



**NIRB File No. 03UN114**

November 25, 2008

To: Mr. Grant Pearson  
Project Manager  
BIPR Joint Venture Ltd.

Via email: [grantp@nunalogistics.com](mailto:grantp@nunalogistics.com)

Re: **Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) Joint Venture Ltd.'s Request to Suspend Further Technical Review of the BIPR project**

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Dear Mr. Pearson:

On August 1, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a request from Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) Joint Venture Ltd. (the Proponent) to suspend further technical review of the BIPR project until the project's schedule and the schedule of its potential users could be reassessed in 2009. After soliciting comments from parties, on August 29, 2008 NIRB commenced a 60 day technical review of the *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the BIPR project, but determined that no Technical Meeting or Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) would be scheduled until the Proponent indicated it was ready to proceed further. During this technical review period, intervenors who had received funding from INAC were also encouraged to submit Information Requests (IRs) to NIRB for consideration and forwarding to the Proponent for response.

Submissions were received from the following Parties:

- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Environment Canada
- Transport Canada
- Fisheries and Ocean Canada
- Health Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Bathurst Inlet Lodge
- City of Yellowknife
- Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Bathurst Inlet Road and Port Committee
  - *Including 53 IRs*
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
  - *Including 13 IRs*
- North Slave Metis Alliance
  - *Including 7 IRs*

After an assessment of the IR submissions against established criteria, the NIRB believes that they are all relevant and will help to further the technical review of the BIPR DEIS. Please be advised that all technical review comments and IR submissions are available on the NIRB's ftp site:

[http://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT\\_REVIEWS/03UN114-BIPR\\_PROJECT/02-REVIEW/08-CONFORMITY%20TECH%20REVIEW/](http://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT_REVIEWS/03UN114-BIPR_PROJECT/02-REVIEW/08-CONFORMITY%20TECH%20REVIEW/).

A formal response submission from the Proponent which addresses technical review comments and all outstanding IRs will be a prerequisite for re-engaging NIRB's review process and subsequent scheduling of any Technical Meeting or PHC. The Proponent is advised to consult with NIRB on the appropriate format of a response package prior to submission.

The NIRB is also requesting that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) consider a plan to address the funds that have been allocated to intervenors for participation in the Technical Meeting and PHC which will likely not occur this fiscal year. Upon the Proponent re-engaging the Part 5 Review process with the required notification and IR responses, NIRB must provide the public with a minimum 60 days notice of any such public meeting. The NIRB is hopeful that this 60-day period will be sufficient in terms of making the required intervenor funding adjustments in the next fiscal year.

Furthermore, should there be any changes of significance to the project as currently proposed, the Proponent is advised that it must inform NIRB immediately, and would be subject to further direction on any process forward deemed necessary due to the changes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Ryan Barry, at (867) 983-4608 or via email [rbarry@nirb.ca](mailto:rbarry@nirb.ca)

Sincerely,



Jeff Rusk  
Director, Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Cc: Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of INAC  
Robyn Abernathy-Gillis, INAC  
Francois Landry, Rescan Environmental Services Ltd.  
BIPR Distribution List