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November 7, 2019

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licencing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
X0B 1J0

Clarification Regarding Nunavut Water Board Technical Meeting – Nov 12 – 13 in Iqaluit

Richard,

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is seeking clarification about the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Technical Meeting currently scheduled for November 12 – 13, 2019 in Iqaluit. As you are aware, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) adjourned the Technical Sessions of the Public Hearing for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's proposed Phase 2 Development Project Proposal. NIRB is currently awaiting written submissions from the Parties regarding their position on a motion brought by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) requesting a 9 – 12 month adjournment of the hearing to allow Baffinland and the other Hearing Parties to narrow the currently-wide scope of unresolved technical issues regarding this project.

QIA and every other intervenor in the NIRB Hearing verbally supported this motion for adjournment. All of the Inuit Parties expressed, in their support for the motion, concern regarding the procedural fairness of proceeding when the Hearing process is unable to accommodate the number of remaining technical questions within the current Hearing schedule. Parties will be presenting more substantive written submissions on this adjournment motion over the next weeks, further detailing any grounds for the requested adjournment as well as perspectives on the suitable period of time required to achieve the purpose of narrowing the scope of unresolved technical issues.

QIA wishes to clarify whether the NWB technical meeting will proceed, in view of this change to the NIRB schedule. The NWB technical meeting is supposed to be an opportunity for representatives of Baffinland and Parties in the process to address technical concerns about assessment of impacts in the Water Board process, based on the evidence canvassed in the NIRB Final Hearing. The Technical Session of the Hearing was adjourned prior to Baffinland presentations, and Parties questions, about freshwater, human health, adaptive management, cumulative effects and other matters which would be normally be reviewed in the NWB technical meeting based on the NIRB Final Hearing evidence. Furthermore, the Baffinland presentations and intervenor questions regarding Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, public



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participation and alternatives assessment at the incomplete Technical Sessions in Iqaluit revealed a wide scope of unresolved technical concerns.

Project environmental impacts are defined at NIRB, and it is based on those findings that the NWB is able to assess appropriate triggers and thresholds and other water quality protections appropriate for the water licensing process. In this situation, QIA wishes to clarify whether there is practical merit in proceeding with the Technical Meeting currently scheduled next week. To proceed at this point risks covering material that could be the subject of changes, and concerns about proceeding in the absence of appropriate evidence.

Sincerely,

Jared Ottenhof,
Director, Major Projects

cc: Spencer Dewar, CIRNAC
Lou Kamermans, Baffinland Iron Mines