



Erik Madsen  
Vice President, Sustainable Development  
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**Re: NIRB Receipt of Final EIS Submission for Baffinland Iron Mines Ltd.'s Mary River Project, NIRB File No. 08MN053**

On February 13, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a hard copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) submission for the Mary River Project (the Project) from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland or Proponent).

The Board has commenced an internal review of the Final EIS submission for compliance with the NIRB's previously issued EIS Guidelines<sup>1</sup> and Preliminary Hearing Conference Decision<sup>2</sup> (PHC Decision). This compliance review is a presence or absence analysis and is not intended to evaluate the quality of the information presented.

Upon receipt of the Final EIS submission, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) will conduct a completeness and compliance check of the associated Type A Water Licence Application for the Project, and may also assist with the NIRB's compliance review where possible. This assessment of the Proponent's water licence application will be conducted against information requirements of the relevant appendix of the NIRB's EIS Guidelines and direction given by the NWB in the NIRB's PHC Decision as relating to the water licence application.

If the Final EIS submission is deemed to be in compliance with the Board's PHC Decision, the NIRB will distribute the submission to the public and commence a technical review period. This

<sup>1</sup> NIRB Guidelines for the Proponent's Preparation of an EIS for the Mary River Project, issued November 16, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> NIRB Preliminary Hearing Conference Decision for the Mary River Project, issued December 9, 2011.

technical review period will provide interested parties with an opportunity to review the quality of the new and/or revised information and evidence as presented within the Final EIS and provide the NIRB with comments and advice in advance of a Final Hearing for this Review. Further details regarding the next steps and associated scheduling for the NIRB's Review of the Mary River Project will be forthcoming with the results of the Board's compliance review.

The Board anticipates completion of this compliance review, and an indication on the acceptability of the Final EIS submission to be released on or before **February 29, 2012**.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or via email at [liwan@nirb.ca](mailto:liwan@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson  
Director, Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission ([aglukark@nunavut.ca](mailto:aglukark@nunavut.ca))  
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Mary River Distribution List