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March 8th, 2011



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NIRB File: 08MN053
DFO File: NU-08-0001
EC File: 4703 003 018

Subject: Request for Extension for Information Requests for Mary River Project

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Environment Canada (EC) are currently reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River Project as per the letter from the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) on February 15th, 2011.

Given the breadth and complexity of the EIS and the number of experts involved, DFO and EC are concerned that a 30 day review period will provide insufficient time to conduct an effective analysis to determine what information is needed, and to develop the information requests necessary to inform the next steps in the review process. Additionally the review was hampered by hardcopy printing problems which delayed the shipment of DVD and hardcopies to reviewers. As such, key experts within DFO and EC did not begin receiving the DVD or hard copy versions of the EIS until February 22nd, with some reviewers receiving DVD's on March 2nd and hard copies on March 7th, and one expert reviewer, as of March 8th, has yet to receive a hard copy.

To ensure our expert reviewers have adequate time to fully review the draft EIS, DFO and EC respectfully request the Nunavut Impact Review Board consider extending the deadline for the submission of information requests from March 17th, 2011 to March 31st, 2011. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Nicola Johnson at nicola.johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca (867-669-4933), or Mark Dahl at mark.dahl@ec.gc.ca (204-983-4815).

Sincerely,

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