



NIRB File No.: 07EN004
INAC No.: N2006C0036
NWB File No.: 2BE-MRY0708

March 29, 2010

Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
c/o Spencer Dewar, Manager Land Administration
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: Spencer.Dewar@inac-ainc.gc.ca

**Re: Application Exempt from NIRB Screening Pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA:
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's "Mary River Geotechnical Drilling" project
proposal**

Dear Mr. Dewar:

On March 26, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received an application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (Baffinland) "Mary River Geotechnical Drilling" project proposal. The application is for an extension to INAC Land Use Permit # N2006C0036.

The original application for the above project was received by the NIRB on January 24, 2007 from INAC and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association respectively, and screened by the NIRB in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On March 26, 2007 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC allowing the proposed project to proceed subject to project-specific recommended terms and conditions.

The current INAC application and the original file information (NIRB File No.: 07EN004) are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2007_SCREENINGS/07EN004-Baffinland_Geotechnical_Program/

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

After completing a review of the information provided, the NIRB is of the understanding that the extension application received from INAC does not change the scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original March 26, 2007 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact NIRB Technical Advisor, Li Wan, at (867) 983-4606 or liwan@nirb.ca.

Best regards,



Ryan Barry
Director, Technical Services

for:

Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

Cc: James Millard, Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation (Jim.Millard@Baffinland.com)
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)
Stephen Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association (landsdirector@qia.ca)

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Report Decision, File No. 07EN004 (March 26, 2007)