

NIRB File No.: 08MN053

December 15, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Executive Offices 10 Wellington St. Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Sent via Email: duncan.j@parl.gc.ca; minister@aandc.gc.ca

Re: <u>Update on the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan Requirements for Baffinland's Mary River Project</u>

Dear Mr. John Duncan:

In a letter dated February 11, 2009, referring the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project (the Project) to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) for review under Part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, then-Minister Chuck Strahl requested the Board keep him apprised of updates on the additional requirements under sections 3.5.11 and 3.5.12 of the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP) for a review of the proposed railway as a transportation corridor. In follow up, please find enclosed the Board's Preliminary Hearing Conference Decision (PHC Decision) for the Project.

Section 4.1 of the enclosed PHC Decision describes the current status of the NIRB and Nunavut Planning Commission's joint review process that is underway to satisfy the outstanding requirements of the NBRLUP. The documents and correspondence referred to in section 4.1 are available on the NIRB's online public registry at the following link:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/08MN053-BAFFINLAND%20MARY%20RIVER/2-REVIEW/02-GENERAL%20CORRESPONDENCE/NIRB-NPC%20and%20NIRB-NWB%20AGREEMENTS/

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed PHC Decision or the NIRB's Review of the Mary River Project, please don't hesitate to contact Ryan Barry, NIRB Executive Director at (867) 983-4608 or via email at <a href="mailto:rbarry@nirb.ca">rbarry@nirb.ca</a>.

Sincerely,

Lucassie Arragutainaq Chairperson Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Ron Roach, Chairperson, NPC

Eric Madsen, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.

Mary River Distribution List

Enclosed: Nunavut Impact Review Board Preliminary Hearing Conference Decision Concerning the Mary

River Project (December 9, 2011)