



**NIRB File No. 08MN053**

June 24, 2009

To: Derek Chubb and Mary River Project Distribution List  
VP – Sustainable Development  
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation  
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

*Via Email & Fax*

**Re: Draft Guidelines for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mary River Project**

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Dear Mr. Chubb and Parties:

As you are aware, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland)'s Mary River Project proposal (the Project) is currently undergoing a Part 5 Review under Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board).

Section 12.5.2, NLCA states:

*"...The NIRB shall, upon soliciting any advice it considers appropriate, issue guidelines to the proponent for the preparation of an impact statement. It is the responsibility of the proponent to prepare an impact statement in accordance with any guidelines established by NIRB."*

In order to identify the scope of the project, and the factors to be assessed in the context of spatial and temporal scales at various project stages in the project region, the NIRB has conducted an extensive public scoping process. On March 13, 2009 the NIRB issued an initial *Draft* Scope of the project and requested that Parties provide comments to the NIRB based upon their jurisdictions and areas of expertise. Comments were received from the following Parties on or before April 9, 2009:

- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
- Canadian Transportation Agency
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Government of Nunavut, Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

- Makivik Corporation
- Manitoba Denesuline
- Natural Resources Canada
- Parks Canada
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association

The NIRB has also conducted public scoping meetings in eleven communities which were determined by the Board to be potentially impacted by the Project or affected by any potential amendment to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan required by this project proposal. These scoping meetings began at the end of March, and were completed in the middle of May 2009. A detailed *NIRB Mary River Public Scoping Meeting Summary Report* can be accessed at the NIRB's FTP site by the following link:

[http://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT\\_REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND\\_MARY\\_RIVER/2-REVIEW/03-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/SCOPING/SCOPING%20REPORT/](http://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT_REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND_MARY_RIVER/2-REVIEW/03-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/SCOPING/SCOPING%20REPORT/)

The NIRB's development of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines included assessment of the project proposal as submitted by Baffinland, the direction provided by section 12.5.2 of the NLCA, as well as valuable input provided to the Board throughout the course of the public scoping meetings.

Respecting the scale of the project, and at the request of Baffinland, the NIRB, the Nunavut Planning Commission, and the Nunavut Water Board have contemplated greater cooperation in the regulatory process during the NIRB's Part 5 Review for the Project. Therefore, the *draft* guidelines contain elements which are required to be included in the submission of the EIS to accommodate the coordination between the other institutions of public government.

The Steensby shipping route was particularly identified by the Minister of INAC in his letter to NIRB dated February 11, 2009 as one of the key components proposed by the Proponent in this project. Reflecting the Ministers direction, in addition to the public scoping meetings in the Nunavut Settlement Area, NIRB is currently consulting with Makivik Corporation in the Nunavik region of Northern Quebec and scheduling public information meetings in communities there, following the summer season.

By copying of this letter, the Board requests that interested Parties and members of the public review the *Draft* EIS Guidelines and provide comments to the NIRB based on their areas of jurisdiction and/or expertise on or before **Thursday July 23, 2009**.

The comments received will be taken into account during the NIRB's revision of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines. At the same time, the Board will determine whether a workshop of the EIS Guidelines is necessary. Please send all comments to attention of NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration Leslie Payette by email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at (867) 983-2594.

Should you require additional information please contact the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Li Wan at (867) 983-4606 or via email at [liwan@nirb.ca](mailto:liwan@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JRusk', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Rusk  
Director, Technical Services

cc: The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Attachment: *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for Baffinland  
Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project

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