



As a point of clarification, the 30 days provided within the NIRB's review timeline for the provision of information requests by parties is *not* meant to include time taken by the Proponent to supply digital copies or hard copies of the *Draft* EIS to reviewers. Prior to issuing the Final EIS Guidelines for the review of this Project, the NIRB canvassed all parties on its distribution list to determine which reviewers would like to have copies of a future *Draft* EIS submission sent to them directly by the Proponent. Following acceptance of the *Draft* EIS by the NIRB and prior to commencing the 30 day information request period, the NIRB ensured that the full *Draft* EIS was made available to the public through the Board's online registry<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, all parties have had access to this document since commencement of the technical review period, and any delay in the shipment of digital copies and hard copies of the submission to reviewers, while inconvenient, is not adequate justification for extending the current deadline.

While the Board recognizes the importance of the full participation of DFO and EC in the review of this Project and appreciates the concerns raised by both parties, at this time the NIRB is not prepared to extend the deadline for submission of information requests based upon the rationale provided. The NIRB has an obligation to adhere as closely as possible to its published review timeline<sup>2</sup> and expects that all parties will endeavour to structure their participation in the review process in accordance with the timelines set by the Board. The NIRB will continue to consider such requests for flexibility in its timelines on a case by case basis and looks forward to working with all parties to maintain an efficient and timely review process.

Once again, the NIRB requests that all interested parties submit their information requests to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or by fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **5:00 pm MST, Thursday, March 17, 2011**.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at [lawn@nirb.ca](mailto:lawn@nirb.ca) or (867) 983-4606.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
Director, Technical Services

cc: Mary River Distribution List

Enclosed: DFO and EC Letter to NIRB Re Extension Request (Received March 9, 2011)

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<sup>1</sup>Draft EIS Submission available at: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND%20MARY%20RIVER/2-REVIEW/05-DRAFT%20EIS/DEIS%20SUBMISSION/>

<sup>2</sup> NIRB Guide 5: Guide to the NIRB Review Process, Appendix A