

NIRB File No.: 07EN012 INAC No.: N2007F0004 QIA No.: LUA-2007-001

April 3, 2007

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

Via e-mail: derek.chubb@baffinland.com

Re: Opportunity for Baffinland to Respond to Parties Comments on the Mary River Bulk Sampling Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Chubb:

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 (Bulk Sampling project) from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA). This project proposal received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission on January 22, 2007.

As you know, NIRB commenced the Part 4 Screening of the Bulk Sampling project on February 21, 2007, and requested comments be provided to NIRB by March 14, 2007. On March 6, 2007 the QIA requested the comment period be extended to March 30, 2007. NIRB granted this extension to the QIA and to all Parties.

NIRB requested Parties 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; and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

NIRB also requested comments from Parties on the scope of the project proposal, from the perspective of the Party's jurisdiction.

On or before March 30, 2007, NIRB received comments about the Bulk Sampling project from the following Parties:

- 1. Qikiqtani Inuit Association
- 2. Hamlet of Pond Inlet
- 3. Government of Nunavut Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

- 4. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- 5. Environment Canada
- 6. Health Canada
- 7. Parks Canada
- 8. Transport Canada
- 9. Natural Resources Canada
- 10. Fisheries and Oceans Canada

All comments have been uploaded to NIRB's ftp-site, located at the following address: ftp://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/NIRB SCREENINGS/ACTIVE SCREENINGS/07EN012-Baffinland_Bulk_Sampling_Program/1-SCREENING/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/

You will note that several Parties had concerns regarding your project proposal.

The following is a *summary* of these concerns:

- Water quality
- Human health
- Monitoring programs
- Fish, marine mammals, caribou, other wildlife, migratory birds, seabirds, waterfowl and Species at Risk - and their habitat
- Hazardous waste storage
- Incinerator use
- Cumulative effects and cumulative effects assessment
- Archaeology
- Milne Inlet Tote Road
- Sewage management
- Socioeconomic impacts
- Traditional land use and activities, Inuit harvesting activities and country foods
- Noise levels
- Air quality
- Eskers and other unique landscapes
- Shipping activities
- Abandonment and restoration
- Education and training
- Spill contingency planning
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Public health and safety
- Further baseline data collection
- Interference to navigation
- Community involvement and consultation
- Local development in the area
- Tourism in the area

NIRB has reviewed all the comments, and is now requesting that Baffinland respond to all Parties' comments and concerns in a submission to NIRB (and copied to the interested Parties).

NIRB is recommending that your response integrate relevant supplemental information with the information presented in the original Environmental Screening Document. This would include supplemental information pertaining to baseline studies, impact predictions, mitigation measures, operational procedures, and monitoring – and any other concerns noted by Parties.

I anticipate receiving your response by April 20, 2007. Please forward your response to NIRB's Manager of Administration, Leslie Payette at lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cinglis@nirb.nunavut.ca 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 (<u>licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org</u>)

John Amagoalik: Qikiqtani Inuit Association (lands@qia.ca) Li Wan: Nunavut Impact Review Board (lawn@nirb.nunavut.ca)