

## **INFORMATION REQUEST IN REGARD TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS) FOR THE MARY RIVER PROJECT by the CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

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Staff at the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) have reviewed the FEIS prepared by the Baffinland Iron Ore Mine Corporation (BIMC) for its Mary River Project, particularly in regard to the proposed railway line. One information request formulated by staff following the review of the draft EIS and to which BIMC was to respond in the FEIS has not received a response.

BIMC had committed to providing additional information in the FEIS regarding the manner in which it would deploy resources to respond to spills of contaminants or fuel from derailments of trains given the remoteness of the project site and the constraints which the high Arctic climate can pose. In their response to this earlier request, BIMC indicated they "would draw from the experience gained at ArcelMittal's Mount Wright-Port Cartier railway operations in finalizing the Emergency Response Plan for railway operations".<sup>1</sup> This information was not found.

Although the number of trains travelling the proposed railway line will be limited in comparison to the main lines of major railway carrier, a considerable portion of the railway line would be in close proximity to large water bodies. As was explained in the CTA's review of the draft EIS, deploying outside resources, such as drawing upon firms specialized in emergency response, in a timely manner may often be difficult given the project's remoteness. Maintaining trained teams of BIMC employees prepared to intervene rapidly and effectively despite the fact that these teams will have limited experiences upon which to draw compared to a major railway carrier may also add to the difficulty of rapidly responding to spills.

The proponent is therefore requested to provide such a discussion of it will take into account the project's remoteness and the rigorous meteorological conditions in its Emergency Response Plan.

March 30, 2012

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<sup>1</sup> (*Baffinland Response to Intervener Information Request on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Table 1*)