

Concerns/comments regarding Mary River Project Development Proposal

What must be understood is the scope of the project, as noted by the Mary River Head Geologist Tom Ionelli, what was mined during Nanisivik's 20 plus life span is to be mined in 1 ½ years (if I remember correctly) for the next 20 plus years at Mary River and the depth of the open pit is akin to that of Toronto's CN tower.

During peak operations, the workforce is expected to increase to about 1,000 personnel in 2010. In comparison according to 2006 statistics, the two closest largest communities Pond Inlet's population was about 1,315 with Igloolik at 1,538.

With both communities and the structure-government and services offered, Mary River will be a community in itself and based on population will require all water and garbage regulations to be followed. It would be most appropriate and one which isn't covered in the proposal (and is possibly beyond their scope) is the need for a committee comprised of personnel at the site and the representatives from the adjacent communities who will look out for the interests of workers there), this group to be recognized by the officials from all organizations involved and the proponent Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation.

Unions:

Unionizing workers is one which is not mentioned and one which will be a requirement once the mine is operational; there will be a need to co-ordinate this with QIA and their negotiations because of the uniqueness of the North and to ensure that working relationships are kept. (Perhaps part of IIBA agreements).

Youth

Hall Beach had recently had the most graduates they had ever and with the potential mine operations at Mary River and in Igloolik has spurred interest in continuing education along with more community involvement. This is also the case for the other adjacent communities with more going on to other areas of study. What Baffinland may wish to consider is to hire summer students where possible to include fostering youth and student experiences.

De-icing/incinerator:

The Mary River airstrip is on the same level as the Camp Lake located about 3 km from the mine site so the de-icing solution run-off could cause possible leeching into the camp drinking water. The incinerator is also currently right next to the lake (I was told that it will be moved) as well so any airborne pollutants may go into the lake. The landfill site will be used to dispose of only inert solid waste and ashes from the incinerator. This is fine but during the life of the operations what must be considered is if it won't affect the current health of those on site.

Consultation with communities:

It is understood that the current status of the mine is still at the feasibility stage and outlined in Table 6.1 are the different consultation processes that were undertaken by the proponent. Many questions and concerns were raised at the different levels and the general feeling is that the main purpose was for data collection or updates on the project(s) only with some changes as a direct result because they were raised to people who were in an authority to do so. Some items of concern raised such as employee firing and rehiring were brought up at the meetings and were items that had no where or a system to be vetted out or followed up on. This maybe an item to be outlined in the IIBA agreements but aside from logistics on carrying out projects, human resources should also be carefully considered on how matters can be resolved or heard rather than waiting for public meetings.

What is of concern is that it seems that Baffinland has distanced themselves from their original commitments. Consultations have been conducted with the five adjacent communities and Iqaluit and rolled it all into one but there is a general feeling and expectations with nothing coming out of it. One example is supply of goods from the Pond Inlet Co-op given over to a birthright corporation who was in a sense in a conflict of interest situation and competing against the very interests they were mandated to protect and nurture. It is seen that in instances such as this that it provokes mistrust albeit good business practice but in some cases the uniqueness of the North has to be factored in and public relations considered.

Without any obvious infrastructure or investment spin-offs to Pond Inlet, being the main community affected under their land use plans, Baffinland must also be seen to try to assist the two main airlines Canadian North and First Air used by the North Baffin residents. It is realized that using company owned aircraft is economically feasible, but investing into the local airlines would help improve the economy where possible.

There are still racial or unequal treatment issues which must be handled with diplomacy and the project not be viewed as it is only at the “feasibility” stage that what goes on right now does not count.

As outlined in the proposal, the communities of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset are geographically, socio-economically, and eco-systematically removed from the Project area and while Project ships pass near to the community, recent harvest data show they do not extend into Hudson Strait area so they will not be consulted. Olayuk Akasuk, MLA for Baffin South and Minister of Environment had expressed concern at the Legislative Assembly that both his constituency communities were never consulted and the shipping routes proposed will be going through the abundant marine activity areas.

Contaminants:

There has been a helicopter crash consisting of archeological crew members from Knight Piesold at Mary River with no fatalities and fuel spillage at Steensby Inlet resulting in about 8,000 litres of the stored fuel bladder which was said to be contained by the skirting. Proper storage of salt is also said to be noted as a problem-so updates on clean-

ups will need to be communicated back to the adjacent communities to allay any and all concerns.

Contaminated soils from vehicles are said to be brought to another site and put in a landfill site and buried. Page 53 mentions that the contaminated soils will be managed as appropriate and in the judgment of the proponent, with the amount of vehicles to be on site there has to be a better plan rather than individually disposing of it as deemed appropriate.

Reclamation:

As it was mentioned the open pit mined will be equivalent to that of the CN tower and what is not mentioned is the water collection that will be already in the pit and whether there are plans on purifying the water to acceptable standards and releasing back the water before closing the pit.

November 2007 North Baffin CED workshop report:

Attached is a copy of the report on North Baffin CED workshop held November 2007 in Pond Inlet which involved 3 community representatives from Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arctic Bay, Hall Beach and Igloolik (who couldn't attend due to weather). Please note: the highest priority/concern is employment and training along with the IIBA agreement and wildlife, country food, hunting and fishing issues.

Overall, the development proposal leaves a lot of questions unanswered and look forward to reading all the other compiled reports which at the time of the proposal seem to be incomplete and have yet to be considered.