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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD  
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI  
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**File No: 2AM-MRY1325  
Short Term Renewal**

April 23, 2025

Honourable Gary Anandasangaree  
Minister of Northern Affairs  
21st Floor, 10 Wellington  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

Email: [Gary.Anandasangaree@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gary.Anandasangaree@parl.gc.ca)

**Subject: Licence No: 2AM-MRY1325 – Mary River Project; Short Term Renewal**

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Dear Honourable Minister Anandasangaree,

Please find enclosed, for your review and approval, the Nunavut Water Board's (NWB or Board) Decision regarding a Short-Term Renewal (STR Application) filed by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland or Applicant) under s. 9(1)(b) of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*,<sup>1</sup> SOR/2013-69 (*Regulations*) seeking the short term renewal (up to 180 days) of type A Water Licence No: 2AM-MRY1325 (the Existing Water Licence) which is set to expire on June 10, 2025. The purpose of the STR Application is to ensure that if the NWB's and the Minister's consideration of Baffinland's application for the long-term (15 year) renewal of the Existing Water Licence (full Renewal Application) is not completed by June 10, 2025, the Short-Term Renewal Licence (STR Water Licence) will bridge any potential gap between the expiry of the Existing Water Licence and completion of the NWB's and Minister's consideration and decision-making in relation to the full Renewal Application (and if recommended by the NWB and approved by the Minister, the issuance of a long-term renewed licence).

As set out in more detail in the attached Decision, the Existing Water Licence was issued to Baffinland by the NWB on June 10, 2013, and was subsequently approved by the Minister on July 15, 2013. It should be noted that although the Applicant was diligent in filing the full Renewal Application on June 26, 2024, approximately 12 months before the expiry of the Existing Water Licence as required, recognizing the potential for a federal election and impact of the care-taker convention and associated changes to the Minister's office, the need for the STR Licence to

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the *Regulations* authorizes the NWB to process an application for the short-term (up to 180 days) extension of the term of a Type A Water Licence without a Public Hearing.

preserve the full timelines for decision-making of the NWB and Minister, was raised by the Board and discussed with all parties during the Pre-Hearing Conference for the full Renewal Application in December 2024 when the dates were proposed for the NWB's Public Hearing associated with the full Renewal Application for the week of March 10-14, 2025. Consequently, the Applicant indicated that they would submit the STR Application to bridge any potential gap.

On February 28, 2025 the Board received the STR Application from Baffinland requesting a short-term renewal of the Existing Water Licence on the following basis:

- During the term of the STR Water Licence there would be no changes to the Existing Water Licence (administrative or otherwise);
- The STR Water Licence is a contingency only, and Baffinland requested that the NWB clarify that the STR would only take effect if the NWB and the Minister have not completed (or been deemed to complete)<sup>2</sup> decision-making in relation to the full Renewal Application prior to the expiry of the Existing Water Licence;
- The term of the STR Water Licence would not exceed 180 days from the date on which the Existing Water Licence expires (June 10, 2025), and the STR Water Licence would expire on the earlier of December 5, 2025 OR the Minister's completion of decision-making for the full Renewal Application (and if approved by the Minister, the issuance of a long-term renewed licence);
- No plans, studies, reports, or designs would be submitted in support of the STR Application as this information has already been provided, or will be provided during the Board's processing of the full Renewal Application; and
- Baffinland requested, and the NWB confirmed that even if the STR Water Licence was approved, the NWB's consideration of the full Renewal Application would continue in as timely and efficient a manner as possible with the goal of completing decision-making for the full Renewal Application before the expiry of the Existing Water Licence if possible.

The NWB published Notice of the STR Application on March 10, 2025 and commenced a thirty (30) day technical review period, which closed on April 10, 2025. No comments, other than confirmation that parties did not have comments, were received in relation to the STR Application by the deadline. On April 15, 2025, by **Motion No: 2025-01-P4-05**, the duly appointed three-member Panel of the Board (Panel P4) responsible for dealing with the Mary River type A Water Licence, including the STR Application, authorized the issuance of the STR Licence, which only amends the Expiry Date of the Existing Water Licence, adding a further term of up to a maximum of 180 days from June 10, 2025 (December 5, 2025).

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<sup>2</sup> Under s. 56(2.2) of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10, if the Minister does not make a decision within the forty-five or ninety days referred to in subsection 56 (2) or 56 (2.1) respectively, whichever is applicable, the Minister is deemed to have approved the issuance, amendment, renewal or cancellation, as the case may be.

In accordance with s. 56 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10, the issuance of the STR Licence requires your approval and as such, the NWB submits the attached Decision and Licence for your consideration.

Should you have any questions and/or require clarification on the above, or wish to discuss further, please contact the undersigned in writing.

Sincerely,  
Lootie Toomasie  
Chair, Nunavut Water Board

LT/kk/rh

Attach: Short Term Renewal Licence and Reasons for Decision  
cc: Mary River Distribution List

## SHORT TERM RENEWAL LICENCE

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| <b>Licensee:</b>                            | <b>BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION</b>  |
| <b>Licence No:</b>                          | <b>2AM-MRY1325 / Type A</b>   |
| <b>Licence Issued:</b>                      | <b>June 10, 2013</b>  |
| <b>Minister Approval of Licence:</b>        | <b>July 15, 2013</b>  |
| <b>Amendment No. 1 Issuance:</b>            | <b>July 21, 2015</b>  |
| <b>Minister Approval of Amendment No. 1</b> | <b>September 2, 2015</b>  |
| <b>Short Term Renewal Date Issuance:</b>    | <b>April 23, 2025</b>   |
| <b>Minister's Approval of STR Licence:</b>  | <b>_____, 2025</b>  |
| <b>STR Licence Commencement</b>             | <b>The STR Licence will take effect on June 9, 2025 <u>only if</u> the Minister has not completed (or been deemed to complete) decision-making in relation to the Application by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation for the 15-year renewal of Licence No: 2AM-MRY1325 received by the Board on June 26, 2024 (full Renewal Application)</b> |
| <b>STR Licence Expiry</b>                   | <b>The STR Licence expires on the earlier of December 5, 2025 OR the Minister's completion of decision-making for the full Renewal Application (and if approved by the Minister, the issuance of a long-term renewed licence)</b>   |

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Pursuant to its authority under Article 13 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* and the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, with respect to an application for the short-term renewal licence received from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland or Applicant or Licensee) on February 28, 2025 for the Mary River Project and the Reasons for Decision issued by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) on that application, the NWB hereby issues this Short-Term Renewal to Licence No: 2AM-MRY1325 as follows:



## NUNAVUT WATER BOARD WATER LICENCE RENEWAL (SHORT-TERM)

Pursuant to the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada*, the Nunavut Water Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, hereby grants to

### BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION

(Licensee)

**SUITE 300 – 360 OAKVILLE PLACE DRIVE, OAKVILLE  
ONTARIO, CANADA L6H 6K8**

(Mailing Address)

hereinafter called the Licensee, the right to alter, divert or otherwise use water or dispose of waste for a period subject to restrictions and conditions contained within this Licence amendment:

Licence Number/Type: **2AM-MRY1325 TYPE A**

Water Management Area: **GIFFORD SOUND (21) AND ECLIPSE SOUND (48)  
WATERSHEDS**

Location: **MARY RIVER PROJECT  
QIKIQTANI REGION, NUNAVUT**

Classification: **MINING UNDERTAKING**

Purpose: **USE OF WATERS AND DEPOSIT OF WASTE**

Quantity of Water use not  
To Exceed: **CONSTRUCTION PHASE: 689,000 CUBIC METRES  
ANNUALLY; EARLY REVENUE PHASE: 547,500 CUBIC  
METRES ANNUALLY; OPERATIONS PHASE: 353,000 CUBIC  
METRES ANNUALLY**

Licence Issuance: **JUNE 10, 2013**

Expiry of Licence: **The earlier of December 5, 2025 or the Minister's completion of  
decision-making for the full Renewal Application (and if  
approved by the Minister, issuance of a renewed Licence)**

This Short-Term Renewal Licence issued and recorded at Gjoa Haven, Nunavut, includes and is subject to the annexed conditions.

**All remaining terms and conditions of Licence No: 2AM-MRY1325 type A dated June 10, 2013, and  
Licence Amendment No. 1 dated July 21, 2015, shall continue to apply.**

This Short-Term Renewal Licence is issued and recorded at Gjoa Haven, Nunavut on April 23, 2025.

**Lootie Toomasie,  
Nunavut Water Board, Chair**

**APPROVED  
BY:**

**The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree  
Minister of Northern Affairs**

**DATE LICENCE APPROVED:**