



NIRB File No. 08MN053

May 10, 2011

Mary River Distribution List

Sent Via Email

Re: Comments requested from Responsible Authorities prior to commencing the Technical Review Period

Dear Parties:

On May 5, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the enclosed correspondence from Baffinland Iron Mines Corp. (Baffinland) regarding the NIRB's review of the Mary River project proposal (NIRB File No. 08MN053). At the request of the NIRB, Baffinland has clarified its intentions for addressing outstanding Information Requests (IRs) and the proposed removal of the Road Haulage Option alternative from consideration in the NIRB's Review process.

To date, Baffinland's response to IRs has consisted of an IR Response package received by NIRB on April 15, 2011 and supplementary materials received by NIRB on April 26, 2011. Baffinland has indicated that the remainder of IRs would be responded to in a submission to be hand-delivered to the NIRB on Friday, May 13, 2011. Upon receipt of this submission the NIRB will post all files to its online registry and will also distribute notice to the public regarding where this information can be accessed.

Following the IR period, the next step in the NIRB's Review process is the commencement of the technical review period, allowing opportunity for parties to analyze the completeness and quality of the information presented by the Proponent in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). A technical review of the Draft EIS consists of the development of technical review comments by parties which include the following:

- Determination of whether Parties agree/disagree with the conclusions in the Draft EIS regarding the alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, significance of impacts, and monitoring measures – and reasons to support the determination;
- Determination of whether or not conclusions in the Draft EIS are supported by the analysis – and reasons to support the determination;
- Determination of whether appropriate methodology was utilized in the Draft EIS to develop conclusions – and reasons to support the determination, along with any proposed alternative methodologies which may be more appropriate (if applicable);

- Assessment of the quality and presentation of the information in the Draft EIS; and
- Any comments regarding additional information which would be useful in assessing impacts – and reasons to support any comments made.

It is recognized that the Review process is largely iterative, with a technical review period for both a draft and final version of an EIS allowing multiple opportunities for resolving information deficiencies and other concerns prior to reaching the Final Hearing. However, before commencing the technical review period the NIRB must have assurance that responsible authorities and other reviewers have sufficient information to provide the Board with their analyses of the conclusions presented within the Draft EIS.

By copy of this correspondence, the NIRB would like to provide opportunity for responsible authorities and interested parties to notify the Board of any concerns regarding the adequacy of the IR Responses that have been provided by BIMC to date. In particular, the NIRB requests that responsible authorities provide an indication of the degree to which their respective IRs have been satisfied, and identify any outstanding issues which might significantly hamper the fulfillment of their respective mandates should the technical review period commence.

Please forward all comment submissions to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594 by **Friday, May 20, 2011**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or liwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Director, Technical Services

cc: Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.

Enclosed: BIMC Letter to NIRB Re Environmental Review of the Mary River Project (May 5, 2011)