



NIRB No.:07EN004
INAC No.: N2006C0036
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QIA No.:Q05L2C14

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: Requirement to Address Comments Received about Geotechnical Drilling Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On January 24, 2007, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation's (Baffinland) Mary River Geotechnical Drilling Program (Drilling Program) project proposal from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA).

As you are aware, NIRB invited interested Parties and municipalities most affected by the Drilling Program project proposal to comment directly to the NIRB by February 16, 2007.

By February 6, 2007 and February 20, 2007, NIRB received comments from the following interested Parties:

- Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth
- The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
- Environment Canada
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Transport Canada

All documents comments received pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at:

ftp://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/NIRB_SCREENINGS/ACTIVE_SCREENINGS/07EN004-Baffinland_Geotechnical_Program/1-SCREENING/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/

Concerns regarding the project proposal were expressed by all interested Parties.

The main concerns include:

- potential cumulative effects with other projects in the area and ongoing land use activities (cumulative impacts from both projects should be assessed)

- potential for archeological site disturbance in the Mary River area
- potential impacts on caribou and other wildlife,
- lack of wildlife data (including baseline data sets), and effective impact and mitigation measures
- omissions in project proposal, such as wildlife observations map, aircraft activities, impact of noise,
- potential human-wolf, wolverine and fox encounters resulting in injury or death to either animal or human(s)
- potential ecological impacts of shipping and geotechnical activities to polar bears
- potential human-polar bear encounters
- lack of information in the Spill Contingency Plan, such as training for employees, treatment of spilled material
- omissions in the Abandonment and Restoration Plan, such as clean-up and treatment at bone yard
- potential excessive run-off and erosion at drill sites
- potential runoff of calcium chloride into water bodies
- potential interference to navigation

Due to these concerns, NIRB would like to provide the Proponent with an opportunity to address **all** the comments before proceeding with the next steps of the screening process. NIRB requests that a response to be provided to both NIRB and the interested Parties by **February 27, 2007**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 867-983-4606 or sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca, or Carolanne Inglis at 867-983-4607 or cinglis@nirb.nunavut.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho
Technical Advisor

Cc Distribution List
 Richard Cook: Knight Piesold (rcook@knightpiesold.com)
 Jeff Holwell: Lands Administrator – INAC (holwellj@inac.gc.ca)
 Terry Audla: Executive Director – QIA (execdir@qia.ca)
 Phyllis Beaulieu: Manager of Licensing – (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)