

**NIRB File No.: 08MN053**

August 12, 2011

To: Mary River Distribution List

Sent Via Email

Re: Revised Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conferences Dates for NIRB's Review of Baffinland's Mary River project proposal

Dear Parties:

On July 5, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) commenced the technical review and public comment period for Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s (Baffinland or Proponent) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Mary River Project (the Project). As indicated in previous correspondence to this distribution list, the deadline for the submission of technical review comments to the Board is now 12:00 pm MST, October 5, 2011. Following the receipt of technical review comment submissions, the NIRB will be hosting a Technical Meeting in Iqaluit and Pre-Hearing Conferences (PHC) in Igloolik and Pond Inlet for this file. The Board is now able to confirm the scheduling for these events as follows:

1. Technical Meeting: Navigator Inn, Iqaluit, October 18-20, 2011
2. Community Roundtable and PHC: Igloolik, November 6-7, 2011
3. Community Roundtable and PHC: Pond Inlet, November 9-10, 2011

Parties are advised that simultaneous English-Inuktitut interpretation will be made available for the Technical Meeting, community roundtables and PHCs. Draft agendas and meeting materials will be circulated in advance of meeting dates.

TECHNICAL MEETING

The NIRB will be hosting a Technical Meeting at the Navigator Inn in Iqaluit, October 18-20, 2011. The objective of the Technical Meeting will be to facilitate informal face-to-face discussion on technical matters related to the Draft EIS in an effort to resolve outstanding technical issues prior to the Pre-Hearing Conferences (PHCs). As such the Board is not present and the meeting is facilitated by NIRB staff, with breakout sessions on key topics (e.g. wildlife, socio-economic issues, water quality, etc.) allowing active participation by the proponent and regulatory authorities. The agenda for the meeting will be developed to reflect the outstanding issues raised in the technical review comments submitted by parties on October 5, 2011 and will be circulated to allow additional input prior to being finalized. The Proponent will also be asked

to submit all presentation materials required for the Technical Meeting following the receipt of technical review comments and prior to the commencement of the Technical Meeting.

During the technical meeting, NIRB staff will track all commitments made by the Proponent regarding resolution of technical issues, with all commitments compiled into a list forming part of the meeting record. The list of commitments would then be carried forward to the PHCs for consideration by the Board and incorporation into the PHC Report.

COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCES

The NIRB has scheduled PHCs for November 6-7, 2011 in Igloolik and November 9-10, 2011 in Pond Inlet. While the technical meeting is a structured but largely informal opportunity for technical experts to resolve outstanding issues, the PHCs are more formal in nature and generally have more limited participation, with key individuals representing each responsible authority and the Proponent, respectively. The objective of the PHCs is to allow for discussion of such matters as: timelines for submissions and the Final Hearing, future meetings, evidence, document exchange, Final Hearing venue(s), Final Hearing format and any other matters related to the logistics of the Final Hearing. The PHCs provide an opportunity for parties to present to the Board the issues that were resolved during the technical meeting, and those issues which remain outstanding. They also enable the Board to hear from the public regarding the conclusions presented within the Draft EIS.

A preparatory community roundtable will immediately precede each PHC held by the NIRB and will include representation from communities identified as being potentially impacted by the proposed project, in order to facilitate meaningful participation of community members in the NIRB PHCs. The NIRB will work with the Hamlet offices of each community to identify up to three community representatives from each which will be sponsored to attend these meetings, with costs for travel and lodging covered by the NIRB. Community representatives will be briefed on the format of the PHCs at the community roundtable, and will have an opportunity to question the Proponent directly regarding its project proposal.

The community roundtable in Igloolik will include participation from representatives from Hall Beach, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut and Iqaluit and the host community of Igloolik, while the roundtable in Pond Inlet will include representation from Arctic Bay, Resolute, Grise Fiord and Clyde River and the host community of Pond Inlet. The meetings have been scheduled over two communities to accommodate the number of people involved, with a day scheduled for travel between each set of meetings on November 8, 2011. Please note that, although it is not the Board's preferred practice to host community meetings on Sundays, the observance of Remembrance Day on Friday, November 11 combined with availability of lodging in the respective communities has made the current scheduling necessary.

Following the PHCs, the Board will issue a PHC Report which provides direction to the Proponent regarding what is required in the Final EIS and the procedures for the review of the Final EIS and Final Hearing.

TIMELINE FOR NEXT STEPS IN NIRB'S REVIEW PROCESS

The next steps in the NIRB's review for the Mary River project proposal are as follows:

- Submission of technical review comments to the NIRB by 12:00 pm MST, 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 PHC in Igloolik, November 6-7, 2011.
- Community roundtable and PHC in Pond Inlet, November 9-10, 2011.
- PHC Report to be issued by NIRB by December 10, 2011.

The NIRB appreciates the continued support of all parties, particularly the communities of Igloolik and Pond Inlet, as the Board works to finalize logistics and ensure the success of these upcoming events. If you have any questions or require any information pertaining to the Board'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 liwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director

cc: Erik Madsen, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.
Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission
David Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board
Paul Quassa, Mayor of Igloolik
Jaykolassie Killiktee, Mayor of Pond Inlet