



NIRB File No.: 03UN114

January 11, 2008

To: BIPR Distribution List

Re: Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project Conformity Assessment

Dear Parties,

As you are aware, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is currently undertaking an internal guideline conformity review of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) submission, received by the NIRB on January 3, 2008. This is an internal assessment of the submission for conformity with the attached EIS guidelines issued by the NIRB to Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Joint Venture Ltd. (the Proponent) in December 2004. Assessment by NIRB technical staff will be completed by January 18, 2008 and a decision by the Board will follow shortly thereafter.

Several Part 5 Reviews have since progressed through the regulatory system since December 2004 and the nature of the NIRB's conformity assessment has evolved accordingly. Conformity assessment is meant to determine whether or not the Proponent has addressed each of the issued guidelines and is not meant to be a qualitative assessment of the adequacy of the information itself. Owing to these factors and the significant amount of time that has passed since the issuance of the EIS guidelines, this conformity review necessarily must be conducted with varying levels of precision and is not meant to preclude in any way detailed technical review later in the process.

On **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**, the NIRB will release their indication on the acceptability of the DEIS and Parties will be provided with an opportunity to provide to the NIRB any comments or concerns with this indication from their mandated perspectives.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Barry, NIRB Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4608 or via email rbarry@nirb.ca

Sincerely,

Jeff Rusk
Director of Technical Services, NIRB

Attachment: NIRB Final EIS Guidelines for BIPR Project, December 2004