



NIRB File No.: 11EN035
AANDC File No: N2011J0032
QIA File No.: LUA-2011-009
NWB File No.: 2BE-FBP1116

February 28, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer, Manager Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca; landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: West Melville Metals Inc.'s "Fraser Bay" project, Qikiqtani Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On February 7, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit (N2011J0032) for West Melville Metals Inc.'s (the Proponent) "Fraser Bay Project" proposal. Please be advised that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place (South Baffin Region).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 11EN035) was received by the NIRB from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association on June 2, 2011 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On July 13, 2011 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On December 11, 2011 the NIRB received an application from AANDC for a new Land Use Permit for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the new Land Use Permit application, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on February 1, 2012.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 11EN035 and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

[http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/11EN035-Roche%20Bay%20PLC%20\(West%20Melville%20Metals\)-Fraser%20Bay%201-3/](http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/11EN035-Roche%20Bay%20PLC%20(West%20Melville%20Metals)-Fraser%20Bay%201-3/).

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 11EN035), the "Fraser Bay Project" was located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 168 kilometres (km) southwest of Hall Beach. The Proponent intended to conduct a seasonal drilling program on the Fraser Bay 1-3 Property to assess iron ore deposits between June and October each year, from 2011 through to 2015.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Delineation of the iron ore deposits using diamond drilling, geological sampling, geophysical surveying, and mapping;
- Use of between 1-3 diamond drills;
- Construction of an exploration camp on the property to accommodate up to twenty (20) people;
- Transportation of personnel, equipment and supplies to and from sites via fixed wing aircraft and helicopter;
- Fuel handling of up to 150 drums of diesel (30,705 litres, 6 drums gasoline (1230 litres), 120 drums (24,480 litres) of aviation fuel;
- Incineration of wood and large pieces of cardboard via open and controlled burns;
- Wastes and contaminated materials flown out to appropriate municipal dump or disposal facility; and
- Grey and black water collected into sumps to be filled and levelled as required.

The activities and components associated with the December 11, 2011 new Land Use Permit with AANDC include:

- Additional seasonal camp of 8 buildings plus infrastructure including a generator, helicopter landing area, and incineration area;
- Additional fuel storage of 50 barrels of diesel, 5 barrels of gasoline, 100 barrels of aviation fuel, and 25 – 100 pound cylinders of propane;
- Transportation of supplies and personnel to the additional camp by helicopter; and
- Continuation of on-land drilling.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

West Melville Metals Inc. is currently proposing to extend its Land Use Permit with AANDC for one year to complete exploration activities as were previously permitted to proceed.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original July 13, 2011 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Senior Technical Advisor, at (867) 793-4633 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Tara Gunson, Apex Geoscience Ltd on behalf of West Melville Metals Inc.
Andrew Turner, Apex Geoscience Ltd.
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 11EN035 (July 13, 2011)