



NIRB File No.: 07EN004

June 4, 2007

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
c/o Derek Chubb – Vice President Sustainable Development
Suite 1016
120 Adelaide Street
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

Via email: derek.chubb@baffinland.com

Re: Clarification Regarding Mary River 2007/2008 Exploration Program Surface Water Management Plan

Dear Derek Chubb:

On May 20, 2007 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a copy of Baffinland's Surface Water Management Plan (Plan) for the Mary River 2007/2008 exploration program. The correspondence accompanying this Plan states the Plan is to address Part B, Item 3 of the water license, and recommendation 7 of the NIRB Screening Decision Report (attached). In addition, in our telephone conversation on May 28, 2007 you indicated to me this Plan was also to address recommendation 6 of the NIRB Screening Decision Report.

I have completed a review of your Plan as it relates to the NIRB recommendations, and have noted the following:

1. Item 7(b) of NIRB's recommendations requested that there be a description of the Guidelines used in the monitoring program, including any site-specific criteria established by the NWB. While Section 6.3 of the Plan discusses that the weekly reporting on the monitoring program will involve comparing sample results to the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment (CCME) Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life, NIRB is requesting that Baffinland identify whether or not any site-specific criteria provided by the NWB have been used to develop this monitoring program.
2. Item 7(d) (ii) requests a description of the criteria that the Proponent will use when considering the requirement for adaptive management to deal with adverse impacts. While this Plan discusses the adaptive management strategies to be employed if an issue arises, there is no discussion regarding the criteria to be used by Baffinland in order to ascertain if an issue has occurred.
3. The Plan does not explicitly address the requirements in recommendation 6. The Plan has indicated that 'drilling locations not adjacent to larger water bodies may need to be drilled during periods of higher flows so that there is no drawdown of the water levels...and no water will be used from streams where there is the potential for drawdown effect without first obtaining regulatory approvals' (pg 8 of 16). While this seems to indicate that Baffinland will avoid using water for drilling where drawdown effects may occur, NIRB would request clarification from Baffinland in regard to the items described in recommendation 6 of the Screening Decision, where relevant.

At this time I am requesting that you provide a written response to the above noted items. I anticipate receiving your reply by June 15, 2007. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 867-983-4607 or cinglis@nirb.nunavut.ca.

Thank you in advance,



Carolanne Inglis-McQuay
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Cc Phyllis Beaulieu: Nunavut Water Board
 Salamonie Shoo: Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Paul Savioe: Fisheries and Ocean Canada
 Cindy Parker: Environment Canada

Attachments:
07EN004 NIRB Screening Decision