



NIRB File No. 08MN053
NWB File No. 2AM-MRY-----

April 24, 2012

Mary River Distribution List

Sent via Email

Re: Draft Agenda for Upcoming Technical Meeting for the Mary River Project

Dear Parties:

On February 29, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) accepted Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (Baffinland or Proponent) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Mary River project (NIRB File No. 08MN053) and commenced the FEIS technical review period. As you are aware, interested parties were invited to submit Information Requests (IRs) which would be required to formulate final written submissions in preparation for participation at the NIRB's Final Hearing for the Mary River project. Following the submission of IRs by parties, in correspondence dated April 5, 2012 the NIRB requested that Baffinland respond to IRs by April 19, 2012. On April 19, 2012 the NIRB received response packages from Baffinland and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association which addressed relevant IRs.

As outlined in previous correspondence to this Distribution List, the NIRB staff will be hosting a meeting of technical experts in Iqaluit **May 1-3, 2012**. The objective of the scheduled meeting will be to facilitate discussions between the Proponent and reviewers that may assist to address and/or resolve outstanding key information requirements that are needed for the development of parties' final written submissions. The NIRB staff will also describe the remaining steps in the NIRB's Review process and will provide additional clarification and an opportunity for questions regarding the Final Hearing to be held later this year.

In order to assist with the required planning and the preparation of all parties, the NIRB has prepared a draft meeting agenda (Appendix A) and is now inviting input with regards to the proposed meeting schedule and items for discussion.

Parties should be aware that the objectives of the upcoming Technical Meeting are notably different than those of the previous meeting of technical experts. Rather than collecting commitments from the Proponent, the upcoming Technical Meeting shall serve as an opportunity for parties to get clarification from the Proponent regarding the information that has been provided in its FEIS. This information should help to better delineate the issues for parties in

their preparation of final written submissions. The Board is expecting that key issues will be discussed at the meeting in order to achieve the objectives of the technical review as follows:

- Indicate whether the Information Requests (IRs) identified by parties during the initial review of the FEIS document have been adequately responded to by the Proponent;
- Provide a progress update regarding ongoing engagement by the parties and the Proponent on marine baseline studies and marine monitoring programs, and a discussion of how information exchanges are expected to continue in the months leading up to the Final Hearing;
- Provide an update on the Proponent's planned response to those IRs excluded from its April 19, 2012 response, especially those for which the Proponent was requested to respond prior to the meeting of technical experts; and,
- Provide additional clarification and direction to parties regarding next steps, the Final Hearing, and the NIRB and NWB coordinated process.

Logistics

Location:	Navigator Inn, Iqaluit, NU
Dates and Times:	March 1-3, 2012, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Interpretation:	Simultaneous English/Inuktitut interpretation will be made available upon request.
Audio-Visual:	An LCD projector and screen will be provided. Teleconferencing will be made available for representatives unable to attend in person.
Representatives:	Seating at the main table for each organization during the meeting will be limited, with a maximum of 2 seats per agency available. Additional seats will be provided for observers or for those representatives who may need to be present during a particular session.
Chairperson:	The meeting will be chaired by Ryan Barry, NIRB Executive Director with breakout sessions facilitated by additional NIRB staff.
Materials:	The NIRB will have on hand, a digital copy of all materials contained within the Board's public registry for the Review of the Project.
Meeting times:	Meetings will start at 8:30 am and run until 5:00 pm, with an hour break for lunch and two 15 minute health breaks throughout the day. Light refreshments will be provided during health breaks.

The meeting will be kept as informal as possible, with break-out sessions to be arranged as required. Parties should be prepared to speak to whether or not their IRs have been satisfactorily addressed by Baffinland and, if not, to provide clarification as to what issues remain outstanding in order to prepare final written submissions.

The NIRB requests that Baffinland provide a presentation which outlines its response to parties' IRs, including an identification of issues which have been addressed through the response and those which have not yet been resolved. It is recommended that this presentation follow a similar thematic approach as that set out in the Technical Meeting in October 2011.

The NIRB requests that parties planning to attend the upcoming Technical Meeting provide our office with details regarding the number of representatives to be in attendance. The Board requests that confirmation of attendance and/or an indication of teleconference needs be provided to our office via email to info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **5:00 pm MT, Thursday April 26, 2012.**

Should you have questions and/or comments regarding the draft meeting agenda or other matters pertaining to the NIRB's Review of the Mary River project, please contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or via email at liwan@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Erik Madsen, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation

Attachments: Appendix A – Draft Agenda

APPENDIX A – DRAFT AGENDA

NIRB File No.: 08MN053 – Mary River Project
Proponent: Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland)
Location: Navigator Inn, Iqaluit, NU
Dates: May 1-3, 2012
Times: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Day 1 – Tuesday, May 1, 2012

8:30 – 9:00 am NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks
▪ Objectives of Meeting of Technical Experts
▪ Introduction of Participants
▪ Housekeeping Items
▪ Overview of Agenda

9:00 – 10:15 am Baffinland Presentation: Response to Information Requests (IRs)

10:15 – 10:30 am Health Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Conclusions presented in the FEIS pertaining to alternatives assessment, methodologies, etc.

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

1:00 – 2:45 pm Physical environment including air quality, fresh water, soils and landforms and related mitigation/monitoring programs

2:45 – 3:00 pm Health Break

3:00 – 5:00 pm Railway design, construction, and operations including related mitigation/monitoring programs (*excludes terrestrial wildlife*)

Day 2 – Wednesday, May 2, 2012

8:30 – 8:45 am NIRB Opening Remarks
▪ Day 1 Recap and Day 2 brief

8:45 – 10:15 am Candidate marine baseline studies including updates regarding progress toward delineation of candidate studies

10:15 – 10:30 am Health Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Marine shipping, marine environment, marine wildlife, impact assessment including ballast water and fuel spill modeling, marine wildlife monitoring and mitigation

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

1:00 – 2:45 pm Marine shipping, marine environment, marine wildlife, impact assessment including ballast water and fuel spill modeling, marine wildlife monitoring and mitigation – *continued*

2:45 – 3:00 pm ***Health Break***

3:00 – 5:00 pm Marine environmental monitoring, including updates regarding community engagement and proposed collaborative monitoring program, and related shipping management plans

4:45 – 5:00 pm Afternoon session wrap-up

Day 3 – Thursday, May 3, 2012

8:30 – 8:45 am NIRB Opening Remarks
▪ Day 2 Recap and Day 3 brief

8:45 – 10:15 am Biophysical environment including terrestrial environment, vegetation and related mitigation/monitoring programs

Socio-economic environment and related mitigation/monitoring programs
▪ Baffinland update re IIBA negotiations

10:15 – 10:30 am ***Health Break***

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Terrestrial wildlife – caribou, birds and habitat and related mitigation/monitoring programs

Socio-economic environment and related mitigation/monitoring programs
– *continued*

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

1:00 – 2:45 pm Terrestrial wildlife – caribou, birds and habitat and related mitigation/monitoring programs – *continued*

Socio-economic environment and related mitigation/monitoring programs
– *continued*

- 2:45 – 3:00 pm Health Break***
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm Socio-economic environment and related mitigation/monitoring programs
– *continued*
- Terrestrial wildlife – caribou, birds and habitat and related
mitigation/monitoring programs – *continued*
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm NIRB Presentation Re Next Steps and a Final Hearing: What to Expect?
- Question & Answer period open to parties (presentation, coordinated process, next steps, etc.)