



NIRB File No. 08MN053

NWB File No. 2AM-MRY-----

QIA File No.: LUA-2008-008

AANDC File No.: N2008T0014

DFO File No.: 2008 MR

NRCan File No.: NT-056

TC File No.: 7184-17-5

October 31, 2011

Erik Madsen
Vice President, Sustainable Development
Health, Safety & Environment
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 1016
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

Sent via Email: erik.madsen@baffinland.com

Re: Draft Agenda for Upcoming Community Roundtables and Pre-Hearing Conference

Dear Erik Madsen:

In advance of the upcoming Community Roundtables and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) scheduled for Igloolik and Pond Inlet, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has committed to providing an agenda and further direction to Baffinland Iron Mines Corp. (Baffinland) regarding next steps in the NIRB's Review of the Mary River Project (NIRB File No. 08MN053). Please see the attached Appendix A for a draft agenda for the upcoming Community Roundtables and PHC.

The scheduled meetings are an important milestone in the Review process, providing an opportunity for the Board to hear from interveners, the Proponent and the public regarding the issues that have been identified during the technical review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS), including those which have been adequately addressed and those which remain outstanding. The NIRB generally conducts a PHC to identify and limit the issues of divergence among parties to the Review, and to promote the efficient use of time at the Final Hearing. The PHC will also serve as an opportunity to discuss the final phase of the Review process, including timing of the Final EIS submission and scheduling of a Final Hearing.

Logistics

Simultaneous English/Inuktitut interpretation will be supplied throughout the Community Roundtables and Pre-Hearing Conference and the Board requests that parties ensure all presentations and related materials are made available in both English and Inuktitut. Any persons requiring specialized audio/visual equipment or specific logistical arrangements during the Community Roundtables and PHC are asked to advise the NIRB as soon as possible. Due to space limitations, parties will be limited to 2 seats for representatives at the table during the PHC, excepting Baffinland which will be provided additional space if necessary.

Light catering will be provided during scheduled meeting times, and participants will be responsible for obtaining their own meals during meal breaks each day. Both Community Roundtables and the PHC will be kept as informal as possible and, as with all NIRB proceedings, Elders will be allowed to speak at any time.

Community Roundtable Presentations

The NIRB requests that Baffinland provide a brief overview presentation on the Mary River Project and the conclusions of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the benefit of public participants at each community roundtable session. This presentation should aim to assist parties in understanding how public comments and concerns have been addressed by Baffinland and how the environmental assessment has helped to inform the project design. Approximately one hour will be provided for this presentation, with additional time allotted for questions from the roundtable participants.

Baffinland should also prepare a second, 20 minute presentation regarding its Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) 12.10.2(b) application with the objective of providing public participants with an overview of the activities being requested for exception from the NIRB Review.

PHC Presentations

The NIRB requests that Baffinland also provide a PHC presentation which outlines the Proponent's response to technical review comments, including issues which have been addressed through commitments made at or following the Technical Meeting (see the enclosed Commitment List), and identification of any outstanding issues. Approximately one hour will be provided for this presentation, after which time parties will have an opportunity to question the proponent on its commitments, identified issues and other related items. It is recommended that this presentation follow a similar thematic approach as that set out in the Draft EIS and as was followed through the Technical Meeting agenda.

All responsible authorities and parties which register to attend the Community Roundtables and PHC are asked to prepare a brief Powerpoint presentation which provides an overview of their technical review comment submissions, including their respective positions on the key issues of the project proposal before the Board and the outstanding technical issues to be addressed through the remainder of the Review process. Parties are also asked to be prepared to provide recommendations for the listed agenda items to facilitate the hearing process.

During the PHC, a time limit of 20 minutes for each presenting agency will be enforced by the NIRB; parties should prepare their presentations and questioning with these limits in mind. If registered parties seek to collaborate and combine presentations, additional time can be allocated to allow for these combined comments.

The NIRB requests that all parties submit the following at the time of the scheduled meetings at each venue:

- At least 50 hardcopies of all presentations for the Board, interveners and the public; and
- Microsoft PowerPoint versions of presentations.

The NIRB will provide a laptop computer and projector for running PowerPoint presentations during the meetings.

Next Steps

As a reminder to all parties, 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 if desired. The Board requests that this information be provided to our office via email to info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594 no later than **Monday October 31, 2011**.

Parties are also reminded that the deadline for submission of comments regarding Baffinland's application for an exception to the Board's Review of the Mary River project pursuant to NLCA Section 12.10.2(b) is **12:00 pm MT, Friday, November 4, 2011**.

Should you have any questions regarding the upcoming PHC or other matters pertaining to the NIRB's review of the Mary River project, please contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at lwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Mary River Distribution List
Brian Aglukark, NPC
David Hohnstein, NWB
Robert St. Eloi, QIA
Pauloosie Suvega, GN
Luc Fortin, CTA
Margaux Brisco, AANDC
Derrick Moggy, DFO

Mark Dahl, EC
Christopher Aguirre, TC
Rob Johnstone, NRCan

Attachments: Appendix A – Draft Agenda

Enclosed: Baffinland's Commitment List (October 28, 2011)

APPENDIX A – DRAFT AGENDA

NIRB File No.: 08MN053 – Mary River Project
Proponent: Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland)
Moderator: Lucassie Arragutainaq, NIRB Chairperson
Locations/Dates: Community Hall, Igloolik, NU - November 6-7, 2011
Atakaalik Community Hall, Pond Inlet, NU - November 9-10, 2011
Times: Community Roundtable: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Pre-Hearing Conference: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 06, 2011 – Community Roundtable, Igloolik

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Opening Prayer

NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Housekeeping Items
- Overview of NIRB process & status of review
- Objectives of Community Roundtable
- Overview of Agenda
- Introduction of Participants

Baffinland Presentation: Overview of Impact Assessment Conclusions and Engagement in NIRB Process

Questions and Comments from Public

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm *Break for Lunch on own*

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Questions and Comments from Public - *continued*

Baffinland Presentation: Overview of NLCA 12.10.2(b) Application

Questions and Comments from Public

Baffinland Closing Statement

NIRB Closing Remarks

Monday, November 07, 2011 – Pre-Hearing Conference, Igloolik

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Opening Prayer

NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Housekeeping Items
- Objectives of Pre-Hearing Conference
- Overview of Agenda
- Introduction of Participants

Overview of Commitment List

Baffinland presentation – Proponent to present with a focus on technical review comments, commitments, outstanding issues and how these will be addressed moving forward.

Questioning of Proponent

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm *Break for Lunch on own*

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Overview presentations from Parties – Parties to present on technical review comment submissions, with identification of issues addressed through Proponent commitments, and outstanding issues which have yet to be addressed or resolved.

Questioning of Parties

Facilitation of the hearing process - parties may be asked to provide their comments for each of the following items:

- Anticipated date for submission of Final EIS
- Date, time and location of Final Hearing
- Timetable for the exchange of documents and information requests prior to the hearing
- Formulation of issues for the hearing
- Procedures to be followed in the hearing
- Equipment, language, interpretation, translation and transcript requirements
- Other matters that may aid in the simplification of the hearing

Other issues

- NWB Type A Licencing Process
- NPC/NIRB Joint Review of Transportation Corridor

Closing of the meeting

Tuesday, November 08, 2011 – Travel Day

No scheduled meetings.

Wednesday, November 09, 2011 – Pond Inlet

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Opening Prayer

NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Housekeeping Items
- Overview of NIRB process & status of review
- Objectives of Community Roundtable
- Overview of Agenda
- Introduction of Participants

Baffinland Presentation: Overview of Impact Assessment Conclusions and Engagement in NIRB Process

Questions and Comments from Public

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm *Break for Lunch on own*

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Questions and Comments from Public - *continued*

Baffinland Presentation: Overview of NLCA 12.10.2(b) Application

Questions and Comments from Public

Baffinland Closing Statement

NIRB Closing Remarks

Thursday, November 10, 2011 – Pond Inlet

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Opening Prayer

NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Housekeeping Items
- Objectives of Pre-Hearing Conference
- Overview of Agenda

- Introduction of Participants

Overview of Commitment List

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Other issues

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Closing of the meeting