

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE NO.: 18EN026

NPC File No.: 148801

August 17, 2018

To: Karén Kharatyan

A/Manager of Licensing Nunavut Water Board

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Re: <u>Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's "Eqe Bay Exploration Program" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region</u>

Dear Administrators:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Northern Affairs and Internal Trade for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's "Eqe Bay Exploration Program" in the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region, dated August 17, 2018.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that a review of the project is not required in accordance with paragraph 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of paragraph 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of *the NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact Cassel Kapolak, NIRB's Environmental Administrator at (867) 983-4605 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,

Cassel Kapolak

Environmental Administrator

Carsel Kepelil

cc: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.

Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut

Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Distribution List

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