



Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et Affaires du Nord Canada

Final Public Hearing of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Water Licence Renewal 2AM-MRY1325

March 11-12, 2025



Canada



Presentation Outline

- Role and Responsibilities
- Technical Review Comments
- Security Management Agreement
- Conclusion





Roles and Responsibilities

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's (CIRNAC) responsibilities, mandate, and obligations are in alignment with the following:

- *Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act*
- Nunavut Agreement
- *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*
- *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the associated regulations
- *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*
- *Territorial Lands Act* and the associated regulations
- *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*





Review of Technical Comments

- CIRNAC submitted 37 Technical review comments over the course of the renewal period and since then have most resolved but 4 remain unresolved.
 - 19 that have been resolved,
 - 14 that are resolved with a commitment, and
 - 4 that remain unresolved.





R-4: Dustfall Monitoring Improvements

- Dustfall as a pathway of potential effect requires improved management planning, monitoring and reporting under the authority of the Water Licence.
- CIRNAC recommends a comprehensive monitoring and reporting of dustfall is robust and reflects the changes in BIMC operations (e.g., mine plan updates, increased haulage rates, future planned expansion).
- Status: Unresolved





R-8 Mineral Wastes

- CIRNAC recommends the waste management plan include how soils, sediment or construction materials would be collected, contained, recorded during work, and disposed of.
 - Table 2 and 3 in the Waste Management Plan only describe how soil contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons are managed.
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- Status: Unresolved





R-11 Climate Change Predictions

- The only Metal leaching and Acid Rock Drainage mitigation strategy is freezing the Potentially Acid Generating (PAG) waste rock in permafrost in the Waste Rock Pile.
 - CIRNAC recommends that BIMC investigate the most recent climate change predictions and evaluate the long-term thermal stability of the permafrost in the waste rock pile.
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- Status: Unresolved





R-16 Water Quality Monitoring

- CIRNAC recommends that BIMC provide a comparison between predicted and measured water quality data and evaluate if additional mitigation measures are required. As well provide update on geochemical modeling and pit water quality predictions.

Status: Unresolved





Status of Technical Comments submitted to NWB

Resolved		Partially Resolved	Unresolved
R-1	R-19	R-6	R-4
R-2	R-21	R-13	R-8
R-3	R-23	R-20	R-11
R-5	R-24	R-22	R-16
R-7	R-26	R-25	
R-9	R-27	R-28	
R-10	R-29	R-33	
R-12	R-30	R-34	
R-14	R-31	R-35	
R-15	R-32		
R-17	R-36		
R-18			



Security Management Agreement

- The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the Nunavut Water Regulations provide the Nunavut Water Board the authority to set the amount of Financial Security required on a project.
- The Nunavut Water Board considers the environment holistically (i.e. land and water combined) during the water licence process and sets the Financial Security for the entire undertaking (i.e. for Crown land and Inuit owned land).
- In efforts to avoid and prevent over bonding and the negative effect this would have on Industry, the Government of Canada amended the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* to allow the Minister to enter into Security Management Agreements with the Inuit land owners and proponents. The legislative amendment received Royal assent on June 18, 2015.
- A Security Management Agreement signed by all parties (i.e. Minister of Northern Affairs, QIA, and the proponent) details the quantity of Financial Security that can be held by an Inuit organization, and is the only mechanism provided in the legislation by which the Minister may agree to split or divide Financial Security.
- In the absence of a Security Management Agreement, the Minister of Northern Affairs, pursuant to the legislation must hold 100% of the Financial Security set by the Nunavut Water Board.





Conclusion

CIRNAC continued to work with all parties through the water licence application review process with the aim of protecting Nunavut's inland water resources while promoting sustainable development.





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