

NIRB File No.: 08MN053

October 26, 2011

To: Mary River Distribution List

Sent Via Email

Re: Next Steps in the NIRB's Review of Baffinland's Mary River Project

Dear Parties:

Following the Technical Meeting held recently in Iqaluit as part of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Review of the Mary River project, the NIRB distributed a *draft* Commitment List for parties' comment and revision. A finalized version of this list will be forwarded to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) under separate cover later today with a request for its final revisions and acceptance to be provided to the NIRB on Friday October 28, 2011. Once accepted by Baffinland, the finalized Commitment List will be brought forward for consideration at the Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) in Igloolik and Pond Inlet, November 6-7 and 9-10, 2011 respectively.

COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES & PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

A draft agenda for the upcoming community roundtables and PHC in Igloolik and Pond Inlet will be circulated in the coming days. Parties attending the PHC are asked to prepare a brief (10-15 minute) English/Inuktitut presentation which provides an *overview* of the following:

- Description of their jurisdictional authority/responsibility and role in the NIRB's Review
- Summary of October 5, 2011 technical review comment submission
- Brief discussion of items that are felt to have been resolved/addressed through commitments made at, or following, the Technical Meeting

In addition to these presentations, both Baffinland and parties will be asked to speak to each of the PHC items as they occur on the agenda, including: 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.

Further information regarding those matters to be considered during the PHC and the remaining stages in the NIRB's Review of the Mary River project can be obtained from the NIRB's Rules of Procedure¹ and from the NIRB's Guide 5: Guide to the NIRB Review Process².

¹ NIRB Rules of Procedure, September 3, 2009 available from the NIRB's FTP site at: http://ftp.nirb.ca/06-RULES/

Preceding the more formal PHC proceedings, Baffinland will be provided with up to one hour to present an overview of its project to community representatives, including a brief section on its NLCA 12.10.2 exception application. Responsible authorities will also be asked to speak to their role in the NIRB's Review, and a significant portion of time will be made available to community representatives and the general public to ask questions and provide comments for the Board's consideration.

The Board requests that all parties planning to attend the community roundtables and PHC provide the NIRB with an indication of the planned number of representatives, and if numbers differ for Igloolik and Pond Inlet, that this distinction be clearly made. These numbers are essential to the NIRB's logistical planning for the upcoming meetings and parties are respectfully asked to provide this indication no later than **Monday**, **October 31**, **2011**.

TRAVEL BETWEEN IGLOOLIK & POND INLET

The NIRB has commissioned a chartered aircraft to shuttle staff and logistics personnel from Igloolik to Pond Inlet on Tuesday November 8, 2011. As scheduled flights may fill up quickly with the number of delegates moving from community to community, the NIRB is prepared to offer interested parties seats on its charter at a cost-shared rate.

The Board requests that those parties interested in sharing chartered air service from Igloolik to Pond Inlet on November 8, 2011 please provide our office with the requested number of seats no later than Monday, October 31, 2011.

BAFFINLAND'S NLCA 12.10.2 EXCEPTION APPLICATION

As previously indicated, at the request of commenting parties the NIRB's deadline for comments regarding Baffinland's exception application package has been extended to 12:00 pm MT on Friday, November 4, 2011.

SUMMARY

The Board looks forward to continued cooperation and coordination with all parties throughout the remaining steps for NIRB's Review of the Mary River project.

Once again, the NIRB requests that any party planning to attend the PHC provide our office with details regarding the number of representatives to be in attendance at each meeting location, and an expression of interest in joining NIRB's scheduled air charter. The Board requests that this information be provided to our office via email to info@nirb.ca no later than Monday October 31, 2011.

² NIRB Guide 5: Guide to the NIRB Review Process, *September 2007* available from the NIRB's FTP site at: http://ftp.nirb.ca/04-GUIDES/

Should you have any questions or require additional clarification regarding the upcoming community roundtable sessions, the PHC or other matters pertaining to the NIRB's Review of the Mary River project, please contact the Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4606 or via email at lwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hanson

Director, Technical Services Nunavut Impact Review Board

Cc: Erik Madsen, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation