



NIRB File No.: 08MN053

NWB File No.: 2AM-MRY1325 - Amendment No. 1/G1

July 25, 2019

Lou Kamermans
Director, Sustainable Development
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
2275 Upper Middle Road East
Oakville, ON L6H 0C3

Sent via email: lou.kamermans@baffinland.com

Re: Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Request for Revised Timelines for the Coordinated NIRB/NWB Consideration of the Phase 2 Development Proposal

Dear Lou Kamermans:

On July 4, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) received correspondence from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland or Proponent) requesting changes to the current timeline for the coordinated process and the scheduling of the NIRB's public hearing for the assessment of the "Phase 2 Development Proposal" (NIRB File 08MN053; "the Project"), a proposed amendment to the approved Mary River Iron Mine.¹ This correspondence is intended to respond to Baffinland's request and provide updated timelines for the NIRB's assessment of the proposed Project and the anticipated coordination with the NWB's water licensing process.

NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In its request to the NIRB, Baffinland expressed its preference for rescheduling the planned public hearing to occur in Pond Inlet, November 4-9, 2019. As the Proponent and parties may be aware, there are insufficient hotel accommodations required to host a public hearing by the NIRB in Pond Inlet during all of November and December 2019, owing to planned renovations at Sauniq Hotel,

¹ NIRB Public Registry ID: 325819

Inns North. Recognizing this limited hotel availability, Baffinland committed to provide sufficient accommodation for planned participants at the Mary River Mine Site as necessary.

On July 22, 2019 the NIRB also received correspondence from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO) expressing support for a delay in scheduling of the public hearing as requested by Baffinland, while noting their support for hearings to be facilitated over two locations: in Iqaluit with a focus on technical sessions and in Pond Inlet with a focus on community input.

Having considered the request from Baffinland and the submission from the MHTO, and also thoroughly researched the feasibility of additional options, the NIRB has tentatively rescheduled the public hearing to occur as follows:

Location	Venue	Meeting Date	Meeting Type
Iqaluit	Cadet Hall	November 2-4, 2019	Technical Presentations
		November 5-6, 2019	Community Roundtable
Pond Inlet	Community Hall	November 8-9, 2019	Public Hearing

The planned proceedings in Iqaluit will include a community roundtable with representatives invited to attend from each of the 7 potentially-affected communities, with transportation, hotel accommodations and per diems provided by the NIRB. November 7 will be used as a travel day to transport the required meeting equipment to Pond Inlet and the NIRB's board and staff members to accommodations in Arctic Bay. The NIRB will work with Baffinland to finalize details for participants regarding accommodations and transport from the Mary River Mine Site to Pond Inlet each day November 8 and 9 to attend the public hearing proceedings.

The NIRB is also presently working with Isuma productions to investigate the feasibility of a limited broadcast of the public hearing proceedings between Pond Inlet and Iqaluit to facilitate viewing and limited participation from both venues to the extent practicable. While the necessary hotel and meeting spaces have been reserved, funding approvals from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) for the amended process must still be obtained by the NIRB and will be requested as soon as possible. The NIRB will also work with Baffinland and CIRNAC to determine the feasibility of conducting a site visit for the Board in September for the purpose of site familiarization, uncoupled from the public hearing; more details on the site visit will be released as soon as they become available.

NWB LICENCING PROCESS

The NWB noted that with respect to the Type "A" Water Licence amendment process Baffinland suggested to the NWB that parties work toward having the NWB public hearing to be completed

by February 2020. To achieve this timing, Baffinland requested that the NWB give consideration to holding a technical meeting shortly after the completion of the NIRB final hearing.

While the NWB is currently looking at the feasibility of conducting the technical meeting after the NIRB final hearing the NWB would like to note that very limited hotel accommodations in Pond Inlet during all of November and December may make this option unachievable. To discuss this or other potential options regarding the timing/venue of NWB technical meeting the NWB is inviting all parties to have a brief teleconference at 2:00 pm MT on Friday August 2, 2019. The NWB will provide the call-in information with a subsequent correspondence before the teleconference.

NEXT STEPS

The following timeline for the coordinated NIRB and NWB assessment and licensing process for the Project has been updated to reflect the delayed scheduling of the NIRB public hearing and to address the amendments requested by Baffinland:

Date	Proposed Amended Process
August 23, 2019	NIRB and Interveners receive Proponent responses to commitments from Technical Meeting
September 2019	NIRB Site Visit to Mary River (<i>TBD</i>)
September 23, 2019	NIRB receives Final Written Submissions
October 14, 2019 2019	NIRB receives Proponent response to final written submissions
November 2-9, 2019	NIRB holds Public Hearing and Community Roundtable in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet
November 2019	NWB may consider holding a technical meeting in November or early December in preparation for a February public hearing
December 24, 2019	NIRB Final Report to the Minister

In closing, the NIRB and the NWB appreciate the continued support of all parties in the ongoing assessment and water licensing for the Project.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's ongoing assessment of the Phase 2 Development proposal, please contact Solomon Amuno, Technical Advisor II at samuno@nirb.ca or 867-983-4603. If you have any questions related to the water licence application associated with the Phase 2 Development Proposal, please contact Assol Kubeisionova, Technical Advisor at assol.kubeisionova@nwb-oen.ca or 867-360-6338.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Karén Kharatyan
Acting Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board

cc: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation
Eric Ootoovak, Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization
NIRB Mary River Distribution List
NWB Mary River Distribution List