



**NIRB File No.: 11EN024**  
**QIA File No.: Q10L2C020**  
**NWB File No.: 2BE-BEL1114**

April 25, 2012

Okalik Eegeesiak  
President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
c/o Bernie MacIsaac, Director of Lands  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
P.O. Box 1340  
Iqaluit, NU

*Via Email:* [bmacisaac@qia.ca](mailto:bmacisaac@qia.ca)

**Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Canadian Orebodies Inc.'s Amendment Request with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for the "Belcher Island Diamond Drilling Program" project**

Dear Bernie MacIsaac:

On March 21, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) for Land Use Licences to support Canadian Orebodies Inc.'s (COBI; the Proponent) ongoing "Belcher Island Diamond Drilling Program" project. The NIRB did not require a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 11EN024) was received by the NIRB from the Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services (GN-CGS) on May 5, 2011 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On June 13, 2011 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Community & Government Services, Government of Nunavut, which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current QIA application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (NIRB File No. 11EN024) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/11EN024-Canadian%20Orebodies-Gord%20McKinnon/>.

#### PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 11EN024), the “Belcher Island Diamond Drilling Program” project was located on Inuit Owned Lands and Commissioner’s lands (Municipal) near the community of Sanikiluaq on Flaherty Island in the Belcher Islands archipelago, Qikiqtani Region. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct land-based prospecting and mineral exploration for potential iron ore deposits between May and October annually, from 2011 to 2013.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Establish a 30 person camp;
- Ground and air geophysical assessment on Commissioner’s Land and Inuit Owned Land;
- Diamond drilling for two (2) years using three (3) drills for a total 30,000 metres drilled;
- Storing 82,000 litres (L) of diesel, 82,000 L of aviation fuel, 2,000 L of gasoline, and 20-100 pound tanks of propane fuel on site;
- Helicopter transport of drilling equipment, crew, and supplies;
- Combustible wastes incinerated on site with non-combustible and hazardous wastes removed for disposal at an approved landfill.

#### CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is proposing to continue its exploration activities on the Belcher Islands for a period of two years, until October 2014, and has applied to conduct the following additional components and activities:

- Exploration and drilling conducted on the following new sites:
  - the Haig West area located on Municipal Land,
  - the Wiegand Island area on Inuit Owned Land,
  - the Kugong Island area on Inuit Owned Land, and
  - the Kihl Bay area on Inuit Owned Land; as well as
- Logistical support, including worker accommodations, based out of the community of Sanikiluaq instead of the previously permitted temporary camp.

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.”*

On March 23, 2012 NIRB distributed the current amendment request to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by April 2,

2012 (later extended to April 16, 2012 at the request of community members). While a number of concerns were raised by community residents of Sanikiluaq regarding exploration activities near their community, the NIRB's previous recommendations are inclusive of these areas of potential impact; the potential impacts from the proposed project can be prevented and/or mitigated if implemented by the Proponent and enforced by land administrators.

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received from interested parties, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed amendment does not change the general 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 the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original June 13, 2011 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
Executive Director

cc: Gordon McKinnon, Canadian Orebodies Inc.  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Adule Chris, Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services  
Nathaniel Joanassie, Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services  
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 11EN024 (June 13, 2011)

Attached: Appendix A – Summary of Comments Received

## APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Please note that the following represents a *summary* of comments received by the Board. Full comment submissions may be obtained from the NIRB's online registry at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/11EN024-Canadian%20Orebodies-Gord%20McKinnon/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/>.

### Environment Canada:

- Comments previously submitted on behalf of EC regarding this project still apply.
- Burning should only be done to meet the guidelines under the CCME Canada-wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans and the Canadian-wide Standards for Mercury Emissions.
- Camp wastes should be incinerated according to the Technical Document for Batch Waste Incineration, and solid wastes should only be burned in a manner outlined in the Nunavut Municipal Open Burning Policy.
- Certain absorbent materials oily or greasy rags, and equipment servicing wastes (such as used engine oil, antifreeze, hydraulic oil, lead acid batteries, brake fluid and other lubricants) should be safely stored and transported in sealed containers (odour-free to prevent animal attraction) and safely transported to a facility that is authorized for the treatment and disposal of industrial hazardous wastes.

### Government of Nunavut – Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs

- Concluded that the amendment does not significantly modify the project and supports already approved/permitted activities.
- The Department of Environment, Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division request that Canadian Orebodies Inc. continue ongoing discussions with the Department of Environment regarding planned project activities in an effort to mitigate and/or avoid potential issues/conflicts as projects move forward.
- The Fisheries and Sealing Division conducted a traditional knowledge-based coastal resource inventory for the Belcher Islands which has been mapped and tabled into a report that is available upon request; the Proponent is encouraged to request this data and incorporate the findings into their future plans and assessments.
- Requested confirmation that the previously permitted camp is not part of the ongoing project.

### Lukasi Apaqqa Anugaa

- Does not support the ongoing exploration of these areas due to concerns about traditional burial grounds and impacts to the land and therefore livelihood. Lakes should not be disturbed.
- Drilling companies should check with the community every 15-20 years to see if the residents are open to drilling.
- Suggest that what was drilled last summer be bought by the people.

#### Community of Sanikiluaq Comments from Radio Show

- Exploration areas should be assessed for Burial Sites/Archaeological Sites and the community should be informed when drilling is conducted close to these sites.
- Concern expressed regarding compensation if something goes wrong.
- Wildlife concerns specific to exploration activities resulting in impacts to geese nesting, and reindeer food sources, as well as traditional activities such as blueberry picking and travel routes for hunting.