



Environment  
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Environmental Protection Operations (EPO)  
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**RE: Comment Request for Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River Project 2014 Annual Monitoring Report, Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan and Abandonment and Reclamation Plan**

Environment Canada has reviewed the above mentioned documents and has provided specific comments in the attached table for your consideration.

On a more general note Environment Canada has a good working relationship with Baffinland through the terrestrial and marine environment working groups. In the working groups Baffinland has proven to be receptive to Environment Canada advice and has incorporated or assisted with much of the migratory bird monitoring needs identified by Environment Canada.

With regard to the questions posed in NIRB's comment request letter of May 26, 2015 regarding:

*1) Effects monitoring*

*a. Whether the conclusions reached by Baffinland in the Mary River Project 2014 Annual Monitoring Report are valid;*

Based on the information available Environment Canada accepts the conclusions drawn; however, Environment Canada is of the opinion that the recommendations provided in this letter will make the conclusions drawn from monitoring more robust. Environment Canada acknowledges that the marine monitoring program in Milne Inlet is being developed on an ongoing basis and looks forward to participating in the refining of the program through the Marine Environment Working Group.

*b. Any areas of significance requiring further studies.*

*2) Compliance Monitoring*

*i. How terms and conditions are incorporated into agency authorizations.*

Not applicable as Environment Canada has not issued any authorizations for this project.

*ii. A summary of any inspections conducted during the 2014 reporting period, and the results of these inspections;*

Environment Canada Environmental Enforcement Officers completed an inspection of the Baffinland project October 7 - 9, 2014 for the purposes of verifying compliance with CEPA99 and associated regulations that apply to the site. Applicable regulations included the *Environmental Emergencies Regulations, Interprovincial Movement of Hazardous Waste Regulations and National Pollution Reporting Inventory*. CEPA99, Part 9 regulations such as the *Petroleum and Allied Petroleum Products Storage Tanks Regulations* and the *Federal Halocarbon Regulations 2003* do not apply on Inuit owned lands and therefore, inspection under these regulations was limited to federal lands.

The site including the Milne port area was also inspected to verify compliance with the *Fisheries Act* for facilities located near fish bearing waters. Discussions were also held with Baffinland regarding when the *Metal Mining Effluent Regulations* would apply to the site and the requirements under the regulation once it was triggered. It is anticipated that the MMER will be triggered in June/July 2015.

Only minor non-compliance issues were identified during the inspection. Environment Canada is satisfied that the identified non-compliance issues were resolved by Baffinland in a timely fashion.

*iii. A summary of AEM's compliance status with regard to authorizations that have been issued for the Project.*

Not applicable as Environment Canada has not issued any authorizations for this project.

Please contact Mark Dahl ([mark.dahl@ec.gc.ca](mailto:mark.dahl@ec.gc.ca), 204 983 4815) if you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached comments.

Sincerely



(on behalf of Lorna Hendrickson)

Lorna Hendrickson  
A/Manager Environmental Assessment

cc EC Baffinland Review Team  
Loretta Ransom, Head Environmental Assessment North (NT & Nu)