



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
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May 6, 2011

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

NIRB File#: 08MN053
NRCan File#: NT-056

Via email: info@nirb.ca

Re: Natural Resources Canada Information Request Responses regarding Baffinland Ltd.'s Mary River Project

On March 24, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) circulated the information requests directed to parties involved in the initial review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Mary River Project. A response from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) information requests IR 10, IR 33 and IR 35 is attached.

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing please contact the undersigned at (613) 943 0773 or via email at John.Clarke@nrcan.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

John Clarke
A/Director, Environmental Assessment SPI
Natural Resources Canada



Natural Resources Canada Information Request Responses regarding Baffinland Ltd.'s Mary River Project

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.

NRCan Response: NRCan is not in a position to comment on the validity of a 10% threshold across a broad range of impacts, which are by and large outside the scope of our areas of expertise. However if during the review of the EIS, the proponent's methodology appears to be unsubstantiated in an area within NRCan's expertise, the department would raise this as a potential issue in our technical review report to the NIRB.

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.

NRCan Response: For Baffinlands' Mary River Project, the regulatory role identified by NRCan is in relation to the proposed explosives factory, which will require a licence under the federal *Explosives Act*. NRCan's role in inspection, monitoring and enforcement activities includes periodic facility inspections of the explosives factory site for compliance with respect to the *Explosives Act* and its regulations. This includes factory site-specific issues such as spills of ammonium nitrate or fuel oil, and wastewater and solid waste handling and disposal. Non-compliance is communicated to factory managers, and depending on the issue, also communicated to federal and territorial agencies responsible for mining regulation.

In addition to our regulatory role, NRCan has broader roles and responsibilities to contribute to economic competitiveness, environmental responsibility, the safety and security of Canadians and the stewardship of natural resources. Specific to the review of the Mary River project through the NIRB, science and technical experts from NRCan's Earth Sciences Sector have participated in the review of the NIRB's EIS Guidelines and are participating in the review of the DEIS in the following areas: the assessment of permafrost and terrain sensitivity, which is relevant to the design and operation of road, rail, port facilities and mine infrastructure; climate change scenarios, sea level change and extreme climate events, which are of particular relevance for mine and coastal infrastructure; and, potential shipping impacts on landfast sea ice. It should be noted that the department has no inspection or enforcement jurisdiction related these areas of scientific and technical expertise.



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.

NRCan Response:

NRCan appreciates QIA's offer to facilitate the sharing of information between regulators and the local communities. We would be pleased to work with QIA and federal government departments to discuss plans for effective and appropriate community interaction.