



NEWS RELEASE (*re-issued*)

NIRB File No. 08MN053

Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Record of Proceedings and Disposition of Motions Report for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's "Phase 2 Development" Assessment

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – December 17, 2019 – The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is providing its Record of Proceedings and Disposition of Motions Report (Report) as a summary of process and procedure to date for the assessment of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (Baffinland) Phase 2 Development Proposal, an amendment to the previously-approved Mary River Project. The Report also provides the Board's direction regarding next steps in the continuation of the assessment; specifically, the process, procedure and timelines, but does NOT address the substance of the assessment. The Board would also like to extend its appreciation for the continued engagement of parties in the assessment process.

In determining the schedule for upcoming activities and timelines, the Board considered the motion put forward by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as well as the submissions provided by the Intervenor and Baffinland. The Board would like to highlight that it took special consideration of issues raised by parties especially the significant financial and employment implications to Baffinland and the affected communities, the associated participant funding process, seasonal activities in the most affected communities, and the breadth of outstanding technical issues and requirement for translations.

On this basis, the Board has decided to suspend the continuation of the Hearing for several months to accommodate another in-person Technical Meeting in March 2020, immediately followed by a Pre-Hearing Conference and Community Roundtable with representatives from the potentially affected communities in attendance. Board staff are working to confirm the specific dates, locations and draft agendas for these in-person meetings and expect to issue confirmation of these details as soon as possible. In the interim, the Board provides the following outline of upcoming process:

- **On or before January 6, 2020:** parties provide the following materials:
 - Igloolik Working Group file its report of meetings referenced at the Public Hearing;
 - Intervenor provide deferred responses to questions asked at the Public Hearing;
 - Baffinland provide updated/clarified project scope, additional materials, list of commitments, and responses to deferred items from Hearing.
- **December 2019 through January 2020:** CIRNAC update participant funding agreements.
- **February 6, 2020:** Intervenor/interested parties provide additional technical submissions (optional).

- **February 25, 2020:** Baffinland files presentation materials for Technical Meeting/Pre-Hearing Conference with the NIRB.
- **March 2020:** NIRB hosts 5-day, in-person Technical Meeting followed by 3-day, in-person Pre-Hearing Conference and Community Roundtable. Discussions to include timing, venue and format of the continued proceedings, followed by a Pre-Hearing Conference decision and/or Notice of the continuation of Public Hearing and anticipated timeline for decision-making as appropriate. The scheduling of another hearing is dependent on the discussions of technical and procedural issues at the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference.

The Board encourages all parties to work together to ensure that the Board is provided with the information it requires to complete its assessment and encourages parties to address outstanding issues in a pro-active and collaborative manner.

Finally, the Board will be coordinating its consideration of Baffinland's December 6, 2019 request to extend the term of approval for the Production Increase activities (6 Million tonne per year production rate) for one year during the completion of the assessment for the Phase 2 Development Proposal. Additional direction is being provided under separate cover with the release of this Report.

In closing, the Board reiterates its appreciation for all the parties and individuals who have, and continue, to share their experiences, expertise and perspectives with the Board to advance the impact assessment of this proposal. The Report, which includes an executive summary, is available from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/123910.

Sincerely,

Kaviq Kaluraq

Acting Chairperson

Nunavut Impact Review Board

For more information, the media may contact:

Tara Arko, Director, Technical Services

Nunavut Impact Review Board

1-866-233-3033 or tarko@nirb.ca