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DFO file : NU-07-0050

NIRB file : 08MN053

March 17, 2011

Mr. Li Wan  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut  
X0B 0C0

***Via E-mail to:***  
info@nirb.ca

Dear Mr. Li Wan:

**Subject: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Comments on the Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Mary River project**

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Baffinland Iron Ore Mines Ltd's Mary River Project and submits the following information requests for the Nunavut Impact Review Board's consideration.

As you are aware, DFO is the federal department responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs in support of Canada's scientific, ecological, social and economic interests in oceans and freshwater.

The proposed components of the project have the potential to impact many areas that fall within DFO's mandate and as such, DFO elicited the input of numerous internal scientific experts. As raised in our letter of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, due to time constraints given the breadth and complexity of the DEIS, DFO is uncertain that we have identified all significant information gaps within the DEIS in this submission. We have, however, endeavoured to continue to participate in the review within the timelines set by the NIRB.

DFO has provided as complete an information request as possible, but it should be noted that some significant information gaps may not be apparent without the more detailed technical review afforded in the 60 day technical review period. As advised by the Board in their letter of March 11, 2011, DFO will bring these additional matters to the Board's attention in their Technical Review Submission following that period.

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The current submission encompasses information gaps that were brought forward by our internal experts in the format requested within the timeline provided. Should the information requested or the rationale supporting the need for the identified information prior to the conduct of the Technical Review not be clear, or should the proponent feel that the requested information is in fact addressed in the EIS, the NIRB and the proponent are encouraged to consult with DFO prior to the submission of information request responses in order to seek clarification regarding the request.

Please note, all of the information requests included in the following submission are directed to the proponent. If there are any questions or clarification needed regarding DFO's comments, please contact Nicola Johnson at [nicola.johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:nicola.johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or by phone at (867) 669-4933.

Sincerely,



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Regional Manager, Environmental Assessment  
Central and Arctic Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc. Eric Kan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
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