



NIRB File No. 11EN040
KIA File No.: KVL311C02
INAC File No.: N2011C0023
NWB File No.: 2BE-SIP

August 22, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Executive Offices
10 Wellington St.
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Via email: Duncan.J@parl.gc.ca and minister@aandc.gc.ca

**Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Vale Exploration Canada Ltd.'s
"Southampton Island Nickel Exploration" Project Proposal**

Dear Mr. John Duncan:

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 (N2011C0023).

On July 5, 2011 the NIRB received Vale Exploration Canada Ltd.'s (Vale or the Proponent) "Southampton Island Nickel Exploration" project proposal from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA). On July 13, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 11EN040 and commenced screening pursuant to NLCA Article 12, Part 4.

After undertaking a preliminary completeness check of the application materials submitted, the NIRB found that the project proposal did *not* contain sufficient information for the Board to permit proper screening. The NIRB issued correspondence to the Proponent on July 5, July 19 and again on August 19, 2011 requesting additional information required to screen the proposal. The additional information was received on August 22, 2011.

The NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision within the 42 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 September 23, 2011.

If this request is approved, the 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Everett Makela, Vale Exploration Canada Ltd. (Everett.Makela@vale.com)
Sarah Gagne, Golder Associates (sarah_gagne@golder.com)
Joe Kaludjak, Kivalliq Inuit Association (joekaludjak@kivalliqinuit.ca)
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Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)