



NIRB File No. 08MN053

September 4, 2009

To: The Mary River Distribution List

Via Email and/or Fax

Re: **Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for the Part 5 Review of Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River Project**

Dear Parties,

On June 24, 2009 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) distributed *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (*Draft* EIS Guidelines) for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (the Proponent) Mary River project (the Project), with a request for comments from interested parties by July 23, 2009 (later extended to August 4, 2009). Having now reviewed comment submissions and revised the document where appropriate, the NIRB would like to provide the public with an opportunity to review the attached *Revised Draft* EIS Guidelines prior to finalization by the Board.

Pursuant to Section 12.5.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement:

"...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."

It is the NIRB's intention to provide comprehensive project-specific EIS Guidelines to the Proponent which gives clear direction on the information requirements of all reviewers for the impact assessment of the Project. The Board asks that parties with jurisdictional authority over any aspect of the project and/or with technical expertise to offer pertaining to the assessment of the project now review the *Revised Draft* EIS Guidelines and provide their comments to the Board on or before **Monday, September 21, 2009**. Comment submissions should reference the relevant section of the guidelines (please include page and section numbers), the issue and the comment or proposed change to the document. Those parties requiring a hardcopy of the Proponent's future *Draft* EIS submission should also include mailing addresses and the number of copies requested within their comment submission.

As previously announced, the NIRB's staff will also be hosting a guideline development workshop at Nova Inn in Iqaluit on September 29-30, to further resolve any outstanding issues pertaining to the *Revised Draft* Guidelines prior to finalization. The Board asks that parties planning to attend this workshop provide a list of their planned representatives and the key issues they wish to have included in the agenda for the workshop. Any parties requiring interpretation for the workshop are also asked to indicate this to the NIRB as soon as possible to permit proper planning.

Finally, the NIRB would like to acknowledge the requests from parties for clarification on the NIRB and Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) joint review process for the transportation corridor proposed by this project, as well as the ongoing coordination efforts between the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for the Part 5 Review process used for this and other files. The NIRB has been working closely with both the NPC and the NWB and will be issuing joint correspondence to this distribution list under separate cover, with a clear process map and corresponding written descriptions speaking to both of these initiatives. Further opportunity for discussion of these coordination efforts will be provided at the upcoming guideline development workshop.

The Board would like to thank all parties for their continued commitment to ensuring an efficient and thorough Part 5 Review of the Mary River project. The NIRB asks that interested parties please forward their comments regarding:

- The *Revised Draft* EIS Guidelines;
- Hardcopies required of the future *Draft* EIS submission; and,
- Planned attendance at the guideline development workshop, key issues for discussion, and requirement for interpretation.

All comments should be submitted directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**, on or before **Monday September 21, 2009**.

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

Best regards,



Li Wan
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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