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January 11, 2019

Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
PO Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU  
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Via email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)

**RE: NIRB 08MN053: Information Requests for Baffinland's "Phase 2 Development Proposal" and Water Licence Application**

Dear Mr. Barry,

Thank you for your letter of December 17, 2018 requesting a clarification on the additional time requested by the federal departments involved in the assessment of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's "Phase 2 Development Proposal". The information below serves to provide that clarification.

On October 12, 2018, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) distributed a letter that set out the next steps in the NIRB / Nunavut Water Board's (NWB) coordinated reconsideration and water licence amendment process used to assess Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's "Phase 2 Development Proposal." The Annex to this letter included a process map that outlined the specific stages of the coordinated assessment and provided a detailed timeline for each step of the anticipated process.

Using this process map as a guide, but noting that NIRB's December 21, 2019 letter changed the due date for technical comments to February 21, 2019, the responsible Ministers are requesting the following changes to the October 12, 2018 process map:

- An extension of eight (8) days between the submission of the proponent's responses to technical comments (Day 149) and the technical meeting (Day 155), making a total of 14 days; and,
- Four weeks are required by the federal government to review updated management plans by Baffinland and prepare final written submissions. It is our understanding



that Baffinland will submit the updated management plans following the Joint Technical Meetings (Day 155).

The anticipated process outlined in the NIRB / NWB October 12, 2018 letter provides only six (6) days for interested parties to review the proponent's responses to technical review comments and prepare for the Joint Technical Meeting in Iqaluit. In past review processes, intervenors have generally been allotted a longer period to review the proponent's responses and prepare for the subsequent technical meeting. The current timeframe of six (6) days will prevent intervenors from preparing adequately for meaningful discussions at the Joint Technical Meetings and ultimately jeopardize the success of the meetings. As a result, federal departments are requesting an extension to two (2) weeks between the submission of the proponent's response to technical review comments and the Joint Technical Meetings in Iqaluit.

Baffinland's December 18, 2018 response to intervenors' Information Requests indicates that updated management plans, along with other requested information, will be available following the technical meetings. These submissions should include much of the information required for our review of the proposed amendment to the Mary River Project and outline many of the processes and practices that might be required to mitigate potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. As well, during similar assessment processes conducted in the past, proponents often make commitments during technical meetings to complete further analysis or provide additional project related information. It is these updated management plans and any additional information provided by the proponent that will inform final written submission prepared by the federal government and other interested parties for consideration by the NIRB. We are requesting that the NIRB provide Baffinland with a deadline to submit the management plans and any other information the Proponent commits to providing, and ensure that reviewers then have at least four (4) weeks in which to prepare their final written submissions.

We would like to note that the federal departments' concerns outlined in this letter echo those noted in the "Overall Review Timelines" section of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association's letter to the Board (re: Information Requests for Baffinland's "Phase II Proposal" and Water Licence Application), submitted on November 23, 2018.

We appreciate the NIRB's consideration of our request and look forward to our continued engagement in the assessment of Baffinland's proposed Phase 2 Development Project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dyer  
Director General  
Northern Projects Management Office



cc:

David Rochette, Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Mary Taylor, Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment Climate Change Canada

Patrick O'Neill, Director General, Explosives, Safety and Security Branch, Natural Resources Canada

Shari Currie, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada

Chantal Roberge, Director, Environmental Health and Internationally Protected Persons, Health Canada

Dale Nicholson, Regional Director General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central and Arctic Region

Jenna Boon, Field Unit Superintendent, Nunavut Field Unit, Parks Canada

Mark Hopkins, Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Jeremiah Groves, Executive Director, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Grant Goddard, VP Sustainable Development and Human Resources, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.

Megan Lord-Hoyle, Director Corporate Sustainability, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.