



OIA File No.: LUA-2008-008

AAND File No.: N2008T0014

DFO File No.: 2008 MR

NRCan File No.: NT-056

TC File No.: 7184-17-5

August 5, 2011

To: Mary River Distribution List

*Sent Via Email*

**Re: New Deadline for Submission of Technical Review Comments for the NIRB's Review of Baffinland's Mary River Project**

Dear Parties:

On July 21, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a request from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) for an extension to the deadline for submission of technical review comments associated with the NIRB's Review of Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s (Baffinland or Proponent) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mary River Project proposal (the Project). Specifically the QIA requested that the comment deadline be extended from September 6, 2011 to October 5, 2011 in recognition of the additional time required to meet the constraints of its internal review process. Prior to granting this extension request, the NIRB provided an opportunity for parties to advise of any potential scheduling conflicts or other matters warranting consideration by the Board.

On or before August 4, 2011 the NIRB received comments from the following parties:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AAND)
- Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC)
- Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Hamlets of Pond Inlet, Igloolik and Hall Beach
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Parks Canada (PC)
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)

All comments can be accessed from the NIRB's online registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND%20MARY%20RIVER/2-REVIEW/06-CONFORMITY%20TECH%20REVIEW/01-CORRESPONDENCE/>

Given that commenting parties were unanimous in expressing their support for the requested timeline extension, the NIRB is hereby granting the QIA's request and extending the deadline for the submission of technical review comments to **October 5, 2011**. In addition to respecting the rationale for QIA's request, the NIRB also recognizes the need expressed by several parties for additional time to prepare technical review comments which are contingent upon additional information being supplied by Baffinland in the coming days. The requirements for technical review comments remain unchanged from those outlined in the enclosed correspondence issued to this distribution list by the NIRB on July 5, 2011.

#### ***Revised Timeline for Next Steps in NIRB's Review Process***

- Submission of technical review comments to the NIRB by October 5, 2011.
- Circulation of draft agenda for NIRB technical meeting by October 10, 2011.
- Submission of Baffinland's response to technical review comments by October 14, 2011.
- Technical meeting in Iqaluit October 18-20, 2011.
- Community roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) in Igloolik *tentatively scheduled for* October 22-23, 2011.
- Community roundtable and PHC in Pond Inlet *tentatively scheduled for* October 25-26, 2011.
- PHC Report to be issued by NIRB by November 26, 2011.

#### **Other issues**

The NIRB is currently working with the communities of Pond Inlet and Igloolik regarding the logistics around the tentatively-scheduled dates for community roundtables and pre-hearing conferences. It is the NIRB's intention to finalize these tentative dates and communicate further scheduling details to all parties for planning purposes as soon as practicably possible. Also, recognizing that several parties also raised issues related to the current NIRB review process for the Project in their respective comment submissions to the NIRB, the Board also intends to respond under separate cover in the coming days to provide further direction/clarification where warranted.

Once again, the Board requests that all interested parties submit their Technical Review Comments to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or by fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **12:00 pm MST, October 5, 2011**.

If you have any questions or require further clarification on the NIRB Review process moving forward, please do not hesitate to contact Li Wan, NIRB Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or via email at [liwan@nirb.ca](mailto:liwan@nirb.ca).

If you have any questions or require further clarification on the NWB Licensing process moving forward, please do not hesitate to contact Sean Joseph, NWB Technical Advisor, at (867) 360-6338 or via email at [sjoseph@nunavutwaterboard.org](mailto:sjoseph@nunavutwaterboard.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Erik Madsen, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.  
Brian Aglukark, NPC  
David Hohnstein, NWB  
Robert St. Eloi, QIA  
Luc Fortin, CTA  
Margaux Brisco, AAND  
Derrick Moggy, DFO  
Christopher Aguirre, TC  
Rob Johnstone, NRCan

Enclosed: NIRB Letter to Distribution Re Technical Review Comments (July 5, 2011)