

NIRB File No.: 07EN012 INAC No.: N2007F0004 QIA No.: **Pending**

February 21, 2007

Rod Cooper Vice President Operations Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Suite 1016, 120 Adelaide Street West Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

Via email: rod.cooper@baffinland.com

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for the Baffinland Mary River Bulk Sampling Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On January 25, 2007, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation's (Baffinland) Mary River Bulk Sampling Program project proposal from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. This project proposal received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission on January 22, 2007.

As you are aware, NIRB was waiting for comments to be received on Baffinland's Geotechnical Drilling Program (Drilling Program) project proposal prior to commencing the Part 4 Screening of this project proposal. All comments have been received in this regard, and NIRB is now commencing the Part 4 Screening of the Bulk Sampling Program.

The project activities include:

- Delivery of contractor mining and crushing equipment, camp materials and fuel in 2 ship voyages to Milne Inlet
- Upgrade of existing Milne Inlet tote road for all-weather use including:
 - o Quarrying and placement of fill on road bed
 - o Replacement and installation of culverts at watercourses
- Construction of 100-person all-weather tent camp at Mary River, adjacent to existing seasonal exploration camp
- Establishment of a temporary 30-person trailer camp at Milne Inlet
- Establishment of a temporary 12-person trailer camp part-way along the Milne Inlet tote road (Midway camp)
- Establishment of temporary fuel storage facilities at Mary River consisting of one 1.4ML diesel fuel tank farm, one 550,000L Jet-A tank farm, and one 1.25ML diesel tank farm
- Establishment of temporary fuel storage facilities at Milne Inlet for 8ML of diesel fuel and 90,000L of Jet-A fuel
- Establishment of temporary fuel storage facilities Midway Camp for 20-30 200L drums of diesel fuel

- Drilling, blasting and storing of 169,300 dry tonnes (t) of weathered surface rock on top of Deposit No. 1 over one or two months
- Drilling, blasting and storing 250,000 t of iron ore bulk sample from Deposit No. 1 over three-tofive months
- Hauling of the 250,000 t iron ore bulk sample from Mary River to Milne Inlet
- Temporary stockpiling of the 250,000 t iron ore bulk sample at Milne Inlet
- Loading of the 250,000 t iron ore bulk sample on 3 ships for a total of five voyages

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at: http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/NIRB_SCREENINGS/ACTIVE_SCREENINGS/ including:

- Correspondence dated January 8, 2007 from Rod Cooper to Carolanne Inglis-McQuay
- Positive Conformity Determination dated January 22, 2007 from Ronnie Suluk of the Nunavut Planning Commission
- Follow-up correspondence dated January 29, 2007 from Ronnie Suluk of the Nunavut Planning Commission to Carolanne Inglis-McQuay of NIRB
- Table 1 Conformance to the NIRB Project Specific Information Requirements
- Table 2 Environmental Screening Document Distribution List
- Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project, Bulk Sampling Program Environmental Screening Document Volume I Report and Volume II Appendices (Knight Piésold Report NB102-00181/6-1, Rev. 0, dated November 20, 200)
- Correspondence dated January 25, 2007 from John Amagoalik of Oikiqtani Inuit Association to Carolanne Inglis-McQuay of NIRB
- Correspondence dated November 30, 2006 from Richard Cook of Knight Piésold to Salamonie Shoo of Oikigtani Inuit Association
- Correspondence dated November 30, 2006 from Rod Cooper of Baffinland to Salamonie Shoo of Qikiqtani Inuit Association
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association Application for Access to Inuit Owned Land
- Correspondence dated January 25, 2007 from Jeff Holwell of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to Ms. Elizabeth Copland of NIRB
- Correspondence dated January 8, 2007 from Rod Cooper of Baffinland to Jeff Holwell of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Correspondence dated November 30, 2006 from Richard Cook of Knight Piésold to Spencer Dewar of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Correspondence dated November 30, 2006 from Rod Cooper of Baffinland to Spencer Dewar of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Indian and Northern Affairs Application for Land Use Permit
- Indian and Northern Affairs Application for Quarrying Permit

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), NIRB shall proceed to screen the subject project proposal. NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for Public access.

NIRB is also copying interested Parties and municipalities most affected by Baffinland's Bulk Sampling Program project proposal. NIRB is inviting interested Parties to comment directly to the NIRB by March 14, 2007.

NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socioeconomic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

NIRB also requests comments from Parties on the scope of the project proposal, from the perspective of the Party's jurisdiction, whatever that may be. NIRB expects the Parties to use Baffinland's *Environmental Screening Document* as the basis for the scoping comments.

In the event that the Board makes at 12.4.4 (b) recommendation for a review of the project proposal and the Minister agrees to a Part 5 Review, NIRB reserves the right to hold public scoping sessions, and as always, would conduct Technical Meetings and a Pre-Hearing Conference.

Based on a review of *Table 2 – Environmental Screening Document Distribution List* provided by Knight Piésold, most Parties should have a hard copy of the *Environmental Screening Document*. If your organization requires information in this regard, please contact Richard Cook, at rcook@knightpiesold.com.

Please send your comments to the attention of NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration Leslie Payette at lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at <u>cinglis@nirb.nunavut.ca</u> or 867-983-4607.

Sincerely,

Carolanne Inglis-McQuay Technical Advisor

Cc:

Baffinland Distribution List

Brian Aglukark: Nunavut Planning Commission (aglukark@npc.nunavut.ca)

Richard Cook: Knight Piesold (rcook@knightpiesold.com)

Spencer Dewar: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (dewars@inac.gc.ca)
Phyllis Beaulieu: Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)

Salamonie Shoo: Qikiqtani Inuit Association (lands@nunanet.com)

Attachments:

Comment form