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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File: 2AM-MRY2540/E25

August 31, 2026

Elisabeth Luther
Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
#300 – 360 Oakville Place Drive
Oakville, Ontario, L6H 6K8

E-mail: Elisabeth.Luther@baffinland.com

Subject: Licence No: 2AM-MRY2540 Type A – Notification for Update to Water Withdrawal Volumes for Dust Control by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation for the Mary River Project

Dear Elisabeth Luther:

On July 3, 2026, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or the Board) received a Notification for Update to Water Withdrawal Volumes for Dust Control (Notification) from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland or Licensee). This Notification is pursuant to Part E, Item 25 of the type A Water Licence 2AM-MRY2540 (Licence).

In the Notification, Baffinland requested that the authorized withdrawal limits for dust suppression be administered as an average of 1,500 m^3/day, rather than fixed maximum volumes applicable to each individual withdrawal location per day. Baffinland noted that the proposed request is intended to provide additional operational flexibility for dust suppression activities by allowing increased withdrawal volumes on certain days while maintaining the overall average daily limit throughout the year. Importantly, the proposed request does not alter the following:

- The maximum annual withdrawal limit of 547,000 m^3;
- The purpose of the water use (for dust control); and
- The overall volume of water authorized for dust suppression under the Licence.

On July 7, 2026, the NWB distributed the Notification for public review and interested parties were invited to provide comments. Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) submitted comments on July 24, 2026. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) advised they have no comments on Baffinland's revision of water withdrawals for dust suppression and control along the Tote Road. Baffinland provided response to QIA's comments and recommendations on July 31, 2026. Following are QIA's comments and summary of Baffinland's responses:

Clarification of equipment used – *Baffinland has indicated the withdrawal limits for dust suppression should be an average value versus the current maximum value. Can Baffinland please confirm if the size or quantity of equipment will be altered at each pumping location to support potential increased pumping. Secondly, will the rate of water withdrawal change to support a potentially higher daily withdrawal volume?*

Response: Baffinland confirmed that the size and quantity of equipment used for water withdrawal will remain unchanged. To support the proposed increase in daily withdrawal volumes, the existing equipment may be operated more frequently; however, the instantaneous withdrawal rate will not increase.

Avoidance of adverse effects without short-term withdrawal limits – *The threshold at which water withdrawals would result in adverse effects should be identified and discussed for each source. A maximum withdrawal threshold should be established for each source to protect streamflow and fish habitat under the proposed amendment. This threshold should represent an upper limit that cannot be exceeded, even if average daily withdrawals remain within the proposed annual allocation. This will prevent short-term impacts to aquatic resources that may occur if relying on annual averaging alone.*

Response: Baffinland noted they have refined the proposed approach to retain its request to administer the water withdrawal limit for dust suppression at an average of 1,500 m^3/day, but apply a maximum withdrawal limit of 1,500 m^3/day to certain water sources that have sufficient capacity. These limits are based on 10 year dry-condition flows, existing hydrological information, and the capacity of the pumps used at site, and remain well below the DFO 10% instantaneous-flow screening criterion. Baffinland also provided supporting rationale, calculations, and treatment of lake withdrawal sources with their response.

Winter withdrawals from ice-covered waterbodies – *Please clarify if winter withdrawals will occur along the Tote Road. If so, please indicate how compliance with DFO recommendations for winter water withdrawals will be implemented under the average daily limit approach.*

Response: Baffinland stated the Notification is specific to Table 4 – Water Use Authorized for Dust Suppression of the Licence and that water withdrawal will not be needed for dust suppression during winter months.

The NWB asked for confirmation from QIA on whether the Baffinland's response addressed their concerns. Since QIA did not submit a follow-up, the NWB assumes Baffinland addressed their concerns. Copy of the Notification and related submissions can be accessed through the NWB's Public Registry site using the following Link:

Update to Water Withdrawal Volumes Dust Control

The NWB, having reviewed Baffinland's request for update to water withdrawal volumes for dust control in the context of comments and recommendations received, additional information provided by Baffinland in their response to comments, potential impacts of the requested change, and overall impact of the requested change in relation to the scope of the Licence, determined that the Notification is consistent with the scope of activities considered under the Licence issued to the Project.

Therefore, by way of this correspondence and in accordance with Motion No: 2026-P4-001, and Part E, Item 25 of the Licence, the Board authorizes Baffinland for water withdrawal limits for dust suppression to be administered as an **average** of 1,500 m^3/day, rather than **fixed maximum** volumes applicable to each individual withdrawal location per day. The maximum annual withdrawal limit of 547,000 m^3 of water withdrawal for dust control will remain unchanged. Baffinland will also ensure all relevant DFO guidelines for water withdrawals will be implemented.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the NWB Licensing Department by email to licensing@nwb-oen.ca or by phone at (867) 360-6338.

Signed this 31st day of August, 2026 at Gjoa Haven, NU.

Sincerely,

Lootie Toomasie
Nunavut Water Board, Chair

LT/aj/rh

Cc: Distribution List – Mary River