

NIRB File No.: 08MN053
INAC File No.: N2008T0014
QIA File No.: LUA-2008-008
DFO File No.: 2008 MR

February 2, 2011

Matthew Pickard
Director, EHS & Sustainability
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Suite 1016, 120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

Via Email: matthew.pickard@baffinland.com

Re: Receipt of Draft EIS Submission for the Mary River Project

Dear Matthew Pickard:

On January 21, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a hard copy Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) submission for the Mary River Project (the Project) from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland or Proponent).

The Board has commenced a review of the Draft EIS submission for conformity with the NIRB's issued EIS Guidelines¹. The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) will assist the NIRB in the conformity review of the Draft EIS against the information requirements of the relevant appendices of the Guidelines pertaining to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP) and the Type A Water Licence Application for the Project. This conformity review is a presence or absence analysis only; it is not intended to evaluate the quality of the information presented, although it may point out significant deficiencies encountered.

If the Draft EIS submission is deemed to be satisfactory, the NIRB will distribute the Draft EIS to the public and commence a technical review period. This technical review period will provide interested parties with an opportunity to analyze the adequacy and quality of the information presented within the Draft EIS and provide the NIRB with their technical review comments. During the technical review period, the NIRB will work with the NPC and NWB to evaluate the information in the Draft EIS pertaining to their respective jurisdictions, and the Board will

request that interested parties also provide their feedback within their technical review comments.

The Board anticipates completion of this review, and an indication on the acceptability of the Draft EIS submission, by **February 11, 2011**.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry,
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Brian Aglukark, NPC (aglukark@nunavut.ca)
Dionne Filiatrault, NWB (dionne@nunavutwaterboard.org)
Mary River Distribution List