

NIRB File No.: 08MN053

August 9, 2011

To:

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Sent via email and fax

Re: Consideration of Seaport Alternatives in the NIRB's Review of Baffinland's Mary River Project

Dear Sirs:

On August 3, 2011, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a joint response from the mayors of Igloolik, Hall Beach and Pond Inlet to the Board's July 27, 2011 request for comments regarding a potential extension to the deadline for submission of technical review comments for the NIRB's review of the Mary River project proposal (the Project), as requested by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA). As indicated by the Board on August 5, 2011 the deadline for submission of technical review comments related to Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s (Baffinland) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Project has been extended to October 5, 2011. The NIRB appreciates the input received from all parties on this issue, and believes that accommodating the extension will make possible more effective public engagement in the NIRB's review of this file.

In addition to expressing support for the QIA's request, your correspondence also highlighted your communities' concerns regarding the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the proposed seaport location for the Project, and a desire to have an alternate site selected. A full analysis of all technically- and economically-feasible alternatives for key project components and activities is an essential part of the NIRB's review process. As we move forward in the technical review of Baffinland's Draft EIS for the Project, it remains extremely important for the Board to continue to hear from parties regarding whether they agree or disagree with the conclusions presented by Baffinland regarding project alternatives and related impacts, mitigation and/or compensation, and their general acceptability. Please be assured that the comments in your most recent correspondence to the Board will be given full consideration

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along with the technical review comments to be submitted by all parties on or before October 5, 2011.

The NIRB appreciates the continued participation by your communities in this review and looks forward to the Board's upcoming community roundtables and Pre-Hearing Conferences (PHCs) in Igloolik and Pond Inlet as an opportunity for continued dialogue and discussion. We are confident that your active participation will help to ensure that these meetings are successful, and our staff will continue to be in contact with your offices as we make the related meeting preparations going forward.

If you have any questions or require any information pertaining to the NIRB's review of the Mary River project, please do not hesitate to contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or via email at lwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Executive Director

cc: Mary River Distribution List

Erik Madsen, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.