



NIRB File No.: 08MN053
INAC File No.: N2008T0014
QIA File No.: LUA-2008-008
DFO File No.: 2008 MR
NWB File No.: 2AM-MRY-xxxx

September 10, 2010

Mary River Project Distribution List

Via Email and Fax

Re: Consideration of a New Alternative in the Draft EIS for the Mary River Project

Dear Parties:

On September 7, 2010, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the enclosed correspondence from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) regarding the NIRB's review of the proposed Mary River Project (Project). Baffinland is currently preparing its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) submission in accordance with the EIS Guidelines issued by the NIRB pursuant to Section 12.5.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Once accepted by the NIRB, the Draft EIS will form the basis of the technical review of the Project and is, therefore, required to address the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts related to the proposed Project.

Baffinland has expressed its intention to include a new alternative means of carrying out the Project, the "Road Haulage Option" into its Draft EIS for this review. This alternative would involve trucking iron ore from the Mary River Deposit No. 1 to Milne Inlet, with shipment of the ore to markets during the open water season. The road haulage construction and operation is proposed to occur in parallel with the construction and operation of the railway from Mary River to Steensby Inlet. Baffinland is currently seeking confirmation from the NIRB that the EIS Guidelines as issued provide sufficient guidance for Baffinland to adequately address the potential socio-economic and ecosystemic effects of this "Road Haulage Option" as an alternative means of carrying out the Project.

The EIS Guidelines for the Project as well as the enclosed correspondence can also be accessed online from the NIRB's ftp site using the following link:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT_REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND_MARY_RIVER/2-REVIEW/03-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/02-EIS%20GUIDELINES/3-FINAL/

Prior to providing further guidance to Baffinland on this issue, the Board requests that parties which would have jurisdictional authority and/or with technical expertise over any aspect of the proposed "Road Haulage Option" provide their comments to the NIRB regarding:

- Any additional information to that has been outlined in the EIS Guidelines for the Project which might be required by reviewers to ensure that the proposed "Road Haulage Option" can be adequately assessed as part of the technical review of the Draft EIS.
- Any other related comments or concerns regarding the inclusion of the proposed alternative in the Draft EIS.

Please submit your comments directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594 on or before **October 1, 2010**.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (867) 983-4606 or via email at liwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Li Wan
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Dionne Filiatrault, NWB (dionne@nunavutwaterboard.org)
Sharon Ehaloak, NPC (sehaloak@nunavut.ca)
Matthew Pickard, BIMC (matthew.pickard@baffinland.com)

Enclosed: 100907-08MN053-BIMC Ltr to NIRB re Road Haulage Option-IT1E
100907-08MN053-BIMC Road Haulage Option Description-IT1E