



Environment
Canada

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Environmental Protection Operations
P.O. Box 2310
5019 – 52nd St,
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P7

April 21, 2011

Our file: 4703 003 018
NIRB File: 08MN053

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

Via email: info@nirb.ca

Re: Environment Canada Information Request Responses (NIRB: 08MN053)

On March 24, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) circulated the information requests directed to parties involved in the initial review of the DEIS for the Mary River Project.

Environment Canada (EC) was implicated in Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) information requests IR 10, IR 33 and IR 35.

IR Number: QIA - 10

To: All Parties

Subject: Impact Assessment Thresholds

Request:

It is requested that clarity be provided as to whether it is reasonable to apply the same 10% threshold to assess the broad range of different impacts found in the DEIS.

EC Response:

Impact thresholds will vary depending on the state of the receiving environment the species involved. As a result, EC will evaluate the applicability of thresholds on mandated areas as part of its technical review of the DEIS and will advise the Board of its findings.

IR Number: QIA - 33

To: All parties

Subject: Applicable Acts, Regulations, Guidelines, and, Policies

Request:

It is requested that each Responsible Agency provide a summary of the project components that will require their attention according to the mandates authorized unto them by their governing jurisdictions. It is requested that each Responsible Agency provide context into their role in inspection, monitoring, and enforcement activities with respect to their act/regulation.

EC Response:

For the Mary River assessment EC's review will focus on climate change, air quality, water quality, pollution prevention, management of toxics, migratory birds and impacts on SARA species. Key legislation includes Section 36(3) of the Fisheries Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999, Migratory Birds Convention Act and Species at Risk Act.

Briefly stated Environment Canada's mandate is to:

- preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, including water, air, soil, flora and fauna;
- conserve Canada's renewable resources;
- conserve and protect Canada's water resources;
- forecast daily weather conditions and warnings, and provide detailed meteorological information to all of Canada;
- enforce rules relating to boundary waters; and
- coordinate environmental policies and programs for the federal government.

Environment Canada's website (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=BD3CE17D-1>) provides outlines the inspection, monitoring and enforcement activities that are undertaken based on EC's mandate.

IR Number: QIA - 35

To: All Responsible Authorities

Subject: Interactions with Communities

Request: It is requested that each Responsible Agency with a permit, licence or other approval commit to presenting their role in the project assessment and operational setting for the proposed project. To assist with this commitment, QIA will commit to working with all Responsible Agencies to facilitate effective community interactions.

EC Response:

EC appreciates QIA's offer to facilitate consultation between regulators and the communities and while EC is not a regulator for this project we will certainly take advantage of QIA's offer if required.

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing please contact Carey Ogilvie at (867) 669 4737 or via email at carey.ogilvie@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Mark Dahl

Environmental Assessment and Marine Protection Division
Environment Canada

cc:

Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT
Anne Wilson, Water Pollution Specialist, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT
Paula Smith, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environmental Assessment North, EPO, Iqaluit, NU
Jane Fitzgerald, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environmental Assessment North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT
Dave Fox, Air Issues Specialist, Environmental Assessment North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT
Glenn Groskopf, Mining Project Officer, EPO, Regina, SK
B. Kochtubajda, Climate Processes Project Leader, Environment Canada, Edmonton, AB
Lisa Perry, Environmental Assessment North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT
James Hodson, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, CWS, Yellowknife, NT
Dave Tildon, Hazardous Materials Specialist, Environmental Emergencies, Yellowknife, NT
Brenda Toth, Hydrologist, MSC Operations Prairie and Northern, Saskatoon, SK