

NIRB File No.: 12YA007 NRI File No.: #0400708N-M

GN-DoE File No.: WL 006891 DFO File No.: S-07/08-1035-NU

NWB File No. 2BE-HIG0712, 2BE-IZO0712 AANDC File No.: N2011C0033, N2012C0005

KIA File No.: KTL310C001, KTL308C008, KTL306C019

March 23, 2012

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College Government of Nunavut Box 2410 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: dshewchuk@gov.nu.ca and thughes@gov.nu.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Minerals and Metals Group's "Izok and High Lake Project 2012 Environmental Baseline Program" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Dan Shewchuk:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above (NRI File No. #0400708N-M).

On February 9, 2012 the NIRB received Minerals and Metals Group's (MMG) "Izok and High Lake Project 2012 Environmental Baseline Program" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). This project proposal did not require a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission as the proposal would be located in a region with no approved land use plan (Kitikmeot region). The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 12YA007 and commenced Screening pursuant to NLCA Article 12 Part 4.

In order to determine the full scope of this proposal, the NIRB was required to seek additional information and clarification from the Proponent following receipt of the project proposal. Following receipt of the required information/clarification, this project proposal was distributed to community organizations in Bathurst Inlet, Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay, as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, and Inuit organizations on March 8, 2012. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and the NIRB's *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by March 19, 2012.

The NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision within the 45 day time period as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed by March 30, 2012.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested parties on the extension.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

**Executive Director** 

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Scott Trusler, Minerals and Metals Group

Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Stanley Anablak, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Michael Mifflin, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment

Doug Stenton, Government of Nunavut, Dpartment of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Derrick Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada