

June 5, 2026

Robert Hunter
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
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Re: 2BE-EQE1926 – Baffinland Iron Mines – Ege Bay – Responses to Comments on Water Licence Renewal Application

The following submission from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) is in response to Parties' comments on the renewal of Ege Bay's Type 'B' Water Licence 2BE-EQE1926 (the Licence). These comments were distributed by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) on May 25, 2026.

Baffinland's response to comments is enclosed in Attachment A. As updates were made to several of the Application attachments in response to the comments received, a revised version of the Application for Renewal of Baffinland's Type 'B' Water Licence, originally submitted on April 16, 2026, is enclosed in Attachment B.

Should you have any additional concerns or questions regarding the attached responses, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Regards,



Elisabeth Luther
Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Cc: Lou Kamermans, Jon Hey, William Bowden

Attachments

Attachment A. Response to Comments on the Ege Bay Water Licence Renewal Application 2BE-EQE1926

Attachment B. Revised Application for the Renewal of Baffinland's Type 'B' Water Licence No. 2BE-EQE1926

Attachment A

Response to Comments on the Ege Bay Water Licence Renewal Application 2BE-EQE1926

Table 1. Response to Comments on the Ege Bay Water Licence Renewal Application 2BE-EQE1926

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
QIA-1	Discussion of project activities completed to date	181207 A-7 Ege Bay Project Proposal, also relevant to supporting documentation and plans.	<p>Project documentation is written from the perspective of a 2018 project commencement. It is understood that the full project scope did not proceed under the previous Type B Water Licence (2BE-EQE1926). However, the Non-Technical Summary document indicates that limited works and surveys were undertaken between 2018 and 2025.</p> <p>For example, the project proposal states that archaeological surveys would be conducted in June or July 2018 prior to sealift delivery of equipment and materials. In contrast, the Non-Technical Summary indicates that archaeological surveys of the proposed exploration area and camp locations were completed in the summers of 2018 and 2021. These differences suggest that while the original schedule was not fully implemented, components of the program were carried out between 2018 and 2025.</p>	The Project Proposal document and supporting documents, where relevant, should be updated to reflect work that has been completed to date, and expected project timelines under the licence renewal. Impacts of exploration works and mitigation measures should be updated based on the findings of completed surveys.	<p>Section 1.1 of the Project Proposal has been updated to describe activities completed in 2025 (Attachment 2).</p> <p>During the archaeology surveys conducted in 2018 and 2021, areas assessed to be of moderate or high archaeological value have been mapped, photographed, documented and staked or roped off to prevent potential for human interaction. Section 2.1.2 of the Ege Bay Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) has been updated accordingly (Attachment 14). The environmental protection measures outlined in this section of the Ege Bay EPP remain sufficient to address the environmental concern based on findings from the surveys.</p> <p>Baffinland intends to move forward with the original scope and timeline once the land use lease is secured.</p>
QIA-2	Proposed bathymetric and water quality surveys	181207 A-7 Ege Bay Project Proposal, Section 5.7, Page 16	The project proposal states that Baffinland expects to conduct bathymetric surveys on the two lakes (Lake EB-1 and Lake EB-2) that will be used to supply water for the camp and exploration activities, as well as collect water quality samples from these waterbodies. It is unclear if these surveys have been conducted, and if so, how the findings have been used to inform relevant project plans including the Ege	Confirm if bathymetric and water quality surveys have been completed for Lake EB-1 and EB-2.	Bathymetric and water quality surveys for Lake EB-1 and Lake EB-2 have not yet been completed. Baffinland has identified these surveys as priority tasks and plans to complete them once land access to the site has been secured.

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			Bay Inspection and Monitoring Plan and Environmental Protection Plan.		
QIA-3	Conditions for temporary closure	Closure and Reclamation Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0003, Section 7, Page 42	The plan defines temporary closure according to the Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the Northwest Territories, which states temporary closure occurs when a project ceases with the intent of resuming activities in the near future. It is unclear what timeframe would trigger the temporary versus permanent closure protocol. Specifically, concerns of an undefined temporary closure timeline are related to potential acid rock drainage (ARD) associated with proposed quarries. The Closure and Reclamation Plan does not specify temporary closure actions related to quarries. Temporary closure protocol must address mitigation related to quarries to minimize ARD potential to the maximum extent possible during temporary closure.	Define the term ‘near future’ to specify how long the project area could be left inactive before the temporary or permanent closure plan must be enacted. Update the temporary closure plan to include quarry and ARD considerations. The temporary closure plan should include a timeline for which ARD will be addressed consistent with permanent closure.	Details regarding quarry and acid rock drainage considerations are provided in Section 4.4.6 of the Ege Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan. Baffinland has updated Section 7 of the Plan to provide additional clarity regarding the timing of temporary closure activities. Additional details regarding the temporary closure of quarries have also been added to Section 7 (Attachment 9).
QIA-4	Maintenance of temporary water intakes	Environmental Inspection and Monitoring Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0004	The DFO (2020) guidance document Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater recommends regular inspection, maintenance and cleaning of intake screens to prevent fish from being impinged. Specifically, screens in disrepair can result in uneven flow rates that increase the likelihood of harm to fish. The	Please update the Environmental Inspection and Monitoring Plan to specify that intake screens will be inspected weekly, or in accordance with DFO guidelines, whichever is more frequent.	Baffinland has updated the Environmental Inspection and Monitoring Plan in this regard (Attachment 11, Section 2.5). Note in DFO’s Interim Water intake end-of-pipe fish screens, fish screens are to be inspected daily, which has been incorporated into the plan.

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			inspection and monitoring plan does not specify how intake screens will be inspected.		
QIA-5	Collation of water consumption by source	Environmental Inspection and Monitoring Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0004, Table 4-2, Page 13-14	Table 4-2 indicates that for water intake from EB-2, Ege-Pond-1 and Ege-Pond-2 water consumption will be recorded by drill rig supply pump and collated by source. Where withdrawals occur from the same source at multiple locations, coordination is required to ensure that cumulative daily withdrawals do not exceed the limits established under the Type B Water Licence. It is not clear how water use will be tracked and communicated between withdrawal points to ensure compliance with source-specific daily use limits.	Please describe the procedures that will be implemented to coordinate and track water withdrawals where multiple intake points or drills draw from a single source. This should include how daily withdrawal volumes will be communicated between locations, how cumulative withdrawals will be calculated relative to licensed limits, and what controls will be in place to prevent exceedances.	To ensure cumulative daily withdrawals remain within the licensed limits, Baffinland will utilize a centralized Daily Water Tracking Log managed by the on site Environmental Representative. As specified in Table 4-2, water consumption is recorded at each drill rig using supply pump meters. At the conclusion of each shift, Exploration Program Personnel are required to report these meter readings to the Environmental Representative. These individual volumes are then collated into the master log to calculate the total daily withdrawal for each specific source. To prevent exceedances, a daily "allocation" is assigned to each active drill rig, calculated by dividing the 270 m ³ total capacity by the number of active rigs, ensuring that no single location exceeds the source limit. This process ensures that the daily records required under Part B and Part I of Licence 2BE-EQE1926 are verified in real time before the authorized threshold is reached.
QIA-6	Waste storage on site	Waste Management Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0005, Section 7, Page 27	Section 7 of the Waste Management Plan describes how hazardous waste will be contained and temporarily stored on site prior to shipment offsite. Interim storage of hazardous waste represents a potential environmental risk if not properly designed and managed. Key considerations	Additional detail regarding hazardous waste storage on site prior to shipment off site should be provided. Additional information should include the frequency of shipments and expected volume relative to the capacity of hazardous waste storage on site.	Detail regarding hazardous waste storage on site prior to shipment off site is provided in Sections 7.1-7.2 of the Ege Bay Waste Management Plan (Attachment 13). Hazardous waste generated as a result of the Ege Bay Exploration Program will be backhauled offsite as required. Further details on the storage

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			<p>include the amount of hazardous waste that can be accommodated on site and frequency of shipment off site. These elements should be clearly defined to mitigate the risk of hazardous waste releases.</p> <p>It is understood that hazardous waste storage locations will be regularly inspected according to the Environmental Inspection and Monitoring Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0004.</p>		<p>capacity for waste and expected volume relative to the capacity will be provided with the detailed design sixty (60) days prior to construction as required under Part E Condition 12 of the Water Licence.</p>
QIA-7	Intake pipe mitigation considerations	Environmental Protection Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001, Section 2.4, Page 21	<p>“All water intake hoses shall be equipped with a screen of an appropriate mesh size (as approved by the DFO) to ensure that fish are not entrained. Additionally, operators will ensure the water intake hoses withdraw water at such a rate that fish do not become impinged on the screen.”</p> <p>The environmental protection plan notes that screen mesh size, and water withdrawal rates will be in accordance with DFO’s Interim Code of Practice: End-of-Pipe Fish Protection Screens for Small Water Intakes in Freshwater (DFO, 2020). In addition to mesh size and withdrawal rate requirements, Sections 2 and 3 of DFO’s Interim Code of Practice (2020) outline specific installation, placement, and maintenance measures intended to minimize harm to fish and fish habitat. The guidance document notes that screens should be placed away from natural or man-made structures that may attract fish that are migrating, spawning, or in</p>	<p>Please describe how installation, placement, and maintenance of water intake hoses and fish protection screens will be addressed within the Environmental Protection Plan. Specifically, please indicate how lake bathymetry and fish habitat use will be considered when placing intake pipes. The response should confirm alignment with DFO’s (2020) Interim Code of Practice: End-of-Pipe Fish Protection Screens for Small Water Intakes in Freshwater, including site selection and ongoing inspection/maintenance requirements (addressed in QIA-4). Winter withdrawal locations should also comply with DFO’s (2010) Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal from Ice-covered Waterbodies in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.</p>	<p>Baffinland has incorporated water intake and winter withdrawal mitigation measures within Section 2.5 of the revised Environmental Protection Plan (Attachment 14).</p>

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			<p>rearing habitat. It is unclear whether these placement and maintenance considerations have been incorporated into the proposed approach.</p> <p>For winter withdrawals, compliance with the DFO (2010) Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal from Ice-covered Waterbodies in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut requires characterization of ice thickness, total water depth at the intake location, and calculation of available under-ice water volume to ensure that withdrawals do not exceed recommended limits (e.g., <10% of available under-ice volume), and do not remove oxygenated surface waters that are critical to over-wintering fish. It is not clear how these parameters will be measured, calculated, or validated at the proposed intake locations.</p>		
QIA-8	Bird protection measures	Environmental Protection Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001, Section 2.13, Page 41	<p>This section describes how impacts to nesting birds will be mitigated through on-ground inspection prior to project activities. These methods will be conducted in accordance to Appendix C (Mary River Active Migratory Bird Surveys Protocol) of the Environmental Protection Plan. This protocol indicates that pre-disturbance surveys will be completed when works occur in undisturbed areas between May 31 and August 31. This timing is based on the ECCC (2025, Nesting periods - Canada.ca) predicted nesting period for nesting</p>	<p>The Environmental Protection Plan should be updated to specify that surveys will be completed between May 31 and August 31. Additionally, it should be clearly noted that individual nests should not be flagged.</p>	<p>The topic of bird protection measures falls under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>, administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada, as well as Ege Bay NIRB Screening Decision Report Terms and Conditions 22-25 (File No. 18EN026), and is not the regulatory focus of the NWB Type ‘B’ Water Licence renewal process.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) has been updated to include the current Active Migratory Bird Nest Survey procedure used at</p>

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			<p>zone N10. It is not made clear in section 2.13 of the Environmental Protection Plan that these surveys will be conducted only during this time period.</p> <p>Additionally, the ECCC (2023) guidance document Guidelines to avoid harm to migratory birds - Canada.ca specifies “It is not recommended to mark nests using flagging tape or similar material. This may increase the risk of predators finding the nest. If necessary, flagging tape can be placed at the limits of the buffer zone.”</p>		<p>the Mary River Project (Attachment 14 - Appendix C).</p> <p>Baffinland will follow the nesting calendar published by ECCC (2025, Nesting periods - Canada.ca) for zone N10, which is late May to mid August. Section 2.14.2 of the EPP has been updated to refer to the ECCC nesting calendar and note that individual nests shall not be flagged.</p>
QIA-9	Caribou Protection Measures	Environmental Protection Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001, Section 2.12, Page 39	<p>The Environmental Protection Plan outlines how disturbance to caribou will be mitigated during exploration activities.</p> <p>“Should pregnant caribou cows, cow with young calves be observed within one (1) kilometer of Ege Bay exploration activities, operations in the vicinity of sighted caribou activities will be assessed by the Environmental Representative and modified as required. If the caribou are determined to be disturbed by operational activities, the activity will be modified or cease until the caribou are no longer in the immediate area. The QIA and HTOs of nearby communities will be consulted if it is determined that modifications to operational activities may be required.”</p> <p>“Caribou occurrence in the vicinity of the road and their responses to traffic will be monitored</p>	<p>The EPP should be updated to indicate how sightings of caribou and the subsequent decision-making process will be recorded. QIA and HTOs of nearby communities should be notified of all sightings requiring assessment by the Environmental Representative, not just those requiring modifications to operational activities. Also please clarify what actions will be taken if it is determined that caribou generally (non-pregnant, not cows with young) are disturbed or displaced by exploration activities.</p>	<p>The topic of caribou protection measures is considered in Ege Bay NIRB Screening Decision Report Terms and Conditions 31-34 (File No. 18EN026) and is not the regulatory focus of the NWB Type ‘B’ Water Licence renewal process.</p> <p>Baffinland has updated the Environmental Protection Plan to clarify the actions to be taken if caribou are observed the vicinity of exploration activities (Attachment 14, Section 2.13.2).</p> <p>Engagement with the QIA and HTOs of nearby communities to determine if modifications to operational activities may be required, based on the Environmental Representative’s assessment that pregnant cows or cows with young within 1km of activities are being</p>

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			by on the ground behavioral observations, to determine if it is apparent that caribou are being disturbed or displaced by traffic or exploration activities. Specific guidance is provided in the Caribou Encounter Decision Tree provided in Appendix B.” Appendix B is specific to caribou near roads and does not discuss disturbance or displacement caused by exploration (ex. drilling) activities.		disturbed, is considered sufficient. The Ege Bay NIRB Screening Decision Report Conditions are reported on annually in the Ege Bay Exploration Program Annual Report to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). These reports are publicly available on the NIRB Registry (NIRB File No. 18EN026). Screening Decision Conditions 31-34 pertain to caribou disturbance, where caribou sightings will be reported.
QIA-10	Dust Suppression	Ege Bay - Environmental Protection Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001, Section 2.20.2, Page 57	Dust mitigation measures discussed in the EPP only mention quarry locations. Dust generation from proposed activities will also occur via drilling, road maintenance, road use and camp maintenance and use activities.	Please revise the EPP and associated documents to address and mitigate dust generation related to drilling, drill hauling/transportation, road creation and maintenance and any other potentially dust-generating activities associated with the proposed Ege Bay activities.	Baffinland has incorporated these comments within Section 2.6.2, 2.7.2, and 2.18.2 of the revised Environmental Protection Plan (Attachment 14).
QIA-11	Water Supply Quantities	181207 A-7 Ege Bay Project Proposal, Section 2.2, Page 10	References of water use are not always clearly defined with a unit timeline (per day, per week, per year, etc.)	Please ensure that all withdrawal volumes are communicated with a withdrawal rate (typically cubic metres per day)	Baffinland has incorporated this comment within Section 2.4.2, and 2.5.2 of the revised Environmental Protection Plan (Attachment 14).
QIA-12	Sewage and Grey Water Disposal	181207 A-7 Ege Bay Project Proposal, Section 2.3, Page 10	It is unclear how daily raw sewage rates versus greywater rates are calculated for the camp sewage and associated sewage treatment plant. It is mentioned that a second treatment plant unit may be required to provide treatment in excess of 11.4 m ³ /day. There should be a practical response mechanism that triggers the requirement for the second	Please clarify what mechanism will result in the requirement of a second (or third) sewage treatment plant unit. Please clarify what rates of sewage vs greywater are anticipated based on the camp’s population and proposed daily withdrawal rates of 29 m ³ /day.	The primary mechanism triggering the installation of the second sewage treatment unit is camp population. The initial treatment unit is designed to handle a capacity of 11.4 m ³ /day, which is sufficient for the initial 50 person camp based on standard per capita generation rates. Once the program scales to the 100 person camp, a second identical unit

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			<p>treatment plant unit to be constructed/installed (camp population?). The daily rate of water use at camp is estimated at 29 m³/day, which could result in three sewage treatment units required to provide enough treatment capacity. Presumably, all of the water used in camp may not generate sewage and some will become greywater, but those proportions and rates are not clearly communicated in the project proposal.</p>		<p>will be commissioned to bring the total treatment capacity to 22.8 m³/day. Section 2.3 of the Project Proposal has been updated to clarify this (Attachment 2).</p> <p>While total water withdrawal for a 100-person camp is estimated at 29 m³/day, a third treatment unit is not anticipated because the Project utilizes greywater diversion. Greywater can be re-directed away from the sewage treatment plant if needed. There is the option to direct greywater to an excavated sump rather than to the sewage treatment plant. This option will be considered as a means of improving the quality of the sewage influent into the sewage treatment plant, to optimize treatment performance. This greywater can be redirected to a dedicated, excavated sump located more than 31 m from the high-water mark.</p>
QIA-13	Wildlife Protection Procedures	Ege Bay – Spill Contingency Plan, BAF-PH1-400-P16-0002, Page 15 – 17	<p>The Spill Contingency Plan indicates that in the instance of spills affecting wildlife trained personnel will collect impacted wildlife and then contact a number of wildlife treatment facilities/organizations, including CWS, for advisement on treatment. Table 4-1 lists these organizations and relevant areas of expertise. It is unclear how much, if any contact has been made to these organizations in relation to this issue. It is unclear if treatment or rehabilitation</p>	<p>Please clarify the role that external organizations are expected to contribute to wildlife treatment and rehabilitation. Please clarify if these organizations have been contacted in relation to their possible involvement and if it has been confirmed that they have the capacity to complete the responsibilities outlined in Table 4-1. Additionally, please update the Spill Contingency Plan to indicate that CWS will</p>	<p>Baffinland acknowledges the need for clarity regarding the coordination of wildlife response and the acquisition of necessary permits. The organizations listed in Table 4-1 are primarily intended to provide advisement and expert support to ensure Baffinland implements industry standard methods to reduce harm to wildlife in emergency scenarios. Baffinland has specific emergency response management plans</p>

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			<p>would be conducted by Baffinland staff or if wildlife would be sent to treatment facilities. If wildlife will be sent to any of the facilities listed in Table 4-1, has it been confirmed with these organizations that they can manage or provide the services listed?</p> <p>Additionally, the only mention of a permit for hazing, handling, or holding birds is vague. “Contact information for experts in bird hazing and bird exclusion, oiled bird rehabilitation, and permits required to haze, salvage, hold and clean, and/or euthanize birds, are outlined in Table 3-1.” For example, for hazing or deterrent activities it is understood that authorization would be required under the Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022. Instruction sheet: Applying for a migratory bird damage or danger permit under the Migratory Birds Regulations - Canada.ca.</p>	<p>be contacted and all required permits/authorizations related to hazing, salvage, holding or euthanizing wildlife will be obtained prior to any associated activities.</p>	<p>for large scale emergencies that have the potential to significantly interact with wildlife.</p> <p>It is important to distinguish between standard administrative permits and emergency response coordination. While a "Migratory Bird Damage or Danger Permit" is typically sought for predictable issues related to property damage or human safety, emergency hazing, salvage, or handling during a spill requires direct and immediate coordination with Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS) and Nunavut Emergency Management. These organizations are regulatory bodies with established mandates to coordinate territorial emergency operations and determine appropriate response strategies, including euthanization, cleaning, or rehabilitation, for migratory birds and species at risk.</p> <p>Baffinland’s trained onsite personnel will focus on the initial containment and collection of impacted wildlife under the advisement of external experts. Specialized rehabilitation or veterinary care would be coordinated through external specialists and resources such as International Bird Rescue or the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Baffinland confirms that the regulatory bodies listed (ECCC-CWS and Nunavut Emergency</p>

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					Management) have been identified as the primary points of contact for these functions as part of the project's emergency preparedness.
QIA-14	Fish Passage and Culvert Design/Construction	181207 A-7 Ege Bay Project Proposal, Figure 3	There is risk to creation of fish passage barriers with the installation of culverts on fishbearing streams. Even when appropriate substrate sizes are chosen to be consistent with existing habitat characteristics, the installation and maintenance of the substrate is important to maintain fish passage. During construction, an appropriate rock matrix should be installed with finer material backfilling any cobble/gravel to ensure surficial flow that enables consistent fish passage across all open water seasons.	Please ensure that culverts and associated stream works are completed to allow for surficial flow to maintain fish passage across all open water seasons, with reference to DFO’s Culvert Installations Factsheet.	<p>Baffinland acknowledges the risk of creating fish passage barriers if water is permitted to flow through the interstitial spaces of the culvert substrate rather than over the surface. To mitigate this risk, all culvert installations within fish-bearing streams will be completed using a graded rock matrix. This involves placing coarse substrate (cobbles and gravel) that is backfilled with finer materials to seal the bed and ensure surficial flow across all open water seasons, even during low-flow periods. These works will be performed in accordance with DFO’s Culvert Installations Factsheet and any site-specific conditions provided in the expected DFO Letter of Advice.</p> <p>Baffinland will engage with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding two culverts that are planned for installation within streams assumed to be fish habitat; it is expected that formal approval will not be required and that DFO will issue a Letter of Advice (LOA) to Baffinland.</p>
QIA-15	Sewage and Grey Water Disposal	181207 A-7 Ege Bay Project Proposal,	Greywater conveyance to an excavated sump for infiltration rather than treatment at the sewage treatment plant is mentioned. Sump sizing and the infiltration potential of the local	Please provide design details relating to soil infiltration capacity and estimated sump sizing and greywater flow rates to any sumps in advance of sump construction to	Baffinland acknowledges this request and will provide design details relating to soil infiltration capacity and estimated sump sizing and greywater flow rates of the sump sixty (60) days

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		Section 2.3, Page 10	soils need to be detailed in advance of this option to ensure that the sumps are never overflowing or risking erosion or physical/chemical environmental hard to the landscape.	minimize risk to the local environment and/or landscape.	prior to construction as required under Part E Condition 12 of the Water Licence.
QIA-16	Sewage and Grey Water Disposal	181207 A-7 Ege Bay Project Proposal, Section 2.3, Page 10	“Additionally, treated sewage effluent will be discharged to land” This represents a risk to the local flora and landscape as daily discharge may present soil erosion risk.	Please clarify how discharge to the land will be managed to prevent erosion or a change in vegetation community.	The Project utilizes the natural topography of the Ege Bay area, which is dominated by undulating bedrock outcrops, to select discharge locations on durable, erodible resistant surfaces. To mitigate erosion at the point of discharge, energy dissipating materials such as rip rap or geotextiles will be utilized to disperse the effluent and reduce its velocity. The Environmental Representative will conduct routine inspections to verify that natural drainage patterns are maintained and that no significant scouring is occurring. If inspections identify localized impacts, adaptive management measures, including the use of silt fencing, or the relocation of the discharge line, will be implemented to protect the landscape. The Project also maintains the option to redirect greywater to a dedicated sump (located more than 31 m from the high-water mark) to reduce the total hydraulic load at the primary discharge location.
QIA-17	Drill Water Use and Disposal	Non-technical Summary 181207 A-7 Ege Bay	The non-technical summary describes that RC drills do not require water or create waste, though diamond drills are also mentioned as types of drills used.	Please update the submission to detail how drill water will be handled, controlled and disposed of to minimize potential	The program utilizes both Reverse Circulation (RC) and Diamond Core drilling to provide operational flexibility; RC drilling primarily uses compressed air and produces dry cuttings,

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		Project Proposal	The majority (270 m ³ /day) of withdrawals are described as used for the operation of the nine drill rigs. Only eight drills are mentioned in the non-technical summary, nine are mentioned in the other supporting documents. There is no clear mention of plans to handle and dispose of drill water to minimize potential environmental harm or disruption to habitat.	environmental harm or disruption to habitat.	whereas Diamond drilling requires water for bit lubrication and cooling. The project is planned for a maximum of nine drill rigs with a total daily withdrawal limit of 270 m ³ /day, and the non-technical summary will be corrected to align with the technical supporting documents. To minimize environmental harm, all drill water and cuttings are directed to land-based sumps or natural depressions situated at least 31 metres from the high-water mark of any water body to prevent runoff or habitat disruption. The handling and disposal of these drilling wastes are governed by the Eqe Bay Waste Management Plan and the Inspection and Monitoring Plan, which mandate regular visual inspections and adherence to approved containment protocols to ensure no waste enters nearby water bodies.
QIA-18	Draft version	Eqe Bay - Spill Contingency Plan Document Revision Record, p. 2	The provided version of the Eqe Bay - Spill Contingency Plan dated March 20, 2026 (the Plan) is a draft. All documents submitted as part of an application package should be in their final form.	QIA recommends re-submission of the Eqe Bay - Spill Contingency Plan dated March 20, 2026 in its final form.	Attachments 9 to 14 contain the management plans in their final form.
ECCC-1	Active Nest Searches and Project Activities (potential clearing) within Migratory Bird Habitat during Nesting Season	Environmental Protection Plan: Section 2.13: Bird Protection Measures; Appendix C:	The Proponent indicates that vegetation clearing, brushing, habitat alteration and/or disturbance may be required during the general nesting period as part of project activities.	ECCC recommends the Proponent avoid vegetation clearing, brushing, and/or habitat disturbance during the general nesting period, which extends from late May to mid August for this region.	As noted in the response to QIA-8, the topic of bird protection measures falls under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> , administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada, as well as Eqe Bay NIRB Screening Decision Report Terms and Conditions 22-25 (File No. 18EN026),

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		<p>Active Migratory Bird Nest Survey Protocol</p>	<p>The Proponent is also proposing “on-ground inspections for bird nests and eggs ... prior to equipment placement or Program activities” to identify “active nest sites” and puts forward species-specific setbacks to buffer impacts to bird nests.</p> <p>The Project is located in Nesting Zone N10. In this area, migratory birds may be found nesting from late May to mid-August.</p> <p>During this period, clearing or brushing of vegetation or activities that may disturb or alter nesting habitat may increase the risk of destruction of the nests and eggs of migratory birds. It is important to note that nesting periods may vary from year to year due to climatic conditions and some species may nest outside the dates provided if conditions are favourable.</p> <p>If there are occupied migratory bird nests where work is planned, activities that could disturb or destroy nests should be avoided, adapted, rescheduled or relocated. The best way to avoid disturbing or destroying active nests is to avoid conducting harmful activities during the breeding season.</p> <p>Determining the presence of nesting migratory birds may help reduce risks, but active nest</p>	<p>The Proponent must consider options such as avoiding, adapting, rescheduling or relocating activities. If a nest containing a migratory bird or egg is discovered/disturbed, the Proponent must:</p> <p>a) Halt all disruptive activities in the nesting area until nesting is complete and the young have fledged; and</p> <p>b) Establish a protective buffer zone around the nests. The buffer zone must be determined by a setback distance appropriate for the species, the intensity of the disturbance, and the surrounding habitat until the young have naturally and permanently left the vicinity of the nest. Proponents are encouraged to follow the guidance on ECCC’s Guidelines to Avoid Harm to Migratory Birds.</p> <p>For further questions or technical information, please contact ECCC (cwsnorth-scfnord@ec.gc.ca).</p>	<p>and is not the regulatory focus of the NWB Type ‘B’ Water Licence renewal process.</p> <p>Baffinland has updated Section 2.14.2 of the revised Environmental Protection Plan and Appendix C has been updated to the Active Migratory Bird Nest Survey (AMBNS) procedure currently used for the Mary River Project (Attachment 14).</p> <p>Baffinland endeavours to conduct land clearing and disturbance outside of the bird nesting window. If this is not possible, the AMBNS Procedure outlines the steps taken to complete an AMBNS during the migratory bird nest window prior to disturbance. The procedure outlines steps to be taken if a nest is found, including follow up after a nest is found. This includes not conducting any disruptive activities in the nesting area until the young have fledged and establishing a no-disturbance buffer appropriate for the species.</p> <p>Nest surveys will be conducted by experienced staff under industry standard AMBNS Procedures. Furthermore, the habitats to be encountered are expected to be lower risk given the higher visibility tundra environment and the protocol to mitigate infrastructure</p>

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			<p>searches are not recommended as the ability to detect nests is very low while the risk of disturbing and/or damaging active nests is high.</p> <p>As detailed in ECCC’s Guidelines to Avoid Harm to Migratory Birds, nest surveys to determine nest occupancy may only be appropriate when all these conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted by skilled and experienced observers; • Using appropriate methodology; • Only a few nesting spots or a small community of migratory birds is expected; and • The activities will take place in simple habitats. <p>Proponents are reminded that migratory bird species may nest on the ground, in ground cavities, in grasses, shrubs, cliffs, trees, tree cavities and other sites and that nest sites are often cryptic or camouflaged, making them difficult to locate.</p>		<p>construction within nesting windows and locate equipment on pre-disturbed areas.</p>
ECCC-2	Contact Information for the Canadian Wildlife Service is outdated	Environmental Protection Plan – Appendix C: Active Migratory Bird Nest Survey	The Proponent has provided an Environmental Protection Plan but has provided outdated contact information for ECCC’s Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). ECCC-CWS has an updated email address where staff can be contacted for migratory bird-related concerns.	ECCC recommends the Proponent update the contact information for ECCC’s CWS in the Environmental Protection Plan with the following address: cwsnorth-scfnord@ec.gc.ca.	As noted in the response to QIA-8, the topic of bird protection measures falls under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> (MBCA), administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada, as well as Ege Bay NIRB Screening Decision Report Terms and

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
		<p>Protocol – Mary River Active Migratory Bird Nest Survey (AMBNS) Protocol</p>	<p>ECCC has management responsibilities for migratory birds under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA). ECCC should be contacted in instances involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions and incidents involving the potential disturbance of individuals or nests and any mortality events of these species; • Wildlife monitoring reports and annual reports that pertain to these species; and • Updates to wildlife management and monitoring plans, or their equivalents, in relation to these species 	<p>ECCC also recommends the Proponent notify ECCC’s CWS (cwsnorth-scfnord@ec.gc.ca) for instances involving:</p> <p>a) Interactions and incidents involving the potential disturbance of individuals or nests and any mortality events of these species;</p> <p>b) Wildlife monitoring reports and annual reports that pertain to these species; and</p> <p>c) Updates to wildlife management and monitoring plans, or their equivalents, in relation to these species.</p>	<p>Conditions 22-25 (File No. 18EN026), and is not the regulatory focus of the NWB Type ‘B’ Water Licence renewal process.</p> <p>Appendix C of the Environmental Protection Plan (Attachment 14) has been updated to the AMBNS procedure currently implemented for the Mary River Project.</p> <p>Thank you for providing an updated contact for ECCC-CWS. Section 2.14.2 has been updated to include this information.</p> <p>Baffinland will comply with applicable Migratory Birds Regulations under the MBCA. In the unlikely event of a migratory bird mortality event, Baffinland will report this to ECCC-CWS.</p> <p>The Ege Bay NIRB Screening Decision Report Conditions are reported on annually in the Ege Bay Exploration Program Annual Report to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). These reports are publicly available on the NIRB Registry (NIRB File No. 18EN026). Screening Decision Conditions 22-25 pertain to migratory bird and raptor disturbance. Updated management plans will be provided with the Annual Report as updates become available.</p>
ECCC-3	Incineration of plastic waste	Waste Management	ECCC appreciates that Baffinland plans to have stack testing performed for the incinerator,	ECCC recommends an estimate of the quantity of plastics per batch that may be	Based on Table 8.9 of the “Review of Dioxins and Furans from Incineration” (A.J. Chandler &

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
		Plan, Section 5: Incineration	and that Baffinland is disclosing that incineration of some plastic waste is planned. It would be useful to have an upper estimate of the quantity of plastics incinerated, especially those which contain chlorine molecules which can generate dioxins and furans, to enable assessment of the environmental impact.	incinerated, especially plastics that contain chlorine molecules be included in the Waste Management Plan.	<p>Associates Ltd., 2006), plastics constitute approximately 10.7% of the total waste stream in remote camp environments. Assuming a maximum camp capacity of 100 personnel and a 50% diversion efficiency achieved through the strict implementation of Baffinland’s Waste Sorting Guidelines, the estimated annual volume of incinerated plastic waste is calculated as follows:</p> <p>Total Annual Incinerated Plastics: 440 lbs/day (total waste) × 10.7% (plastic fraction) × 50% (sorting efficiency) × 365 days = 8,592 lbs/year.</p> <p>This represents a highly conservative estimate, as it assumes the camp will operate at its maximum capacity of 100 personnel year-round, which is unlikely during the Project.</p> <p>In addition, all non-domestic construction and industrial plastics (e.g., PVC, Styrofoam, and rigid containers) will be segregated and disposed of off-site, as detailed in Table 3-2 of the Waste Management Plan. Consequently, the incinerator feed will be strictly limited to domestic camp waste, which inherently contains minimal chlorinated plastics. According to the Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2018 Fact Sheet (EPA, 2020), chlorinated plastics account for only 3% to 5%</p>

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
					<p>of the total plastic volume within standard domestic waste streams.</p> <p>References <i>A.J. Chandler & Associates Ltd. (2006). Review of Dioxins and Furans from Incineration: In Support of a Canada-wide Standard Review. Prepared for the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).</i></p> <p><i>United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (2020). Advancing sustainable materials management: 2018 fact sheet (EPA 530-F-20-009). https://www.epa.gov/smm/advancing-sustainable-materials-management-facts-and-figures-report</i></p>
ECCC-4	Spill Contingency Plan – Additional Mitigations	<p>Spill Contingency Plan; Section 6.1.2 Potential Fuel Spill Scenario 2: Seal Broken on Engine Fuel Filter</p> <p>Spill Contingency Plan; Section</p>	ECCC recommends additional mitigation measures that could implemented to reduce impacts to the environment.	<p>ECCC recommends the following additional mitigation measures that the Proponent could implement to reduce impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Section 6.1.2, to reduce impacts to the environment from leaks (e.g., due to broken engine fuel filter): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place spill mats / drip pans / drip trays under vehicles when they are parked or idle for a period of two hours or more. - Park vehicles and place stationary equipment at least 31 m from the 	Baffinland has incorporated these comments within Section 6.1.2, 6.1.3, and 6.3 of the revised Spill Contingency Plan (Attachment 10).

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		6.1.3 Potential Fuel Spill Scenario 3: Overfill of Fuel Tank (pg. 22/26) Spill Contingency Plan; Section 6.3 Lubricants, Oils and Glycol		<p>normal high-water mark of any water body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Section 6.1.3, to reduce the likelihood of a fuel tank overfill situation occurring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use fuel nozzles equipped with automatic shutoffs. - Station operators at both ends of hoses during refueling operations, unless both ends of the hose are visible and readily accessible by one operator. - Provide adequate lighting at refueling areas (enabling fuel levels to be adequately judged, and any overflow to be observed). • In Section 6.3, to minimize the impacts of hydraulic oil spills to the environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use biodegradable hydraulic oils (when appropriate) for equipment that is working near or in water. 	
ECCC-5	Waste Management Plan – Additional Mitigations	Waste Management Plan; Table 3-2 Waste Handling and Disposal by Waste Type	ECCC recommends an additional mitigation measure that could be implemented to reduce impacts to the environment.	ECCC recommends that crushed empty drums (“Drums – empty” in Table 3-2) and drum residuals (“Drums – residuals”) are stored within the hazardous waste storage area, with secondary containment present.	Baffinland has incorporated these comments within Table 3-2 of the revised Waste Management (Attachment 13).
ECCC-6	Environmental Protection Plan –	Environmental Protection Plan; Section	ECCC recommends additional mitigation measures could implement to reduce impacts to the environment.	ECCC recommends the following additional mitigation measures that the Proponent could implement to reduce impacts:	Baffinland has incorporated these comments within Section 2.8.2 and 2.19.2 of the revised Waste Management (Attachment 13).

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
	Additional Mitigations	<p>2.7.2 Fuel Storage and Handling / Environmental Protection Measures</p> <p>Environmental Protection Plan; Section 2.14.4 Solid Waste Management / Environmental Protection Measures</p> <p>Environmental Protection Plan; Section 2.18.2 Watercourse Crossing Installation / Environmental Protection Measures</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Section 2.7.2, to the list to help reduce the possibility of fuel spills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use fuel nozzles equipped with automatic shutoffs. - Station operators at both ends of hoses during refueling operations, unless both ends of the hose are visible and readily accessible by one operator. - Provide adequate lighting at refueling areas (enabling fuel levels to be adequately judged, and any overflow to be observed). - Use a drip tray under the fuel nozzle / filling point when fueling mobile equipment and vehicles. • In Section 2.18.2, to minimize the impacts of hydraulic oil spills to the environment, use biodegradable hydraulic oils (when appropriate) for equipment that is working near or in water. 	
CIRNAC-1	Closure and Reclamation Plan		The Closure and Reclamation Plan appears to have mislabeled or absent material throughout including placeholder licence names in the	CIRNAC recommends that Baffinland correct any outdated information throughout the document and ensure all material that is	Baffinland has provided a tracked change version of the Closure and Reclamation Plan (Attachment 9).

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
			<p>introduction as well as Appendix C and D appear to be missing from the document. The dates and page numbers appearing in the headers of the document appear to be mislabeled as well. There is a concern that we have received a plan that is not ready for review. There is also no change log to mark the differences between the 2019 document and the current plan for review.</p>	<p>supposed to be in the plan is appropriately attached. Further, Baffinland should include a change log to clarify differences between the old plan and this current one.</p>	
CIRNAC-2			<p>Section 4.4.5 of the Closure and Reclamation Plan states</p> <p>“Camp sewage will be treated using a package sewage treatment plant prior to effluent being discharged to land for runoff into Eqe Bay.”</p> <p>There is a concern that this may go against the issued licence which states</p> <p>“Discharge at Monitoring Program Station Eqe-STP-1 (Final Discharge Point from the Sewage Treatment Plant) shall be located at a distance of at least thirty one (31) metres above the ordinary high water mark of any water body, at a site where direct flow into a water body is not possible and no additional impacts are created, unless otherwise approved by the Board in writing.”</p> <p>There is a concern that discharging to land such that the runoff enters the bay may be against the licence. There is also no description of how</p>	<p>CIRNAC recommends that Baffinland clarify how this discharge into the bay is in compliance with the issued licence. CIRNAC also recommends that the discharge point for the sewage treatment plant be described as to what the water is being deposited into and how it is channeled into the bay.</p>	<p>Under Section 4 of the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act, 'waters' is specifically defined as inland waters (whether liquid or solid, on or below the surface). Since Eqe Bay is part of the ocean rather than an inland waterbody, routing runoff into the bay aligns with the issued licence and the Closure and Reclamation Plan. Additionally, the discharge point is set back 31 metres from the high-water mark.</p> <p>Baffinland has incorporated this comment within Section 4.4.5 of the revised Closure and Reclamation Plan (Attachment 9) to ensure that no discharge is direct to flow into any freshwater for the Project.</p>

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
			the effluent is discharged onto the land and what is capturing or channelling it.		
CIRNAC-3	Closure uncertainties		The Closure and Reclamation Plan states throughout that there are uncertainties in areas such as infrastructure, contaminated soil, and revegetation. The concern is there does not appear to be plans or actions listed to address these uncertainties in the future.	CIRNAC recommends Baffinland describe why these areas are uncertainties and the actions that will be taken to resolve these issues during the life and closure of the exploration.	Baffinland has incorporated this comment within Section 5.2.1.6, 5.2.2.6, 5.2.3.6, and 5.2.4.6 of the revised Closure and Reclamation Plan (Attachment 9).
CIRNAC-4	Reclamation estimate		<p>Section 10 of the Closure and Reclamation Plan states that</p> <p>“The financial cost of the Ege Bay Exploration Program closure and reclamation has been estimated using the Hatch Estimate Breakdown Structure (EBS) Model developed for the Mary River Project. The Hatch EBS Model was utilized over CIRNAC’s RECLAIM Model based on previous discussions with QIA and in keeping with the QIA’s Abandonment and Reclamation Policy.”</p> <p>The concern is that the differences between the two models are not stated and QIA’s recommendation to use EBS is not shown.</p>	CIRNAC recommends Baffinland explain the difference found between estimate models and provide reasoning for this preference. Baffinland should also provide QIA’s recommendation to use Baffinland’s model.	The Ege Bay exploration program closure cost estimate was developed based on the inclusion of the estimated closure and reclamation costs required for a third-party contractor to perform the work for all disturbed areas, exploration program components and activities proposed at the Ege Bay Exploration Program, which aligns with the <i>Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Act</i> . The liability is for exploration activities occurring on Inuit Owned lands (IOL) parcel IG-03. Baffinland’s estimate has been developed with consideration to CIRNAC’s 2002 Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut, as well as QIA’s Abandonment and Reclamation Policy for Inuit Owned Lands. The NWB does not mandate use of the RECLAIM model; it is one available estimation tool, but it is not the only acceptable tool. QIA has questioned RECLAIM’s ability to accurately cost Arctic projects in the past, and so Baffinland has

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
					<p>implemented an alternative model to better align with the preferences of the Inuit landowner. As for the request to provide a recommendation, the key regulatory issue is not the selection of one model or another, but to ensure the reclamation obligations of the activities are secured before they proceed, and to ensure that any security posted with QIA is not duplicated under the Water Licence per the NWNSRTA. This is an approach that both QIA and CIRNAC have implemented in the past with respect to security estimates related to the Mary River Project. QIA is currently assessing Baffinland’s application for an Inuit Owned Land (IOL) access authorization. Baffinland has confidence in the estimate presented to date.</p>
CIRNAC-5	Spill Contingency Plan		<p>Elements are missing from the spill contingency plan such as spill kit locations, MSDS sheets, and the spill report form. Some of these elements have been mentioned to be added in a later update while the spill report form seems to have been overlooked. The concern is that the spill kit locations and MSDS sheet will be needed to be added before activities commence to ensure adequate spill protection and documentation.</p>	<p>CIRNAC recommends that Baffinland include the missing elements and complete the change log to flag any changes between the current document and the previous.</p>	<p>The following updates have been made to the Ege Bay Spill Contingency Plan (Attachment 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NT-NU Spill Report Form has been updated in Appendix A • Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) have been included in Appendix D <p>The location of the spill kit is in Appendix C of the Spill Contingency Plan.</p> <p>SDSs will be located in key location at the camp following the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regulations. Including card copies in a readily available areas</p>

Comment Number	Topic	Reference	Discussion	Recommendation	Baffinland Response
					<p>for all personal and specific relevant sheets located directly near where hazardous materials are stored.</p> <p>The spill kits placement will follow CIRNAC Guidelines for Spill Contingency Planning which required to position kits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately adjacent to all fuel bulk storage, and fuel and waste containment areas • Anywhere active fuel dispensing or pumping occurs • Dedicated kit stationed at the drill rig itself
CIRNAC-6	Open Burning Ash Control and disposal		The Waste Management Plan mentions the open burning of untreated wood but does not mention how ash would be controlled or disposed of afterward. The concern is that there is no ash control plans for the open burning activities.	CIRNAC recommends that Baffinland adjust incineration timelines to make increase time available for the burning of untreated wood. In lieu of this, an ash control plan should be created for the future open burning area including the area description and methods for controlling the waste before, during, and after (ash recovery and disposal).	<p>Appendix D – Ege Bay Open Burning of Untreated Wood, Cardboard and Paper Products Procedure has been appended to the revised Ege Bay Waste Management Plan (Attachment 13).</p> <p>All open burning activities will occur within an open top shipping container. This will prevent the unnecessary distribution of waste and ash by weather conditions (i.e. wind) and will facilitate the management of residual ash.</p> <p>Complete combustion processes will be promoted through burn and monitoring procedures. Following a burn, inspect the color and condition of the residual ash. Ash that is</p>

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					<p>dry, light and light grey in color is indicative of a complete and efficient burn. Ash that appears wet and dark and/or contains unburnt waste items will be incorporated into the next burn to ensure the complete combustion of waste items and ash. Prior to transferring residual ash out of the shipping container, the ash shall be inspected and confirmed to be cool and absent of any signs of smoldering or continued combustion (i.e. flames). Residual ash that is acceptable will be shovelled into drums. Once a drum is full, it will be sealed and labeled as “Open-Burn Ash” with the date of the last burn added to the drum. The drum will be transported to the designated storage area for shipment offsite.</p>
CIRNAC-7	Change Log updates		<p>The change logs of the plans given for the application have either not been updated or do not fully account for changes made between versions. The concern is these change logs are necessary for evaluating changes against previously approved methods.</p>	<p>CIRNAC recommends Baffinland ensure all plans provided with this application include complete and updated change logs.</p>	<p>Baffinland has provided tracked change versions of management plans where updates were made to address Parties’ comments (Attachments 9-14).</p>

Attachment B

Revised Application for the Renewal of Baffinland's Type 'B' Water Licence No. 2BE-EQE1926

Table 2 lists the documents included in the revised application and their revision status based on responses to comments on the renewal of Type ‘B’ Water Licence 2BE-EQE1926. The revised application is provided as an external attachment to this letter.

Table 2. List of Documents included with the Revised Application

Attachment Number	Document Name	Status
1	Project Description	No change
2	Project Proposal	Revised
3	Figures	No change
4	Application for Water Licence Renewal	No change
5	NPC File No 151133 Eqe Bay Exploration Program	No change
6	Corporate Profile Report	No change
7	NIRB Screening Decision	No change
8	Type B Renewal Compliance Assessment	No change
9	Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan	Revised
10	Eqe Bay Spill Contingency Plan	Revised
11	Eqe Bay Inspection and Monitoring Plan	Revised
12	Sampling Program – QAQC Plan	No change
13	Eqe Bay Waste Management Plan	Revised
14	Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan	Revised