



NIRB File No. 08MN053

August 5, 2009

To: Mary River Project Distribution List

*Via Email and Fax*

**Re: Comments received on the Draft Guidelines for the Part 5 Review of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project**

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Dear Parties,

On June 24, 2009 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) released for public comment the Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project (Draft EIS Guidelines). On or before August 4, 2009 NIRB received comments from the following parties:

- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (the Proponent)
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Transport Canada (TC)

All comments submissions have been uploaded to NIRB's ftp site and can be accessed at the following link:

[ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT\\_REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND\\_MARY\\_RIVER/2-REVIEW/03-SCOPING & GUIDELINES/EIS GUIDELINES/1-DRAFT/COMMENTS/](ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT_REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND_MARY_RIVER/2-REVIEW/03-SCOPING_&_GUIDELINES/EIS_GUIDELINES/1-DRAFT/COMMENTS/).

NIRB would like to thank all commenting parties for the time and efforts spent reviewing this important document; the Board is now revising the Draft EIS Guidelines accordingly. The next step in the guideline development process will be the release of Revised EIS Guidelines for public comment, anticipated to occur in early September. Parties will again have opportunity to provide their advice and expertise to the Board, highlighting any remaining areas of concern for discussion at a guideline development workshop in

early October. As per the suggestions of several commenting parties, this would be a 1-2 day workshop, tentatively scheduled for the week of October 5-9, 2009 in Iqaluit. More details on both the Revised EIS Guidelines and the Guideline Development Workshop will be released in the weeks to come.

Additionally, many of the recent comment submissions requested clarification on the coordination efforts between NIRB and the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) and NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) as pertaining to the Part 5 Review of this file. NIRB remains dedicated to a timely and efficient environmental impact assessment for the Mary River project, and looks forward to communicating additional details on the continued collaboration with both NPC and NWB to all parties in the near future.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at (867) 983-4606 or via email at [liwan@nirb.ca](mailto:liwan@nirb.ca).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Li Wan'.

Li Wan  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board