

Ministre des Affaires autochtones  
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

DEC 03 2012

Ms. Elizabeth Copland  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
PO BOX 1360  
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2012, transmitting the Final Hearing Report for the Mary River Project and for the errata issued on October 24, 2012, and November 26, 2012, (collectively, the Report). I appreciate the Board's diligence in this matter.

The Nunavut Impact Review Board has completed its review of the Project, and has determined that the Project should proceed subject to 182 terms and conditions.

The Ministers of Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada and I, have jurisdictional responsibility for authorizing the proposal to proceed. We have reviewed the Report and pursuant to Section 12.5.7(a) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and we accept the Report and the Board's determination that the Proposal should proceed subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Report. We have concluded that the Report contains a thorough assessment of both ecosystemic and socio-economic issues. Furthermore, it is evident that the Board met its primary objectives as required under Section 12.2.5, to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of Nunavut, to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area and take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

My colleagues and I would like to point out that there are terms and conditions such as 101, 174 and 177, among others, that will require clarification at the Project Certificate Workshop but we are confident that these can be dealt with at that time.

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The responsible Ministers would like to acknowledge the success and hard work of the Board for its thorough review of this Proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Duncan', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Duncan, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Keith Ashfield, PC, MP  
The Honourable Peter Kent, PC, MP  
The Honourable Denis Lebel, PC, MP  
The Honourable Joe Oliver, PC, MP  
The Honourable James Arreak, MLA  
The Honourable Peter Taptuna, MLA  
Ms. Cathy Towtongie, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Ms. Okalik Eegeesiak, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mr. Jobie Tukkiapik, President, Makivik Corporation  
Mr. Tom Paddon, President and CEO, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation