



Municipality Of Igloolik

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June 4, 2008

Ms. Leslie Payette
Manager, Environmental Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay
NU., X0B 0C0

Re: 08MN053 BIMC – Proposed Mary River Project

Dear Ms. Payette:

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the Mary River Project proposed by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation.

Following our review of the proposal, and based on previous consultations by the proponent with Council and the community about the project, many concerns and questions have been raised in Igloolik. In fact, all the concerns in your "Comment Form" as attached to your letter addressed to Mr. Chubb, dated May 23, 2008, are of concern to Igloolikmiut.

In light of the widespread concern expressed in Igloolik, the Municipality of Igloolik would like the NIRB to consider the following recommendations:

1. Overall, due to the size, scope and magnitude of the proposal, we strongly feel a full environmental review and assessment must be conducted to address widespread concerns and questions raised within the community of Igloolik about the project.
2. As part of the environmental review, the NIRB, along with the other regulatory boards (e.g. NWB, NPC) that will assess the proposal, need to establish a participant funding program as communities and other stakeholders will require adequate resources to review, research and participate in the forthcoming environmental review. To our understanding, a participant funding program is standard practice for an environmental review and assessment, particularly in this case due to the large geographical scope and the various components of the proposed project.

3. As already indicated, the proposal is large and ambitious in scope. In view of the various components of the project therefore (e.g. tote road, railway, construction camps, mining operations, airport and air traffic, deep sea port, shipping route, and all year shipping activity), we anticipate the proposal will indeed have long lasting adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic impacts that the environmental review and assessment must address.

4. In general, the Municipality of Igloolik supports a coordinated public review of the proposal as envisioned in Section 13.5.2 of the NLCA. It is extremely important, however, that any coordinated approach provide an opportunity for public input into the establishment of the guidelines before they are finalized and given to the proponent. In our view public input into the guidelines is essential to ensure that any concerns of communities and stakeholders are considered and incorporated into the future environmental impact statement (EIS).

5. A further concern, but extremely important, is that the forthcoming guidelines and subsequent EIS must account for the accumulated ecological effects on the environment and on harvesting activities in light of other projects proposed in the Foxe Basin. For Igloolik, while we are concerned about all accumulated effects due to our continued dependence upon the living resources for sustenance, we are particularly concerned about the extent and routes of all shipping activity related to the Mary River Project and any other project that may impact the marine environment and harvesting activities in Foxe Basin.

In closing, we look forward to hearing how the NIRB will respond to our recommendations, and please feel free to contact myself, or Brian Fleming, the Senior Administrative Officer, if you require additional information.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on such an important proposal, and we look forward to working with your organization on the forthcoming environmental review and assessment.

Paul Quassa



Mayor of Igloolik

c.c. Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Association
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated