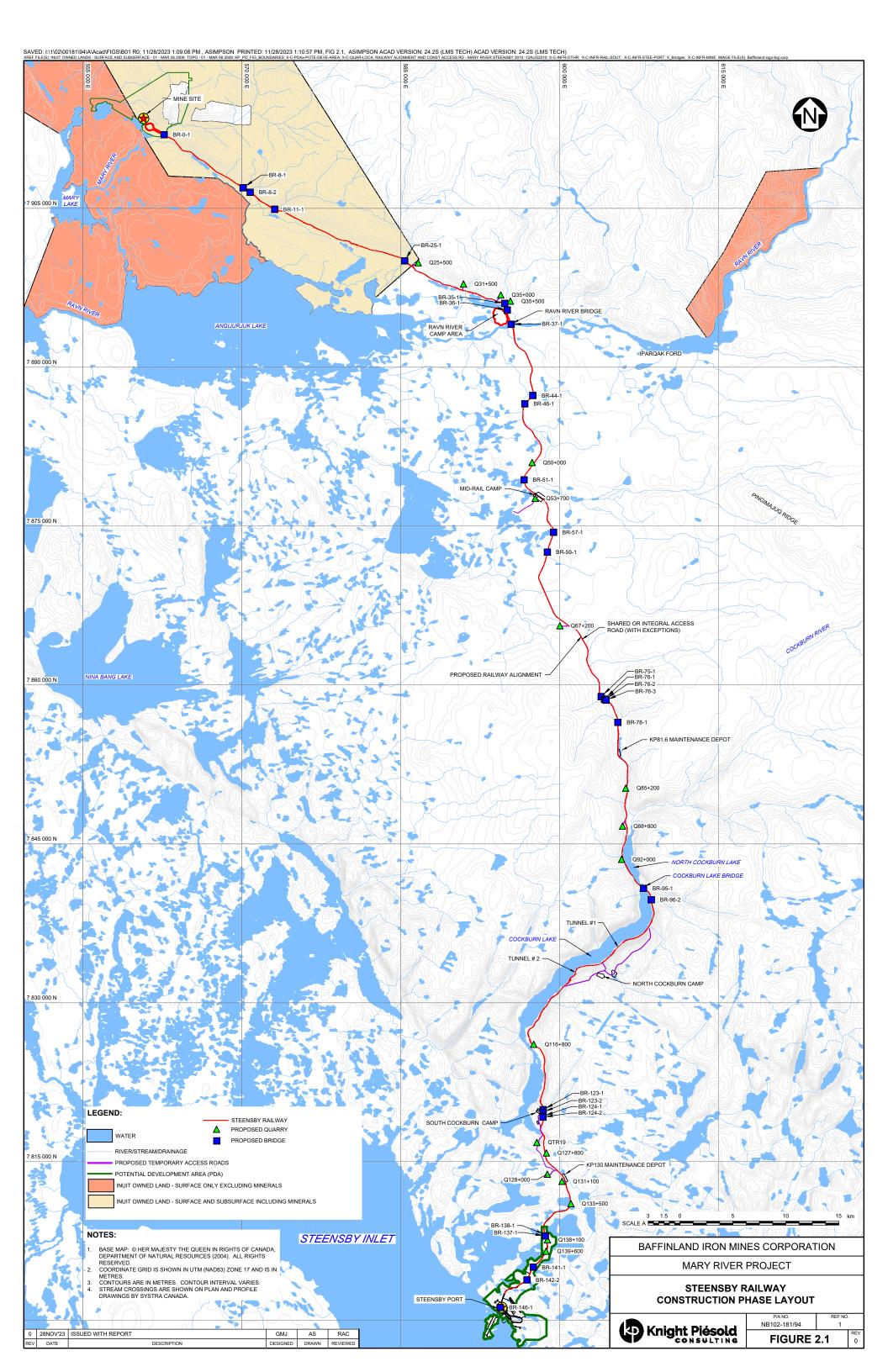


Table 2.1 Revisions to Domestic and Industrial Water Use During the Construction Phase

0:4-	200000	Approved	Proposed	Ohaman	
Site	Source	(m³/day)	(m³/day)	Change	
	Phillips Creek (summer)			No shangar	
Milne Port	Km 32 Lake (summer and winter)	367.5	367.5	No change; see Note 1	
Mine Site	Camp Lake	657.5	657.5	No change	
Stooneby Part	10 Km Lake (ST347)	435.8	435.8	No change	
Steensby Port	3 Km Lake (ST353)	433.6	433.6		
Davis Camp	Camp Lake	145.2	-	Increase;	
Ravn Camp	Ravn Camp Lake	-	245.2	see Note 2	
Mid Doil Comp	Ravn Camp Lake (winter)	79.5	243.2	Increase;	
Mid-Rail Camp	Nivek Lake (summer)	79.5	100	see Note 3	
Cockburn North (Tunnels Camp)	Cockburn Lake	101.4 212.5		No change;	
Cockburn South Camp		111.1		see Note 4	
Daily Limit (m³/day)		1,888	1,888	No change	
Annual Limit (m³/year)		689,000	689,000	No change	

- 1. In practice, water withdrawals occur year-round from Km 32 lake, not only during summer. Winter withdrawals from Km 32 Lake were assessed in the FEIS.
- 2. The FEIS assessed and the original licence application proposed water withdrawals from an adjacent Unnamed ("Ravn") Lake. We believe reference to Camp Lake is a typographic error in the current Licence.
- 3. Withdrawals from Nivek Lake will increase from the approved 79.5 m³/day to 100 m³/day during open water conditions (summer), and from Ravn Camp Lake during ice cover conditions (winter). The total withdrawal from Ravn Camp Lake is 145.2 m³/day in the summer, and 145.2 + 100 = 245.2 m³/day in the winter.
- 4. Specifying a single maximum daily limit for the water body is preferred to provide flexibility regarding the volume of water each camp can withdraw.

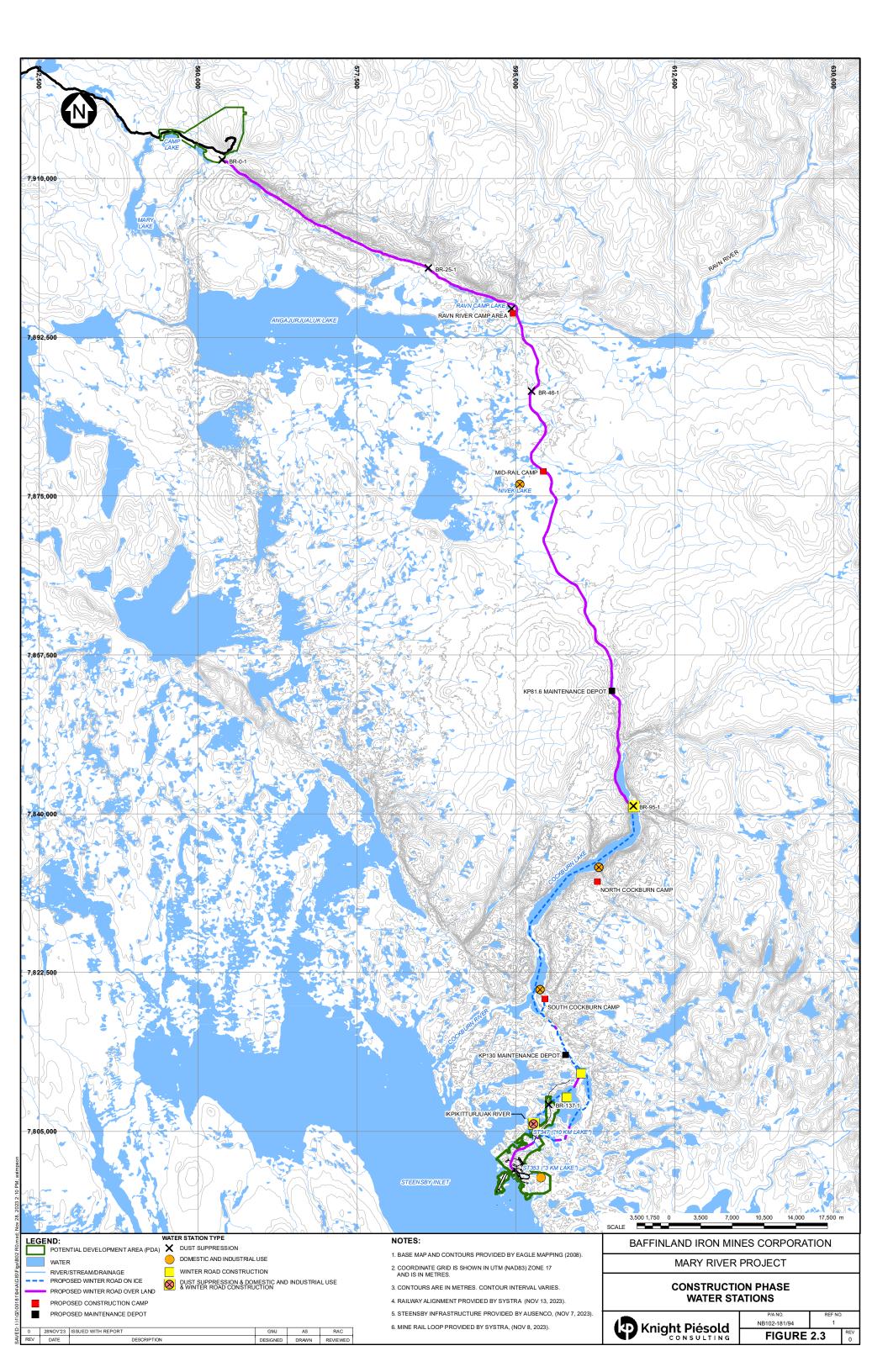
#### 2.2.2 WINTER ROADS

A construction access road will be constructed alongside the rail embankment, providing access to work fronts as construction of the embankment progresses. Winter roads will be used to provide early access to camps and work fronts as shown on Figure 2.3.

Winter roads will be constructed starting in November 2024, and annually throughout the construction phase. This will occur from the north (via the Mine Site) and the south (via Steensby Port). From the north, the winter road will parallel the railway alignment. A winter road will not be required where the construction access road has already been constructed.

The on-land portions of the winter road will be constructed by compacting the snow and applying water using the same approach used to construct winter roads elsewhere in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.





Water withdrawals for winter road construction will not exceed the total authorized use up to 1,888 m³ of water per day, to a maximum of 689,000 m³ of water annually. An application rate of approximately 2,000 m³ of water per kilometer of winter road was used to estimate the water withdrawal requirements for overland winter road construction.

The following winter roads are proposed:

- Mine to Cockburn Lake (KP 0 to KP 95) A winter road will be constructed within the railway
  right-of-way along segments where the construction access road has not already been constructed.
  Water to construct this portion of the road will be sourced from Camp Lake, the unnamed lake next to
  the Ravn River Camp, and Cockburn Lake.
- Cockburn Lake (KP 95 to KP 125) The winter road will cross the lake. An allowance has been made
  for water withdrawals to strengthen the ice road, or to strengthen work areas at bridge BR-95-1 or at
  the tunnels.
- Cockburn Lake to Steensby Port (KP 125 to KP 149) A winter road will be constructed across the ice in Steensby Inlet, travelling over inland lakes with small overland portages. Various potential winter road route options have been identified to access the KP 130 Maintenance Depot (Figure 2.4). These routes will be subject to additional ground truthing before a preferred route is selected. An allowance has been made in the Cockburn Lake water withdrawals should the winter road be constructed from north to south (i.e., from KP 125 at the south end of Cockburn Lake to KP 149 at Steensby Port).

The estimated water requirements from the identified water sources are summarized in Table 2.2. These water withdrawals are assessed in Section 4.

Withdrawal Construction Winter Road **Distance** Volumes **Water Station** Front Segment (km)  $(m^3)^{[1]}$ Rail KP 0 to KP 35 Camp Lake 35 70,000 Mine to Rail KP 35 to KP 55 Unnamed ("Ravn") Lake 40.000 20 Cockburn Lake Rail KP 55 to KP 95 40 Cockburn Lake Rail KP 95 to KP 125 30 Cockburn Lake 200,000 South Cockburn Rail KP 125 to KP 24 Lake to Port 149 9 ST352 Lake 50,000

Table 2.2 Annual Water Requirements for Winter Road Construction

#### Note(s):

Steensby to

KP 130 Depot

10 Km Lake (ST347) Lake

Option 2 Unnamed Lake



**KP130 Depot Winter** 

Road

50,000

150,000

1,888

610,000

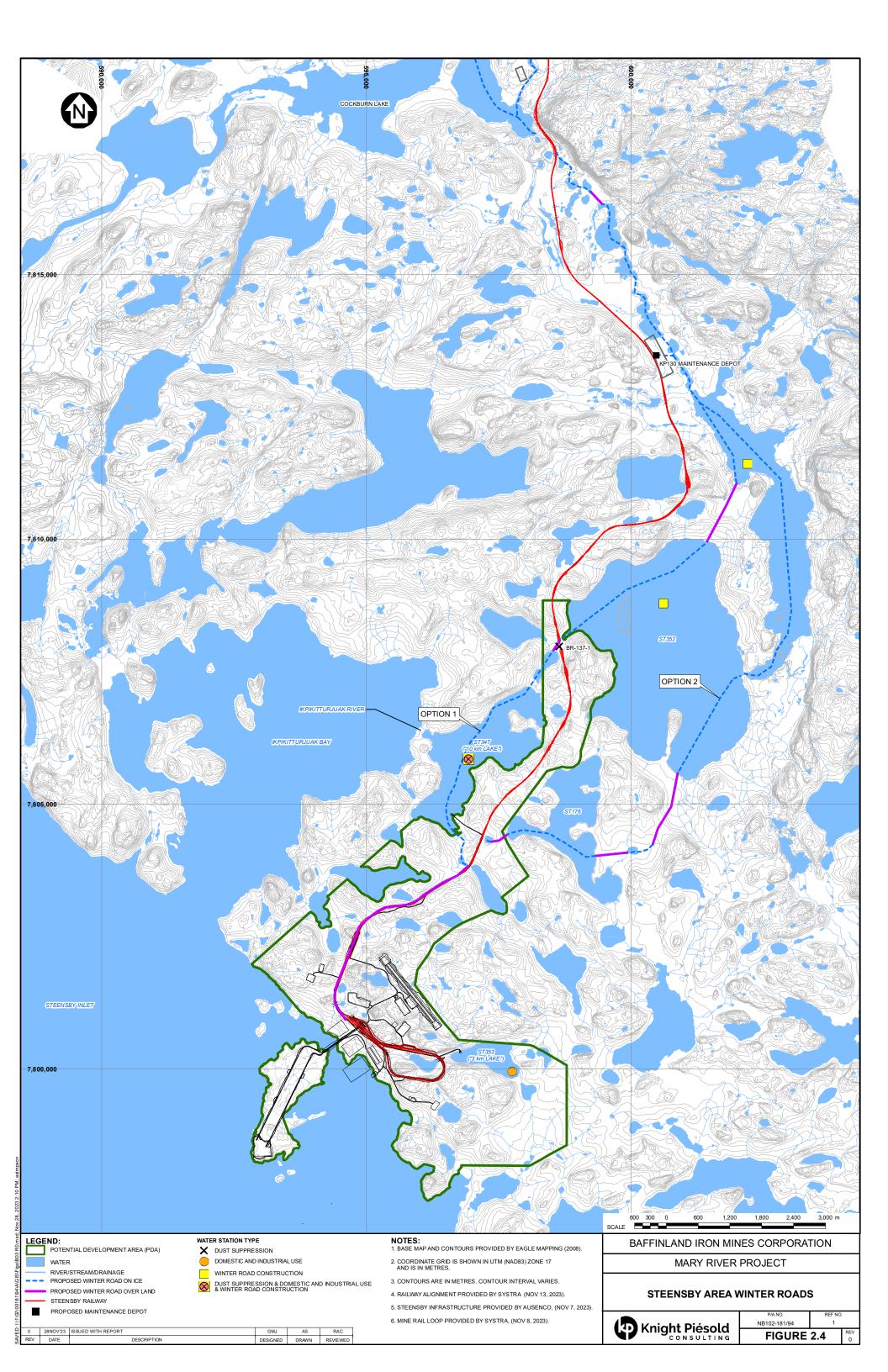
9

12

Daily Limit (m<sup>3</sup>/day)

Annual Total (m<sup>3</sup>/year)

Winter road withdrawal volumes are a total for the winter season. Daily withdrawal volumes will vary depending on winter road
construction progress and proximity to water sources.



#### 2.3 DUST SUPPRESSION

Water will be used to reduce dust during rail and port construction. The period of water withdrawal for dust control is approximately mid-June to mid-September. Five new stream water sources and five lake water sources have been identified for dust suppression withdrawals along the Steensby Railway. The proposed dust suppression water stations are listed in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Proposed Dust Suppression Water Stations

Water Station	Waterbody	Coord	Proposed Water Withdrawal	
		Northing	Easting	m³/day³
MS-MRY-1	Camp Lake	577,778	7,914,721	160
BR-0-1	Mary River	562,686	7,911,959	300
BR-25-1	Unnamed stream	585,393	7,900,037	300
Ravn Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Ravn Camp Lake")	594,844	7,895,670	160
BR-37-1/CV-R21	Ravn River	595,444	7,894,058	300
BR-46-1	Unnamed stream	596,729	7,886,540	300
Mid-Rail Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Nivek Lake")	594,451	7,876,250	160
BR-95-1				160
Cockburn tunnels camp	Cockburn Lake	592,388	7,818,370	160
South Cockburn camp				160
BR-137-1	Outlet stream of ST352	598,662	7,807,979	300
		Daily Lir	mit (m³/day)	1,500
		Annual Lim	nit (m³/year)	547,500

#### Note(s):

- 1. Streams are shaded green, and lakes are shaded blue.
- 2. Dust suppression is considered an open water withdrawal and may occur between June 15 and September 15 (93 days).
- 3. All water stations will not be drawn from daily, so this should not be considered a cumulative water withdrawal volume.

The proposed daily water withdrawals presented in Table 2.4 represent a maximum daily draw associated with each of the water stations. All water stations will not be drawn from daily, so this should not be considered a cumulative water withdrawal volume. The trucks will draw from the closest approved water source up to a daily limit of 1,500 m³/day and an annual limit of 547,000 m³/year, as specified in Part E, Item 25 of the Licence. These daily and annual limits are shared with the approved dust suppression withdrawals associated with the Milne Inlet Tote Road (Tote Road) water stations. These water withdrawals are assessed in Section 4.

#### 2.4 SUMMARY OF NEW WATER WITHDRAWALS

Table 2.4 summarizes the cumulative water withdrawals for domestic and industrial uses, winter road construction, and dust suppression. These cumulative totals are assessed in Section 4.



Table 2.4 Summary of Proposed New Water Withdrawals

			stic and rial Use	Dust	
Water Station	Waterbody Name	Camps	Winter Road	Suppression	Description of Change(s)
		(m³/day)	(m³/season)	(m³/day)	
MS-MRY-1	Camp Lake	657.5	70,000	160	<ul> <li>No change to camp use (remains at 657.5 m³/day)</li> <li>New winter road construction withdrawal</li> <li>Dust suppression volume increased from 86 to 160 m³/day</li> </ul>
BR-0-1	Mary River	-	-	300	New dust suppression site
BR-25-1	Unnamed River	-	-	300	New dust suppression site
Ravn Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Ravn Camp Lake")	245.2	40,000	160	<ul> <li>Camp water withdrawal increased from 145.2 m³/day to 245.2 m³/day</li> <li>New winter road construction withdrawal</li> <li>Dust suppression volume increased from 86 to 160 m³/day</li> </ul>
BR-37-1/CV-R21	Ravn River	-	-	300	New dust suppression site
BR-46-1	Unnamed stream	-		300	New dust suppression site
Mid-Rail Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Nivek Lake")	100	-	160	<ul> <li>Camp water withdrawal increased from 79.5 to 100 m³/day</li> <li>New dust suppression withdrawal of 160 m³/day</li> </ul>
BR-95-1		-		160	
Cockburn tunnels camp	Cockburn Lake	040.5	200,000	160	<ul><li>No overall change to camp water withdrawal</li><li>New winter road construction withdrawal</li></ul>
South Cockburn camp		212.5		160	New dust suppression site



			atic and rial Use	Dust	Description of Change(s)	
Water Station	Waterbody Name	Camps	Winter Road	Suppression		
		(m³/day)	(m³/season)	(m³/day)		
BR-137-1	ST352 outlet stream	-	-	300	New dust suppression site	
ST352 Lake	Unnamed lake	-	50,000	-	New winter road construction withdrawal site	
10 Km Lake	Unnamed lake	-	50,000	-	New winter road construction withdrawal site	
Option 2 Unnamed Lake	Unnamed lake	-	50,000	-	New winter road construction withdrawal site	



## 3.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INUIT KNOWLEDGE

#### 3.1 HISTORIC CONSULTATION

Consultation activities related to the Project have been ongoing since 2005, leading to the FEIS (Baffinland, 2012). Volume 2, Appendix 2A of the 2012 FEIS presents the consultation record up to 2012. Additionally, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) collected through interviews and workshops was incorporated in the Steensby Railway and Steensby Port designs and presented in the 2012 FEIS. Feedback expressed by communities and Inuit organizations during the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) review are summarized in the Final Hearing Report (NIRB, 2012).

There has been continuous engagement for the project since the Project was approved by the NIRB. The summary of engagement activities where the rail was discussed post-FEIS is provided in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Summary of Engagement related to the Rail between January 2015 and October 2023

Activity	Description
Public Meetings	23+ Meetings / Open Houses
IQ Workshops	8 in Pond Inlet and 2 in Arctic Bay
Community Group Meetings	80+ Meetings with The Hunters and Trappers Organization's (HTO's) and Hamlets, and others
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) Meetings	16+ Meetings
Working Groups	21+ Meetings with the Terrestrial Environment Working Group (TEWG), Marine Environment Working Group (MEWG), Socio-Economic Monitoring Report (SEMC), and Socio-Economic Environment Working Group (SEMWG)
Site Visits	Workshops and Community Member Site Visits to the Mary River Project Site  1 Trip to Nain, Labrador  1 Community Risk Assessment Workshop in Trois- Rivières, Québec  2 Community Risk Assessment and IQ Workshops at the Mine Site  1 crossing rail workshop at the Mary River Mine  1 community site visit to the Mary River Mine
Survey	205 Community Members Surveyed
Baffinland Community Liaison Officers (BCLOs)	1 Staffed in each North Baffin Community



#### 3.2 RECENT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In 2023, Baffinland reintroduced the Steensby component of the Approved Project to stakeholders, with the following events:

- Community updates on Steensby, Hamlet Councils and HTOs, February 14 to March 30, 2023.
- Steensby Railway and Fisheries Habitat Offsetting Workshop, Hamlet Council Members and HTAs in Igloolik and Sanirajak, May 9-18, 2023.
- Steensby Railway and Steensby Port Workshop, QIA representatives, June 15-16, 2023.
- Steensby Railway and Fisheries Habitat Offsetting Workshop Pond Inlet, Hamlet Council Members, MHTO, and QIA, July 11-12, 2023.
- Steensby Railway and Steensby Port Fisheries Habitat Offsetting Verification Workshops, Mittimatalik HTO and Igloolik and Sanirajak HTAs, October 3-6, 2023.

Fisheries impacts and offsetting has been a focal point for recent engagement. However, this is tied to water use. One theme that emerged from these meetings was that the communities do not want to see natural habitats disturbed unnecessarily as part of offsetting. Also, they wish to see some community benefit accrue from this Project.

#### 3.3 QIA'S 2019-2021 TUSAQTAVUT STUDIES

To understand the potential impacts of the Mary River Project on land use and the Inuit way of life, the QIA worked with the communities of Pond Inlet, Iglulik, Sanirajak, Arctic Bay, and Clyde River to conduct a series of studies (the Tusaqtavut Studies) of Inuit land use. Between 2019 and 2021, 137 community members from these five communities were interviewed. Fishing and freshwater were identified as valued components in the studies.

Figure 3.1 presents the fishing and freshwater valued identified from the interviews during this study. The specific locations of the identified values have been randomized within a 1 km buffer. However, it does suggest that fishing and freshwater values were identified around the Steensby Port, and possibly on the Cockburn River.

#### 3.4 BAFFINLAND'S 2006-2010 INUIT KNOWLEDGE STUDIES

The Mary River Inuit Knowledge Study (MRIKS) was conducted by Baffinland from 2006 through 2010 (KP, 2014). Objectives of the study included obtaining local knowledge of wildlife, land use, and areas of cultural significance to support Project decision-making and the environmental assessment process.

The study included individual interviews with 46 knowledge holders in the three communities of Arctic Bay, Igloolik, and Pond Inlet, and workshops in seven communities: Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Sanirajak, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Cape Dorset, and Kimmirut. The results of Inuit knowledge studies were incorporated to the FEIS report (Baffinland, 2012) and FEIS Addendum report (Baffinland, 2013) for the ERP. A database was eventually assembled that consists of research agreements, interview questions, audio recordings of interviews, written interview transcripts in Inuktitut and English, and the keyword summaries and maps that were the main products of the study (KP, 2014).



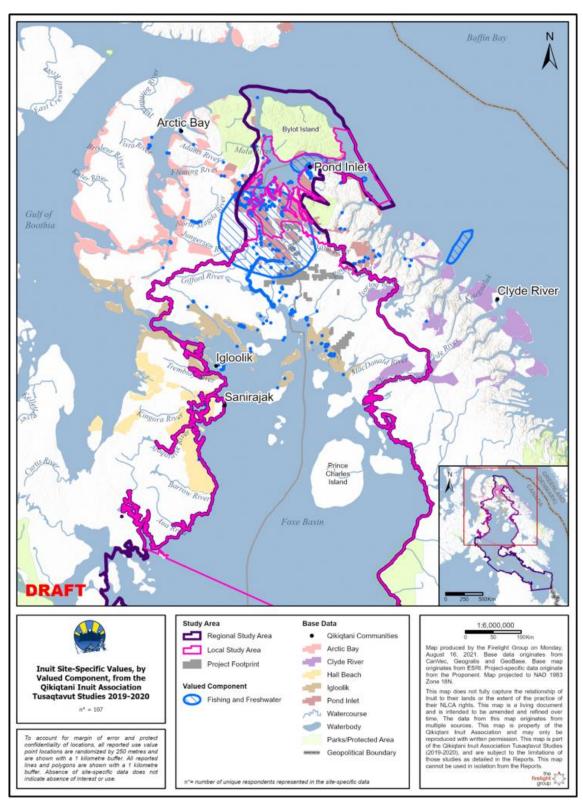


Figure 3.1 Fishing and Freshwater Values Identified in Tusaqtavut Studies



Several interview questions produced information on areas of importance to Inuit. This included questions regarding travel routes and camps, water, and areas important for fishing.

Relevant figures presenting the above information are included in Appendix A, as follows:

- Figure 1.4 Travel Routes Project Study Area (Interview Results)
- Figure 1.8 Camping Locations Project Study Area (Workshop Results)
- Figure 1.12 Special Places Project Study Area (Interview Results)
- Figure 3.20 Water and Ice Features Project Study Area (Interview Results)
- Figure 5.2 Fish Locations Project Study Area (Interview Results)

The results of the review are provided below.

#### 3.4.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

Several study participants stated that good drinking water was of primary importance for well-being, and water is also an important source of food (fish).

It's vitally important you get some water for drinking purposes. But lakes are also important because when I go fishing to a lake and I stay there for a long time and when I become thirsty I can drink the water from the lake. Yea, there are a whole lot of lakes in this area here. For example, the residents of Pond Inlet we go to this lake to go fishing. (PI-03, Pond Inlet)

Several elders emphasized the need to have a good water source near to camp sites.

We made sure to camp nearby water sources such as lakes, rivers and streams so we had water nearby our camp... This has always been one of the case for all time, when choosing a camp site, we had to be sure to have a water source nearby... Lakes and rivers are all important as we camp or live around those for our water source and we fish off the lakes and rivers during the run... Having water is essential to us and water keeps us alive. (Elijah Panipakoocho, Pond Inlet)

We have always had to live nearby lakes for our water source and we even use it as storage or deep freeze with our meat supplies. This lake is where the river runs from where we fish. ... These lakes are very, very important to me. Some campers camp where there are no lakes, and in early fall they have no water source at all, so it is important to live or camp nearby lakes. (Ikey Kigutikkarrjuk, Arctic Bay)

While out on the land, hunters and travellers consume water from ice, snow, lakes and rivers. In winter, snow is relied upon as a water source. Water from glaciers was identified by many study participants as the best available water.

Only when you have good drinking water are you more livelily and when you don't have good drinking water it is unpleasant and you always look for a source of good drinking water... When you're at Qaurnak in the summertime and the icebergs arrive you have an excellent source of drinking water... When we were camping out there we had excellent drinking water. Water is very important to our livelihood. (Jochabed Katsak, Pond Inlet)

Our waters are frozen for longer periods of time. There is a lot of snow that we can also use for water. They are clean as they are frozen more than half the time. Outside of the community there are lakes that have clean water. Lakes up here freeze often and there is an abundance of it to be used for



drinking. There is a lot of that in our environment. We can get our water anywhere. We can either use ice or snow. (AB-13, Arctic Bay)

The lakes and rivers are an important source of food, fish are caught from their depths and mammals are hunted from the water. During the open water period, major rivers are generally preferred over smaller watercourses, and in particular, rivers with a gravel bottom, with an awareness that smaller streams or streams with finer substrate (and hence lower flow) are more likely to contain harmful bacteria. Inuit commonly observe the water to see if it is foggy or murky, since it is believed that clear water is the best water to consume.

After there's no longer some ice we didn't just fetch water from ordinary streams but major rivers seemed to have better drinking water source and also rivers have little germs... we were discouraged from drinking from small streams or lakes. Only we were told to drink water from major rivers such as if the river had gravel bottom. That's a very good drinking water and everyone has known that for a long time... if it's for making tea then you can easily identify if it's poor source of drinking water and the tea tends to turn black and you can tell that it is not good drinking water by sampling the tea you can notice it right away so tea is an excellent source of identifying the quality of drinking water because they tend to turn black and then you know. (Jochabed Katsak, Pond Inlet)

Tea is said to be a good indicator of water quality. Also, nowadays people reportedly boil their water before consuming.

# 3.4.2 INUIT USE OF WATER ALONG STEENSBY RAILWAY AND STEENSBY PORT

Based on review of the IQ study figures in Appendix A, travel routes exist alongside the first 37 km of railway from the mine to the Ravn River. The Ravn River crossing (BR37-1) area is where trails connect the Mary River area to destinations to the east and northeast towards Clyde River (Figure 1.4 in Appendix A). From this point south, several crossings were identified between the Ravn River (KP 37) and the north end of Cockburn Lake (KP 95), and then again between the south end of Cockburn Lake (KP 125) and Steensby Port (KP 149). Few camps were identified along the length of the railway (Figure 1.8 in Appendix A). No waters of importance were identified along the railway during the study (Figure 3.20), though Cockburn Lake and River are known to support fish populations (Figure 5.2 in Appendix A).

There are, however, several camps identified on the coast in the vicinity of Steensby Port (Figure 1.8 in Appendix A). The remains of an old camp belonging to an Iglulingmiut are located adjacent to the port area.

The 100 m long Ikpikitturjuak River within the port area was identified as a river of importance on Figure 3.20 in Appendix A). The Ikpikitturjuak River connects the unnamed lake identified as ST347 or 10KM Lake in the water licence with the ocean. This river and lake support an anadromous char population and was studied in the 1980s for its potential as a commercial fishery (North/South Consultants Inc. [NSC], 1987). The Steensby Port coastal area was identified as a camp location and a collection area for significant resources (Figure 1.12 in Appendix A).

It is acknowledged that the results of the study show patterns of land use and local knowledge of the land, and that the information collected, and maps are not a complete representation of what is known.



## 4.0 HYDROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

#### 4.1 OVERVIEW

Withdrawal of water will affect quantity by reducing the volume of the waterbody as well as the downstream flow.

Volume reduction is of particular importance during winter when lake surfaces are frozen and water levels are below the outlet; withdrawal will lower the surface elevation, potentially causing dewatering and stranding of fish. In lakes used by Arctic char for spawning, there is a potential for ice to freeze or smother eggs in shallow spawning beds.

In spring, outflow will not occur until the lake has refilled and the water surface rises above the outlet. This refilling will delay outflows from the lake. Once it starts, outflow will continue as it would naturally, reduced only by the rate of any summer withdrawals.

Reduction in summer outflow may also affect downstream fish biota, including a reduction in fish habitat, through changes to substrate conditions and stranding of previous habitat, a reduction in benthic invertebrate transport, or the prevention of fish passage.

#### 4.2 WATERBODY CATCHMENTS

Geographical Information System (GIS) was used to delineate catchments for both lakes and streams that were identified as potential sources of water for the Project. The catchment boundaries for those waterbodies identified for use in this plan are presented on figures in Appendix B.

#### 4.3 AVAILABLE STREAMFLOW DATA

The hydrological assessment relies on streamflow data collected by Baffinland and the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) since 2006. The Project's hydrometric stations and regional stations are listed in Table 4.1 and are shown on Figure 4.1.

A hydrology baseline analysis for the Mary River Project was completed previously (KP, 2012). The analysis used the Project streamflow data collected over the period of 2006 to 2011, which included data from up to 16 stations on smaller river/creek systems and from four stations on larger systems. The 16 stations on smaller river/creek systems were operated by Baffinland during the open water season. Four stations on larger systems were operated year-round for four years (2006-2009) by WSC. Since 2012, Baffinland has continued to operate seven hydrometric stations. The hydrology at these seven stations (H01, H02, H04, H05, H06, H07 and H11) was reviewed and updated based on data available to the end of 2021.



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Table 4.1 Project Hydrometric Stations

Station No.	Waterbody	Catchment Area	Years of Operation	Mean Annual Unit Runoff
		(km²)		(L/s/km²)
H01	Phillips Creek northern tributary	250	2006-08, 2011-23	10.1
H02	Tom River	210	2006-08, 2010-23	17.5
H04	Camp Lake tributary 2 (CLT-2)	8.3	2006-08, 2010-23	10.7
H05	Camp Lake tributary CLT-1, branch L1	5.3	2006-08, 2010-23	10.6
H06	Mary River mainstem	240	2006-08, 2010-23	17.3
H07	Mary River Tributary F	14.7	2006-08, 2010-11, 2017-23	15.3
H08	Upper Mary River	208	2006-2008	2.1
H09	Southern Access Route	158	2006-2008	5.0
H11	Sheardown Lake Tributary SDLT-1	3.6	2011-23	6.3
Mary River	Mary River	690	2006-2009	12.3
BR11	Unnamed River	53	2008	16.9
BR25	Unnamed River	113	2008	15.1
Ravn River	Ravn River	8220	2006-2009	11.2
BR96-2	Cockburn River	31	2008	11.1
Rowley River	Rowley River	3500	2006-2009	12.1
BR137	Unnamed River	314	2008, 2010	8.9
Isortoq River	Isortoq River	7170	2006-2009	17.3

- 1. Source: Detailed Water Withdrawal Plan Mary River Project (KP, 2021).
- 2. Source: Hydrology Baseline Report (KP, 2012).

The mean monthly and mean annual unit runoff values for these seven stations are presented in Table 4.2. Flow values with a 10-year return period were calculated for the seven stations and a normal distribution was used to develop the 10-year wet and 10-year dry events for each station. Ratios were developed between the mean monthly discharge and return period discharge for each station. The average of the three stations with the largest catchment areas (H01, H02 and H06) was used to be apply to the mean monthly discharge at the selected water withdrawal stations to derive 10-year dry monthly and annual discharge values. The average of the three largest catchment areas was used as the catchment areas for the selected water withdrawal stations have large catchment areas and therefore it is anticipated to be more applicable.



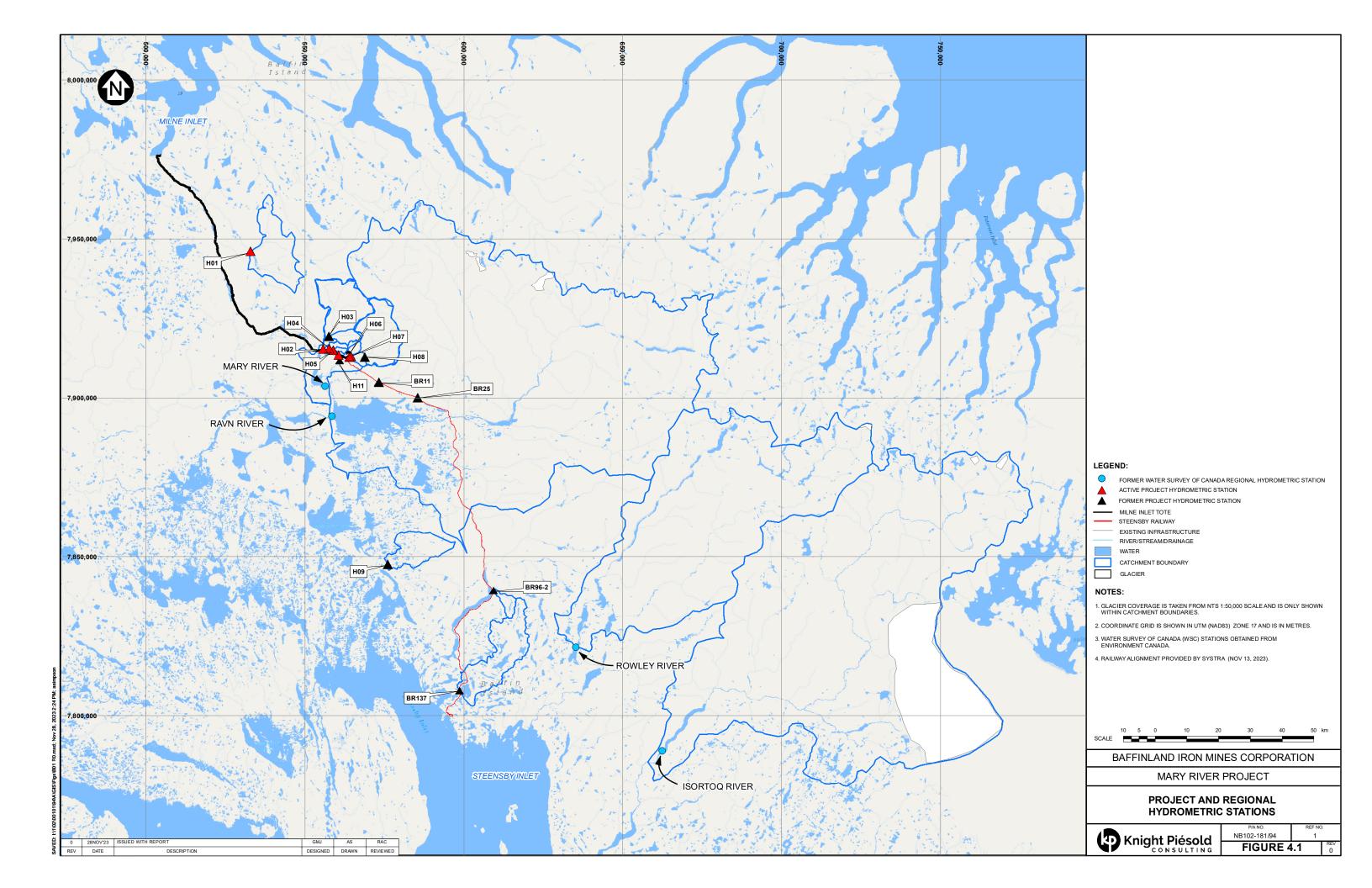


Table 4.2 Estimated Long-Term Mean Streamflow

	Mean Unit Runoff (I/s/km²)								
Station	Jan - May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Nov - Dec	MAUD	10-Year Dry Annual Flow	
H01	0	58.0	34.8	17.7	11.0	0	10.1	6.1	
H02	0	110.3	59.2	24.7	16.0	0	17.6	11.5	
H04	0	59.0	34.3	20.8	14.0	0	10.7	3.6	
H05	0	59.7	31.7	22.0	13.5	0	10.6	4.1	
H06	0	103.4	62.1	23.4	18.3	0	16.9	10.5	
H07	0	95.5	57.2	19.7	10.8	0	14.8	9.6	
H11	0	19.9	20.4	23.0	11.9	0	6.3	3.7	

Different methods were used to assess water withdrawals from streams and lakes. These are discussed further in Sections 4.4 and 4.5, respectively.

#### 4.4 HYDROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - STREAMS

Streams will provide water for dust suppression during the open water period.

The methodology to assess potential impacts on fish habitat in streams involves comparing mean daily flows calibrated to site hydrology stations with watersheds of similar size for which long-term hydrological data are available to determine the percentage of time that the withdrawal rate meets or exceeds the threshold of 10% in amplitude of the instantaneous flow in the river relative to a "natural flow regime" suggested by DFO in the *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* (DFO, 2013a).

When determining the impact of flow alteration in fisheries, the National Technical Guidance (Appendix 1 of DFO, 2013a) is as follows:

- Cumulative flow alterations <10% in amplitude of the actual (instantaneous) flow in the river relative to a "natural flow regime" have a low probability of detectable impacts to ecosystems that support commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fisheries.
- Cumulative flow alterations that result in instantaneous flows <30% of the mean annual discharge (MAD) have a heightened risk of impacts to fisheries.
- For cumulative water use >10% of instantaneous discharge or that results in flows <30% of the mean annual discharge (MAD), a more rigorous level of assessment is recommended to evaluate potential impacts on ecosystem functions which support fisheries.



<sup>1.</sup> MAUD is mean annual unit discharge.

Because only one of the proposed water withdrawal sites (BR-0-1) has real-time flow data, hydrologic estimates were developed for each of the other candidate sites based on drainage area proration from representative hydrometric stations. The streams selected for water withdrawals have catchments ranging from 116 to 5,538 km². Thus, historical streamflow data from hydrometric station H06 (catchment area of 240 km²) for the periods of 2006-08 and 2010-2022 was used to predict streamflow conditions at the water withdrawal locations. This station was selected as it represents the southernmost station with the largest catchment area and longest dataset.

Monthly and annual flow duration curves (FDCs) for H06 is shown on Figure 4.2. The FDCs are useful in understanding the seasonal nature of low flows; flows rise from no-flow in late May or early June and the nival (snowmelt) freshet occurs in late June. Flows then fall through July and August but are sustained by rainfall events. Flows continue to fall through September as air temperature drops and precipitation falls as snow, until streamflow ceases in late September or early October.

Flow duration curves were developed for each of the selected water stations based on pro-rating the watershed of interest against the representative gauging record of H06. Only the period of mid-June to mid-September was used as this represents the period when water will be extracted for dust suppression purposes.

Fifteen (15) candidate streams were identified along the Steensby Railway. The FDCs for these streams are presented on Figure 4.3

Five of the 15 streams have sufficient flows to meet the 10% of flows threshold, based on their flow duration curves presented on Figure 4.4. Based on the pro-rated flow duration curves, water can be withdrawn from these stations at the maximum pumping rate (5.7 m³/min) at any time between approximately mid-June to mid-September without exceeding 10% of the instantaneous flow, except for BR-25-1. The maximum pumping rate at BR-25-1 is estimated to be 3.2 m³/min. The results are summarized in Table 4.3.

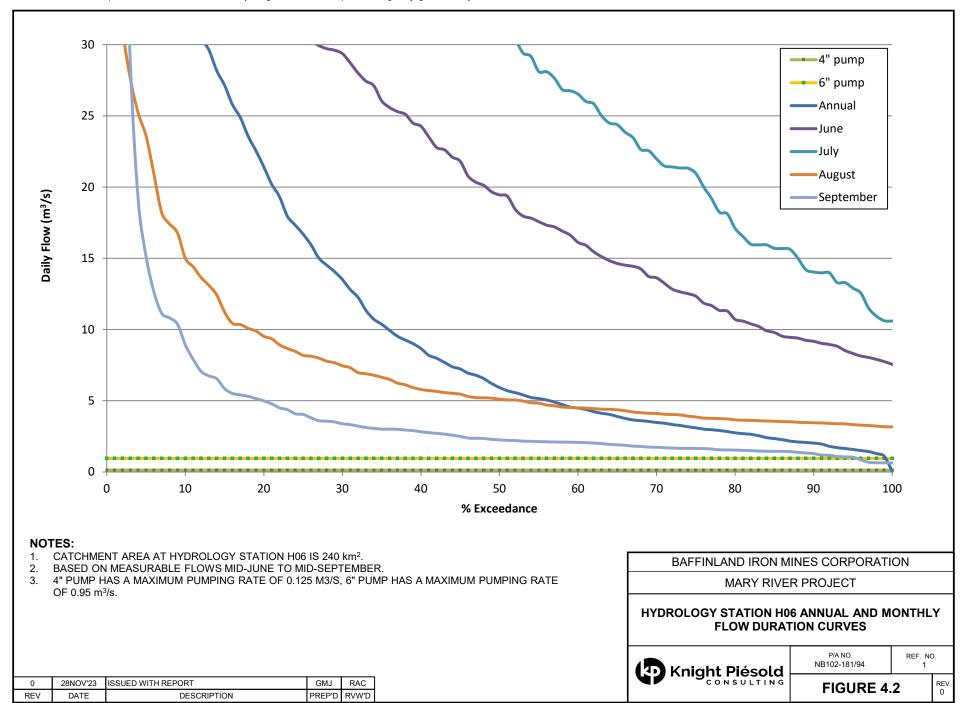
Table 4.3 Proposed Stream Water Stations for Dust Suppression Water Withdrawals

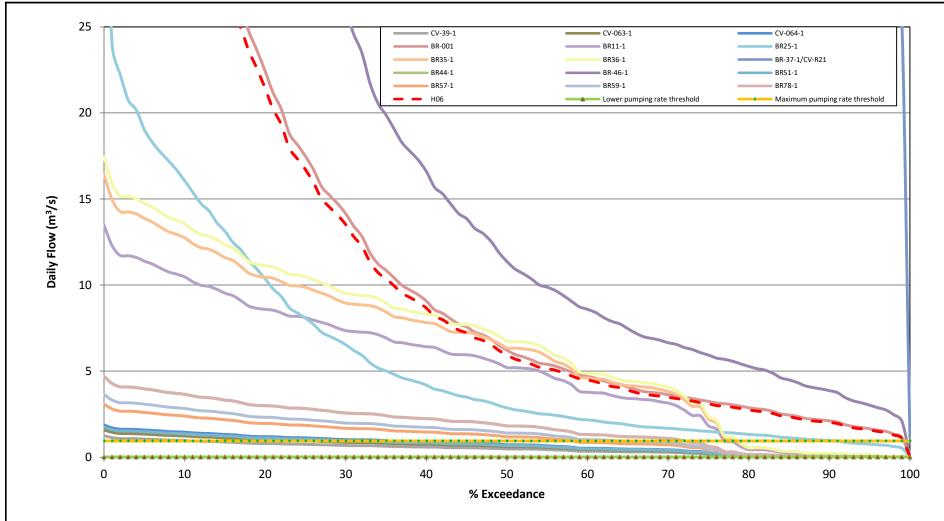
Water Station	Waterbody Name	Proposed Daily Maximum Withdrawal	Maximum Pumping Rate
		(m³/day)	(m³/min)
BR-0-1	Mary River	300	5.7
BR-25-1	Unnamed River	300	3.2
BR-37-1/CV-R21	Ravn River	300	5.7
BR-46-1	Unnamed River	300	5.7
BR-137-1	Unnamed River	300	5.7

#### Note(s):

- 1. Proposed daily withdrawals represent a maximum daily draw associated with each water station.
- 2. All water stations will not be drawn from daily, so this should not be considered a cumulative water withdrawal volume.







#### NOTES:

- 1. CATCHMENT AREA AT HYDROLOGY STATION H06 IS 240 km<sup>2</sup>.
- 2. BASED ON MEASURED FLOWS MID-JUNE TO MID-SEPTEMBER.
- 3. THE THRESHOLD IDENTIFIED BY THE LOWER PUMPING RATE IS BASED ON A PUMPING RATE OF 0.75 m³/min (0.0125 m³/s) ASSUMING IT REPRESENTS 10% OF THE TOTAL FLOW IN THE STREAM. THE UPPER PUMPING RATE IS 5.7 m³/min (0.095 m³/s), SO THE MAXIMUM PUMPING RATE THRESHOLD IS SET AT 0.95 m³/s.

# BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION MARY RIVER PROJECT

#### FLOW DURATION CURVES FOR 15 CANDIDATE STREAMS



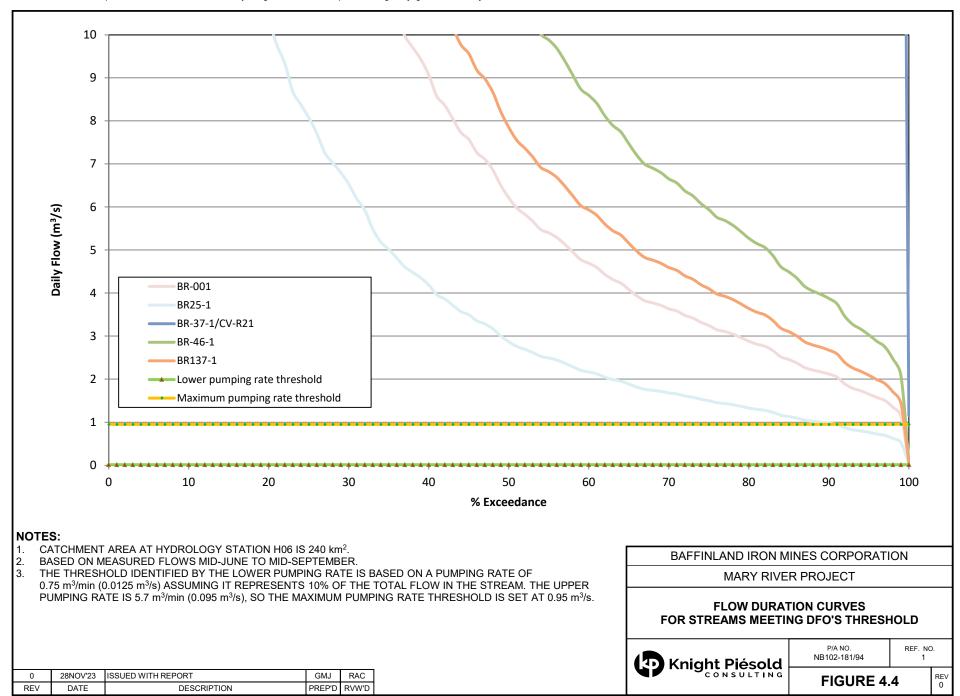
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FIGURE 4.3

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#### 4.5 HYDROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - LAKES

As discussed in Section 2, water withdrawals are proposed from lakes along the Steensby Railway and Steensby Port for several purposes:

- Domestic and industrial uses at camps (previously assessed and approved under the Licence)
- Dust suppression during open water
- Winter road construction during winter

The effect of a single water take from these sources is very small; however, repeated water takes have the potential to lower lake levels and reduce lake outflows.

Lake water withdrawals are identified in Table 4.4.

These lake water withdrawals are assessed in two ways:

- Winter water withdrawals are compared to a DFO (2010a) threshold of 10% of the under-ice lake volume, or for lakes without bathymetric survey volumes, the lake surface area was used to estimate the drawdown over a winter period.
- The combined effects of winter water withdrawals (i.e., drawdown) and open water withdrawals are compared to monthly lake outflows, applying a 10% threshold.

These are described further below.

#### 4.5.1 WITHDRAWALS DURING ICE COVER

Water withdrawals will occur during winter, as described in Section 2.2. These withdrawals are assumed to occur between mid-September and mid-June.

The winter water withdrawal protocol states that the total water withdrawal from a single waterbody over one ice-covered season is not to exceed 10% of the available water under ice, assuming an ice thickness of 2 m (DFO, 2010a). This threshold was applied to the assessment of winter water withdrawals, for those waterbodies for which bathymetry is available. The water withdrawal volumes from these lakes are for domestic and industrial uses at each location, which is inclusive of water for winter road construction.

For the lakes with bathymetry, the proposed winter water withdrawal represents less than 10% of the total under-ice water volume (Table 4.4).

Winter road construction may involve extraction of a small volume of water from an additional lake (Option 2 Unnamed Lake), for which bathymetry is not available. The proposed extraction volumes were related to the lake surface area to estimate the potential drawdown. The proposed extraction represents a drawdown of approximately 1.6 cm (Table 4.4).

Winter withdrawals also have the potential to reduce or delay lake outflows during spring. This is considered in the assessment of withdrawals during open water (Section 4.5.2).



Table 4.4 Assessment of Winter Water Withdrawals

Water Station(s)	Waterbody Name	Winter Road Volumes	Camp Water Volumes [1]	Total Winter Withdrawal	Under Ice Water Volume	Winter Drawdown [2]	Lake Surface Area	Winter Drawdown
		(m³)	(m³)	(m³)	(m³)	(%)	(m²)	(cm)
MS-MRY-1	Camp Lake	70,000	179,498	249,498	22,606,000	1.1%	2,112,361	11.8
Ravn Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Ravn Camp Lake")	40,000	61,343	101,343	23,445,148	0.4%	1,899,275	5.6
BR-95-1 Cockburn Tunnels Camp South Cockburn Camp	Cockburn Lake	200,000	58,013	258,013	1,659,517,028	0.02%	37,659,938	0.7
Option 1 Winter Road Station 1	Unnamed lake (ST352)	50,000	-	50,000	197,579,010	0.025%	9,742,858	0.51
Option 1 Winter Road Station 2	Unnamed lake (ST347)	50,000	-	50,000	20,686,000	0.24%	11,532,662	0.43
Option 2 Winter Road	Option 2 Unnamed Lake	150,000	-	150,000	n/a	-	3,820,000	3.9

- 1. Camp water volumes based upon the daily water withdrawals identified in Table 2.2, extracted over 273 days (Sept 15 to June 15).
- 2. Measured as a percent of under ice volume.



#### 4.5.2 WITHDRAWALS DURING OPEN WATER

Open water withdrawals were assumed to occur between mid-June to mid-September. For lakes that have been subject to water withdrawals during the winter, the winter drawdown is included in the quantity of water considered extracted during the month of June, as winter withdrawals could potentially delay lake outflows in the spring.

Regarding the evaluation of open water withdrawals, the FEIS identified the reduction in lake outflow of 10% as a commonly applied threshold value (FEIS Volume 7, Page 19; Baffinland, 2012). Water can be withdrawn from a lake without further evaluation, providing that the monthly water withdrawal volume did not exceed 10% of the mean monthly lake outflow volume. The 10% threshold was also applied to the annual 10-year return period dry year. This methodology has been carried forward into the current assessment.

The four lakes that will be subject to increases in water withdrawals were included in this assessment, including Camp Lake, Ravn Camp Lake, Mid-Rail Lake ("Nivek Lake"), and Cockburn Lake. The results are presented in Table 4.5.

The proposed withdrawal volumes did not exceed a 10% reduction in the monthly or 10-year return period dry outflow at any of the lake withdrawal locations, except during June at the Ravn Camp Lake.

The Ravn Camp Lake will experience a flow reduction of 15% for the month of June. During the month of June, the outflow typically begins in the second half of the month, and thus most of June flows occurs over a shorter timeframe. The overwinter water withdrawals at Ravn Lake result in a minor depth reduction of approximately 5.6 cm, which is within the range of natural water level variations and/or ice thickness. Additionally, recent assessments have demonstrated that the migration of fish during freshet does not occur until the water temperature reach approximately 5-7°C, with most of the fish movement being noted during at the end of June/early July (KP, 2023). Thus, the impact of the proposed water withdrawal is unlikely to affect fish movement in and out of the lake.



Table 4.5 Assessment of Water Withdrawals from Lakes During Open Water

Water Station	Waterbody Name	Proposed Withdrawals During Open Water		Winter Withdrawals	Reduction in Mean Monthly Discharge During Open Water (%)					
		Domestic /Industrial	Dust Suppression	(Recovered in late June)	June	July	August	September	10-Year Dry Flow	
		(m³/day)	(m³/day)	(m <sup>3</sup> /year)						
MS-MRY-1	Camp Lake	657.5	160	249,498	9.9%	1.2%	1.9%	2.5%	8.2%	
Ravn Camp Lake	Unnamed Lake ("Ravn Camp Lake")	245.2	160	101,343	15.2%	1.3%	1.5%	2.1%	8.1%	
Mid-Rail Camp Lake	Unnamed Lake ("Nivek Lake")	100	160	-	1.36%	1.07%	1.24%	3.56%	1,74%	
BR-95-1		-	160	258,013	0.18%	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.07%	
Cockburn Tunnels Camp	Cockburn Lake	242.5	160							
South Cockburn Camp		212.5								

- 1. Open water withdrawals may occur between 15 June and 15 September (93 days).
- 2. Cells highlighted in red are reductions in mean monthly discharge greater than 10%.



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## 5.0 MITIGATION OF IMPACTS TO FISH AND FISH HABITAT

#### 5.1 EFFECTS OF WATER WITHDRAWAL

The potential impacts of water withdrawal on fish and fish habitat can be assessed by understanding the mechanisms and stressors that cause effects in the aquatic environment. DFO has created Pathway of Effect diagrams to illustrate the type of cause-effect relationships that are known to exist for developments in or near water; water withdrawal has the potential to impact fish and fish habitat through the following mechanisms (DFO, 2010b):

- Placement of structures in water
- Entrainment in pumps / impingement on screens
- Use of industrial equipment near fish-bearing waters (i.e., risk of spills and inadvertent sedimentation and/or erosion)
- Oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat, and/or reductions in littoral habitat during winter water withdrawal from ice-covered waterbodies
- · Changes in flow volumes or timing, duration, and frequency of flow

Potential effects and mitigation measures for these mechanisms, as well as residual effects, are described below.

#### 5.2 RELEVANT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Baffinland has developed and implemented comprehensive environmental and socio-economic environmental management plans and monitoring programs to manage the environmental and socio-economic effects of the Mary River Project. The Company intends to apply its experience and these environmental management plans and monitoring programs to manage the construction and operation of the Steensby Railway, in addition to developing additional measures as required to address site-specific issues.

Baffinland's current Environmental Management Plan is its Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Management System Framework Standard, developed in 2010 (Baffinland, 2010). The EHS Standard is accompanied by the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Standard.

The following plans describe the mitigation measures Baffinland will implement to protect fish and fish habitat during water withdrawals:

- Environmental Protection Plan (EPP; Baffinland, 2021a)
- Fresh Water Supply, Sewage and Wastewater Management Plan (FWSSWMP; Baffinland, 2018)
- Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Management Plan (SWAEMP; Baffinland, 2021b)
- Spill Contingency Plan (SCP; Baffinland, 2021c)

The latest versions of these plans are found on Baffinland's online Document Portal: https://baffinland.com/document-portal/.



#### 5.3 CURRENT WATER LICENCE

Baffinland will continue to abide by the conditions in Part E of the Licence applying to water use and management, including the use of approved water sources, and the respective total daily and annual withdrawal limits.

#### 5.4 PLACEMENT OF STRUCTURES IN WATER

Structures placed in water could result in:

- Changes in channel morphology or shoreline morphometry through removal of instream and riparian vegetation, resulting in loss or alteration of habitat and reduced channel stability.
- Constriction of flow due to instream structures that may change hydraulic characteristics, resulting in a change in substrate composition (scour and deposition).
- Obstruction or interference with the movement and migration of fish.

The water withdrawal activity will not result in changes in channel morphology or shoreline morphometry. Baffinland uses either a 4" or 6" Gorman-Rupp pump to fill the water trucks; the pumps are located on the top of the bank; the only structure placed in the water is the hose and screened intake. Examples of the pumps used are shown in Figure 5.1.





Figure 5.1 Baffinland Water Pumps

The hose and screened intake will not result in a constriction of flow or interfere with fish passage. The hose and intake are fitted with a cam lock 4" or 6" fish screen; an example of the instream hose and intake is shown in Figure 5.2. The hose and screened intake are submerged near the stream bottom and have a minimal footprint. The stream channels at the intake sites will have sufficient wetted width and depth to allow placement of the hose and pump with full submergence, allowing water to flow over the hose rather than around it.





Figure 5.2 Example Water Intake at Site CV-128

No residual effects are anticipated on fish and fish habitat from the footprint of the pumps at the top of bank or the hose and screened intake in the wetted channel.

The following environmental protection measures outlined in the EPP (Baffinland, 2021a) will be followed to minimize potential impacts:

- Plan in water works, undertakings or activities to respect timing windows to protect fish and fish habitat.
- Conduct in-water works, undertakings and activities during periods of low flow.
- Limit the duration of in-water works, undertakings and activities so that it does not diminish the ability of fish to carry out one or more of their life processes (e.g., spawning, rearing, feeding, migrating).
- Employ fish exclusion netting (up and downstream) to isolate the work site if fish are observed in the vicinity of the works, undertakings, and activities.
- Maintain an appropriate depth and flow (i.e., base flow and seasonal flow of water) for the protection of fish.
- Maintain fish passage during the works, undertakings, and activities.
- Avoid changing flow or water level.
- Avoid obstructing and interfering with the movement and migration of fish.
- Use only clean materials (e.g., rock, coarse gravel, wood, steel, snow) for works, undertakings, and activities.
- Install effective erosion and sediment control measures prior to beginning works, undertakings, and activities in order to stabilize all erodible and exposed areas.
- Develop and implement an erosion and sediment control plan to avoid the introduction of sediment into any water body during all phases of the works, undertakings, and activities.
- Schedule work to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods and heed weather advisories.
- Regularly inspect and maintain the erosion and sediment control measures and structures during all phases of the works, undertakings, and activities.
- Regularly monitor the watercourse for signs of sedimentation during all phases of the works, undertakings and activities and take corrective action if required.
- Use biodegradable erosion and sediment control materials whenever possible.



- Keep the erosion and sediment control measures in place until all disturbed ground has been permanently stabilized.
- Remove all sediment control materials once site has been stabilized.
- Dispose of, and stabilize, all excavated material above the operational high water mark (OHWM) or top
  of bank of nearby.
  - waterbodies and ensure sediment re-entry to the watercourse is prevented.

#### 5.5 ENTRAINMENT IN PUMPS / IMPINGEMENT ON SCREENS

Water extraction can result in entrainment (when a fish is drawn into a water intake) or impingement (when an entrapped fish is held in contact with the intake screen). Baffinland has committed to following the interim code of practice for designing, installing, maintaining, and cleaning small end-of-pipe water intake fish screens (DFO, 2020). The interim code of practice applies to small-scale water intakes, where the water intake flow rate is up to 0.150 m³/s and to fish that have a minimum fork length of 25 mm, requiring that the design opening of the screen material does not exceed 2.54 mm.

The average field capacity of the 4" Gorman-Rupp pump is 0.75 m³/minute (0.0125 m³/s). For the 6" pump, manufacturer published operating discharge rates vary from 0.025 m³/s to 0.095 m³/s, depending on total head and suction lift.

Additional mitigation measures outlined in the interim code of practice that will be followed include:

- Siting intakes with low concentrations of fish throughout the year.
- Placing screens a minimum of 30 cm above the bottom of the watercourse to prevent the entrainment of sediment and benthos.
- Avoid withdrawing water from the littoral zone when possible.
- Avoid withdrawing water, or reducing the rate of water withdrawal, during critical timing windows to diminish the likelihood of entraining eggs and larval fish.

A qualified professional will identify the exact intake locations at each site, based on suitability of fish habitat.

The critical timing windows during which instream activities should be avoided to reduce the risk of harm to fish and fish habitat in Nunavut are determined by the location of a project (one of two zones) and whether fish species present spawn in the spring or fall (DFO, 2013b). The Mary River Project is in Fish Timing Zone 1, and the spawning period for Arctic char is in the fall. The critical timing window (when work should be avoided) in areas containing Arctic char spawning habitat is September 1 to June 30. A qualified professional will determine if water withdrawal is allowed at each site during the critical timing window, based on suitability of spawning habitat.

No residual effects are expected from entrainment or impingement with the implementation of these measures and following the interim code of practice for fish screens.

#### 5.6 USE OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

Baffinland uses 4" or 6" Gorman-Rupp pumps, and the pumps remain at the top of the stream or lake bank; therefore, there will not be any direct mortality of fish or eggs from physical disruption or bank erosion from the pump. The intake hose and screen will not be placed on any Arctic char reeds or in areas where spawning is observed.



Surface water runoff from areas of intense vehicular activity is susceptible to contamination from minor hydrocarbon spills and/or leakage of machinery and equipment. Additionally, machinery and equipment can cause inadvertent sedimentation and/or erosion. As such, the following mitigation measures described in the Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Management Plan (Baffinland, 2021b) will be implemented will be followed to minimize potential impacts:

- Machinery will arrive at site in a clean condition and free of fluid leaks, invasive species and noxious weeds.
- Erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented prior to the start of any construction and maintained until all disturbed ground has been permanently stabilized.
- Low vegetative cover within 100 metres of a waterbody will be preserved unless effective erosion and sediment control measures are in place to protect water quality.
- Measures for managing water flowing onto the site, as well as water being pumped/diverted from the site, will be implemented such that sediment is filtered out prior to the water entering the waterbody (e.g., by discharging water to a vegetated area or to an area further from a waterbody).
- No waste material resulting from work activities will be left in a manner such that it can enter the water.
- Machinery will be refuelled and serviced, and fuel and other materials will be stored at least 31 m from the high water mark.
- Limit fording of the watercourses by machinery to a one-time event (i.e., over and back), and only if no
  alternative crossing method is available. If repeated crossings of the watercourse are required, a
  temporary crossing structure will be constructed.

In addition, environmental protections measures relating to fuel storage and handling outlined in the EPP (Baffinland, 2021a) will also be implemented, such as:

- Fuel storage containers will be stored in secondary containment and shall not be placed within 31 m of the OHWM of any water body.
- All mobile equipment will be serviced and fueled on land at least 31 m above the OHWM of any
  waterbody. No petroleum or chemical product will be allowed to spread to surrounding lands or into
  waterbodies.

# 5.7 CHANGES IN FLOW VOLUMES OR TIMING, DURATION, AND FREQUENCY OF FLOW

Water withdrawal could result in increased water temperature and decreased dissolved oxygen concentrations; and dewatering of downstream areas, causing desiccation of incubating eggs, fish stranding, and fish passage obstruction, as well as reduction in littoral habitat and riparian vegetation. The assessment of hydrological changes (timing, duration, and frequency) from water withdrawals are discussed in Section 4.

Environmental protections measures relating to water use outlined in the EPP (Baffinland, 2021a) will also be implemented, such as:

- Only approved water sources can be used for Project activities (Appendix E of the EPP) and submitted to the Environment Department on a weekly basis.
- Water supply facilities are to be maintained to the satisfaction of the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Inspector.



- Total volumes of water withdrawn by truck from any water body must be recorded on the Water Collection Log (Appendix E of the EPP) and submitted to the Environment Department on a weekly basis.
- Streams or water bodies cannot be used as a water source unless authorized and approved by the NWB.
- If water is required from a source that may be drawn down (small lake or stream), Baffinland shall submit a request for approval to the NWB prior to withdrawing the water.



## 6.0 NIRB SELF-ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

While this Notification complies with Items 9 and 14 of Part E of the Licence, which outline the process for adding new water sources, and the scope of the Approved Project and the Type A Water Licence 2AM-MRY1325 remain unchanged, KP has nonetheless reviewed NIRB's process for completing a self-assessment to determine whether the proposed changes constitute a "significant modification" to the Project.

Table 6.1 presents an evaluation relative to NIRB's self-assessment criteria, and Table 6.2 presents a review of NIRB's significance criteria.

Table 6.1 Self Assessment of Proposed Amendment to Approved Project

Self-Assessment Criteria	Proponent Self Assessment
A sufficiently detailed scope of project components and activities to be undertaken during the proposed modification, contrasted with the scope of the original project as previously considered by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), the NIRB and/or the NWB.	A description of the proposed water withdrawal activities is presented in Section 2.0.
Information demonstrating the proponent has considered the significance of the potential impacts associated with the proposed modification using the factors for determining significance as set out in s. 90 of the <i>Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act</i> (NuPPAA) reflecting any other guidance or information requirements of the NPC, the NIRB and/or the NWB to evaluate the significance of the proposed modification.	The significance of potential impacts has been considered relative to the significance criteria outlined in Section 90 of NuPPAA (Table 6.2).
The proponent should also identify whether any new or modified permits, licenses or other approvals are anticipated to be necessary for the proposed works or activities.	New permits are not required, and the new water withdrawals remain within the overall daily and annual limits of the current Licence.
For proposed modifications to approved projects with a NIRB Project Certificate, information should also be provided as to whether the grounds for a reconsideration of the existing Project Certificate terms and conditions have been met.	The proposed changes do not represent a modification to the Approved Project, and the scope of the Project (and the Water Licence) remain unchanged. This Notification complies with Items 9 and 14 of Part E of the Licence, which outline the process for adding new water sources.



Table 6.2 Change in Factors Related to Section 90 (NuPPAA) Significance Criteria

NuPPAA Section 90 Significance Criteria	Change in Factors Related to Significance of Impacts
Size of Geographic Area and Wildlife Habitats Likely to be Affected	No change. The activity (water withdrawals for Steensby Component) remains confined entirely within the PDA for the Approved Project. Therefore, no changes are predicted for any VEC with respect to the size of the geographic area and wildlife habitats likely to be affected.
Ecosystemic Sensitivity of the Area	<b>No change.</b> The activity remains within the existing PDA; no new environmental sensitivities have been identified for the freshwater aquatic environment and associated VECs.
Historical, Cultural, and Archaeological Significance of Area	<b>No change.</b> See Section 3.0. The activity remains confined to the existing PDA; no new features of historical, cultural or archaeological significance will be affected.
Size of Human and Animal Populations Likely to be Affected	No change. The activity is not predicted to more adversely affect any human or animal populations.
Nature, Magnitude, and Complexity of Impacts	<b>No change.</b> The activity may result in incremental changes for the freshwater aquatic environment and associated VECs included in the scope of the assessment; however, these effects are consistent with the Approved Project and will not exceed any significance thresholds or change the determination of significance.
Probability of Impacts Occurring	<b>No change.</b> The effects of the water withdrawals are consistent with the Approved Project and will not exceed any significance thresholds or change the determination of significance, including the probability of an impact occurring.
Frequency and Duration of Impacts	<b>No change.</b> The effects of the water withdrawals are consistent with the Approved Project and will not exceed any significance thresholds or change the determination of significance, including the frequency or direction of an impact occurring.
Reversibility or Irreversibility of Impacts	<b>No change.</b> The effects of the water withdrawals are consistent with the Approved Project and will not result in irreversible environmental effects.
Cumulative Impacts	<b>No change.</b> There are no other activities that will act cumulatively with the proposed water withdrawals.
Any Other Factor that the Board Considers Relevant	Baffinland is not aware of any other factor that NIRB considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of environmental effects.



## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Proposed changes to water withdrawals are summarized in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1 Proposed Water Stations

	Waterbody Name	Domestic and Industrial Use		Dust Suppression	
Water Station		Camps	Winter Road	Daily Maximum Volume	Maximum Pumping Rate
		(m³/day)	(m³/season)	(m³/day)	(m³/min)
MS-MRY-1	Camp Lake	657.5	70,000	160	n/a
BR-0-1	Mary River	-		300	5.7
BR-25-1	Unnamed River	-	-	300	3.2
Ravn Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Ravn Camp Lake")	245.2	40,000	160	n/a
BR-37-1/CV-R21	Ravn River	-	-	300	5.7
BR-46-1	Unnamed stream	-		300	5.7
Mid-Rail Camp Lake	Unnamed lake ("Nivek Lake")	100	-	160	n/a
BR-95-1		-		160	n/a
Cockburn tunnels camp	Cockburn Lake	200,000	160	n/a	
South Cockburn camp				160	n/a
BR-137-1	ST352 outlet stream	-	-	300	5.7
ST352 Lake	Unnamed lake	-	150,000	-	n/a

#### Note(s):

1. Streams are shaded green and lakes are shaded blue.



Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project Water Withdrawal Notification and Hydrological Assessment - Steensby Component

The assessment determined that these proposed withdrawals are within applicable thresholds, with the exception of an exceedance of the 10% threshold during June at the Ravn Camp Lake water station. Considering several factors, including that most June flows occur in the second half of the month due to the timing of spring freshet, and that fish do not start moving out of lakes into local streams until the lake temperatures increase around the end of June, this threshold exceedance is judged not to represent a significant effect to fish and fish habitat.

Withdrawals from other water stations in the Licence not assessed in this notification remain unchanged.



### 8.0 REFERENCES

- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2010. Environmental, Health and Safety Management System Appendix 10A 1 Environmental, Health and Safety Management System Framework Standard. December. Document No. SD-STD-001.
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2012. Final Environmental Impact Statement. February.
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2013. Mary River Project Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Early Revenue Phase. June.
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2018. Fresh Water Supply, Sewage and Wastewater Management Plan.
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2021a. *Environmental Protection Plan.* April 30. Ref. No. BAF-PH1-P16-0008, Rev 2.
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2021b. Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Management Plan. March 31. Ref. No. BAF-PH1-830-P16-0026, Rev 7.
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), 2021c. *Spill Contingency Plan.* February 28. Ref. No. BAF-PH1-830-P16-0036, Rev 6.
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- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), 2013a. Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada. Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat. Science Advisory Report 2013/017.
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- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), 2020. *Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater*. Retrieved from: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/codes/screen-ecran-eng.html. (accessed August 2023).
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- Knight Piésold Ltd. (KP), 2014. Letter to: Oliver Curran, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. Re: Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation - Mary River Project Inuit Knowledge Study Database. February 5. Ref. No. NB14-00411 (NB102-181/35).
- Knight Piésold Ltd. (KP), 2021. *Mary River Project, Detailed Water Withdrawal Plan.* September 3. North Bay, Ontario. Ref. No. NB102-181/65-1, Rev 0.



- Knight Piésold Ltd. (KP), 2023. Letter to: Mrs. Elisabeth Luther, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. Re: South Railway Crossings Fish Passage Assessment. August 31. North Bay, Ontario. Ref. No. NB23-00919 (NB102-00181/86).
- North/South Consultants Inc. (NSC), 1987. Report on the Test Fishery for Arctic Charr, Salvelinus alpinus, in the Steensby Inlet Area, Northwest Territories, 1985-86.
- Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), 2012. Final Hearing Report Mary River Project Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. September. NIRB File No. 08MN053.
- Nunavut Water Board (NWB), 2015. Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-MRY1325 Amendment 1. July 30.



## 9.0 CERTIFICATION

This report was prepared and reviewed by the undersigned.

Prepared:

Amber Blackwell, P.Geo. Project Geoscientist

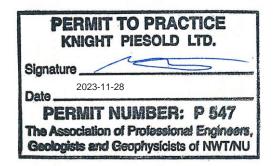
Reviewed:

Richard Cook, P.Geo. (Limited)
Specialist Environmental Scientist | Associate



LICENSEE

VWTWV



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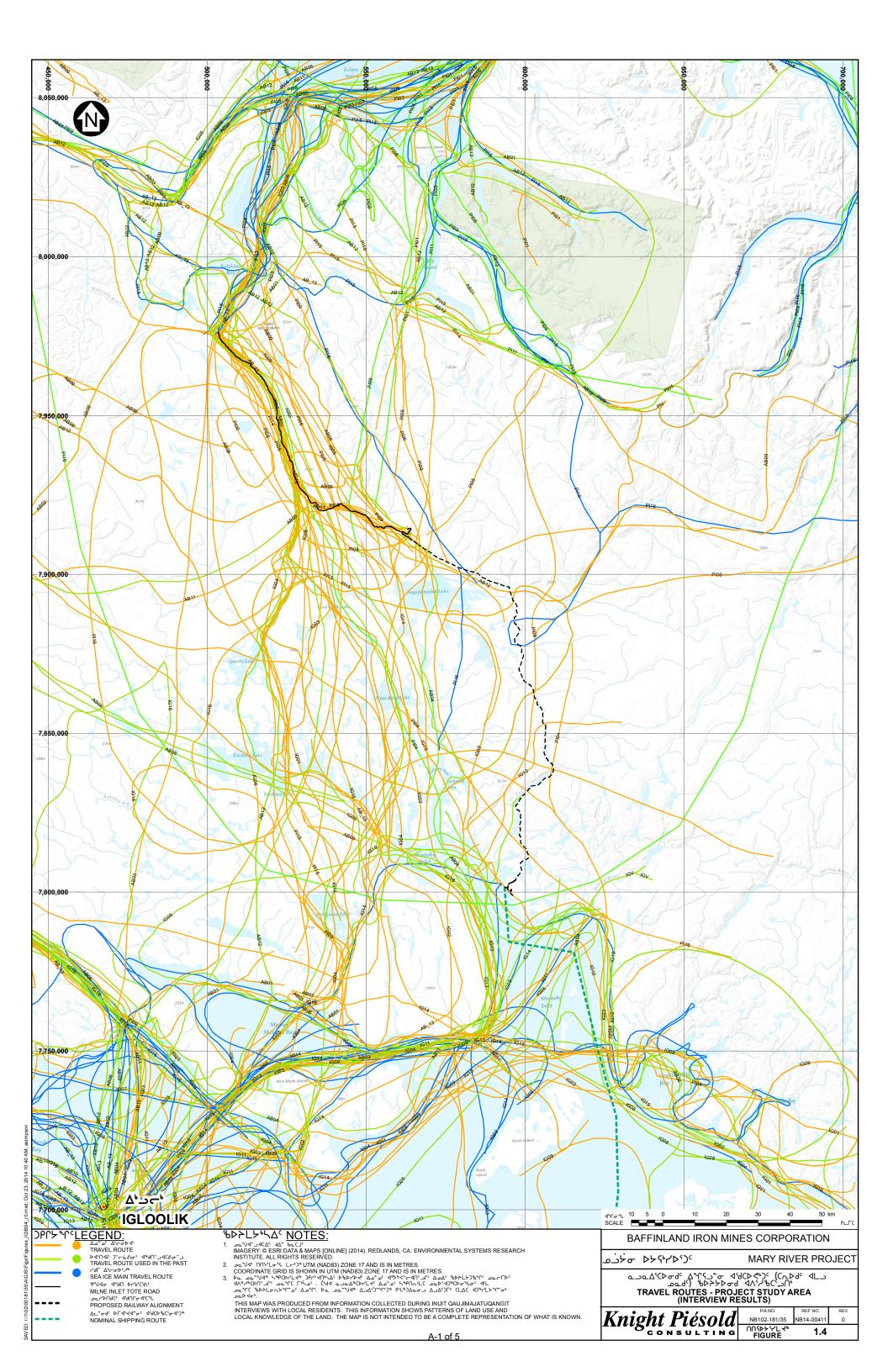
## **APPENDIX A**

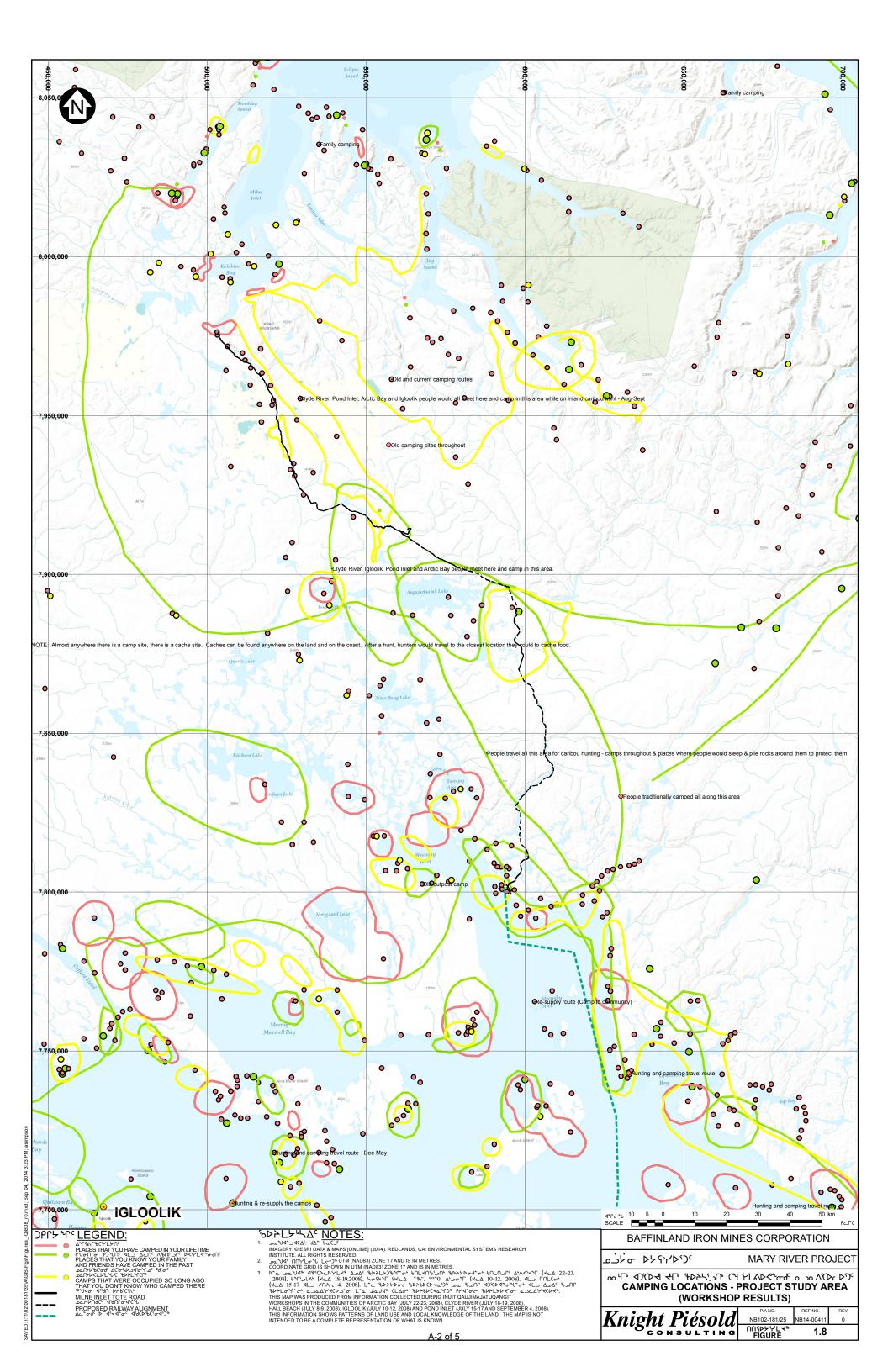
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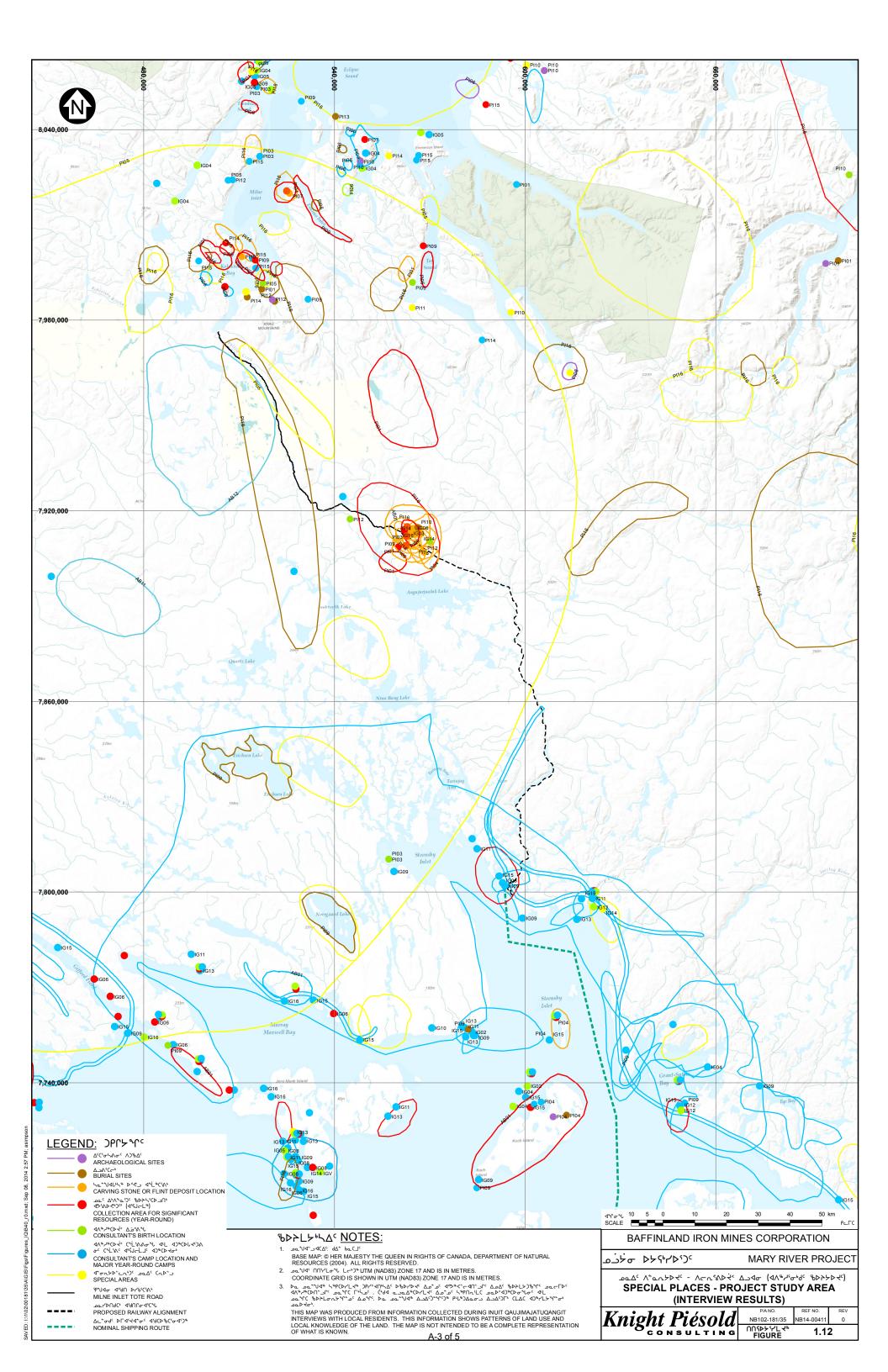
(Pages A-1 to A-5)

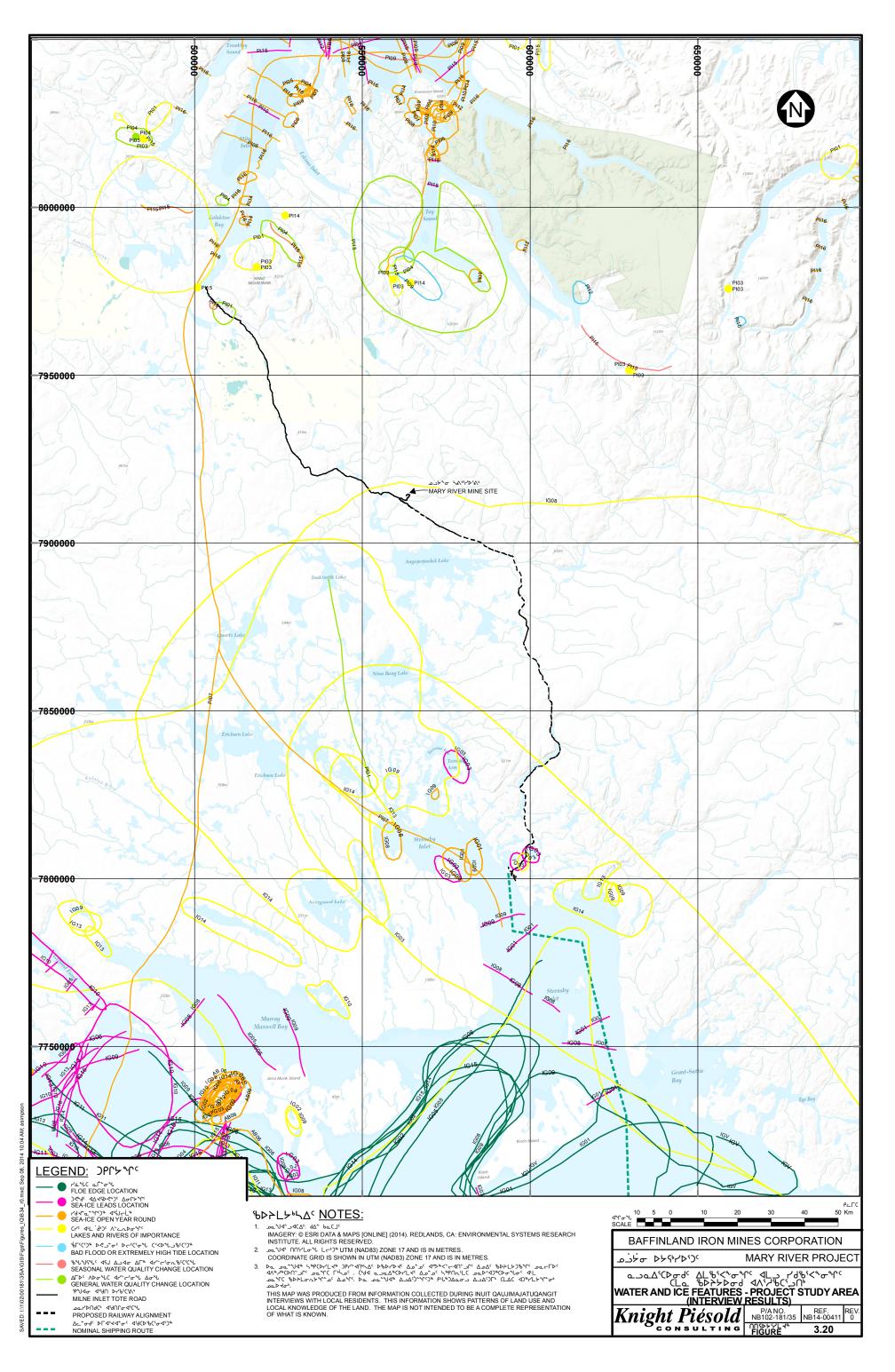
Figure No.	Rev No.	Description
Figure 1.4	0	Travel Routes - Project Study Area (Interview Results)
Figure 1.8	0	Camping Locations - Project Study Area (Workshop Results)
Figure 1.12	0	Special Places - Project Study Area (Interview Results)
Figure 3.20	0	Water and Ice Features - Project Study Area (Interview Results)
Figure 5.2	0	Fish Locations - Project Study Area (Interview Results)

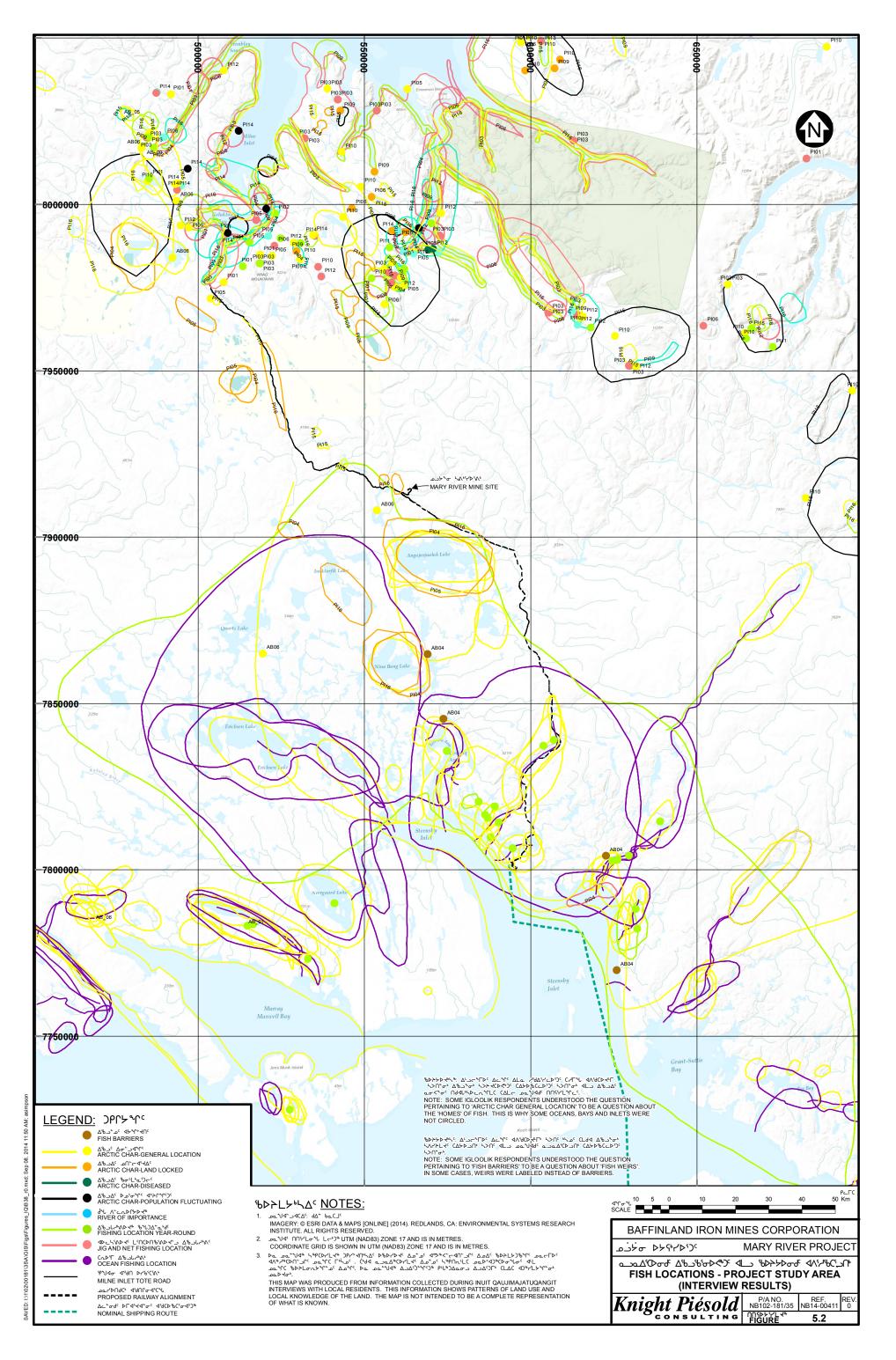












## **APPENDIX B**

## **Catchment Boundaries**

(Pages B-1 to B-9)

Figure No.	Rev No.	Description
Figure B.1	0	Water Station BR-0-1 Catchment
Figure B.2	0	Water Station BR-25-1 Catchment
Figure B.3	0	Water Station BR-37-1 Catchment
Figure B.4	0	Water Station BR-46-1 Catchment
Figure B.5	0	Water Station BR-137-1 and ST352 Catchment
Figure B.6	0	Water Station Ravn Camp Lake Catchment
Figure B.7	0	Water Station Mid-Rail Camp Lake Catchment
Figure B.8	0	Water Stations Cockburn Lake Catchments
Figure B.9	0	Water Station ST353 (3 km Lake) Catchment



