

December 13, 2017

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Manager of Licensing Nunavut Water Board PO Box 119, Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Re: 2018 Geotechnical Drilling Program
Type 'B' Water Licence 2BE-MRY1421
Commercial Lease No. Q13C301

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) plans to commence a geotechnical drilling program in January 2018 to evaluate the geotechnical conditions near the existing Milne Inlet Tote Road (Tote Road) and at Milne Inlet for the purposes of advancing engineering studies in support of Project expansion (e.g. Phase 2). The drilling program is being managed by Hatch Ltd. and performed by Boart Longyear. The drilling program is scheduled to commence in early January 2018 and is expected to be completed by late April 2018. The drilling program consists of six (6) drill holes at potential railway bridge locations near the Tote Road and ten (10) on-ice (sea ice) drill hole locations for future dock infrastructure in Milne Inlet. Proposed drill hole locations, including coordinates, are presented in Attachment 1. Alongside the 2018 drilling program, Baffinland also plans on conducting a series of ice thickness and bathymetry surveys as well as additional geotechnical tests (e.g. thermistor installation, Vane test) near drill hole sites and other locations near the Tote Road and at Milne Port.

Drilling programs are expected to require minimal water usage and will be performed using a tracked drill rig (LS 250) capable of drilling using both sonic and rotary coring techniques. Other supporting tracked vehicles include a flatbed (Nodwell type) for hauling water and other supplies and a skid steer for moving drill rods and other equipment/supplies.

An archaeology survey of the areas to be drilled and traversed near the Tote Road was completed during the summer of 2016 and observed archaeology sites were identified and staked off. These coordinates have been provided, in confidence, to the drilling manager to minimize the potential for archaeological disturbance. A review of the identified archaeological sites confirms there are no archaeological sites within close proximity to the proposed drill hole locations.

To support drilling operations, nine (9) existing water sources near the Tote Road, identified under Baffinland's Type A Water Licence 2AM-MRY1325 Amend. 1 (Part E, Item 25), have been selected. A table showing the nine (9) water sources are provided in Attachment 2. Due to temperature restrictions

tracking water usage volumes utilising water lines and flow meters will not be feasible. Therefore, Baffinland proposes to track water usage volumes by means of calibrated one cubic metre totes.

Daily environmental monitoring will be performed, including pre, during and post drilling inspections. Locations of drill waste will be disposed of in natural depressions or sumps consistent with Part F, Item 4 of Baffinland's Type B Water Licence 2BE-MRY1421 (Type B Water Licence). Drill water runoff and siltation mitigation measures consistent with Baffinland's Environmental Protection Plan BAF-PH1-830-P16-0008 r1 will be employed as required. For the Milne Inlet on-ice drilling program, under-ice turbidity and total suspended solids (TSS) water quality monitoring will be conducted to characterize water quality conditions prior to and following drilling activities.

In accordance the conditions of the Type B Water Licence, this letter and attachments provides Baffinland's notification for the drilling of six (6) drill holes near the Tote Road that will be closer than 30 metres from the ordinary high water mark of a water body and the identification of water sources for the planned 2018 drilling activities.

Despite best planning, it should be noted that unforeseen geotechnical circumstances may preclude some changes in plans as the program proceeds. Baffinland will endeavor to inform the Inspector and QIA in such circumstances.

We trust that this information meets the various notifications required. Please to not hesitate to contact the undersigned, should you have any questions or comments.

Regards,

Christopher Murray

Environmental & Regulatory Compliance Manager

Attachments:

Attachment 1: 2018 Geotechnical Drilling Program Locations

Attachment 2: Proposed Water Sources for 2018 Geotechnical Drilling Program

Cc: David Hohnstein (NWB)

Tim Sewell, William Bowden, Connor Devereaux, Andrew Vermeer (Baffinland)

Attachment 1

2018 Geotechnical Drilling Program Locations

Attachment 1.1

2018 Milne Inlet On-Ice Drilling Program

