



**NIRB File No.: 18EN026**  
NPC File No.: 148801

May 9, 2018

Megan Lord-Hoyle  
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation  
2275 Upper Middle Rd East Suite 300  
Oakville ON L6H 0C3

Sent via email: [megan.lord-hoyle@baffinland.com](mailto:megan.lord-hoyle@baffinland.com) and [rcook@knightpiesold.com](mailto:rcook@knightpiesold.com)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation’s “Eqe Bay Exploration Program” project proposal**

Dear Megan Lord-Hoyle:

On April 17, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation’s (Baffinland) “Eqe Bay Exploration Program” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **18EN026**.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 17, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB’s public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and that sufficient information has been provided to commence screening. On April 27, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

***Project Scope:***

The proposed “Eqe Bay Exploration Program” project is located within the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, approximately 90 kilometres (km) southeast of Steensby Port, and 190 km northeast from the communities of Hall Beach and Igloodik. The Proponent intends to conduct a mineral exploration program at Eqe Bay.

The program is proposed to take place from August, 2018 to October 2024. According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of sealift barges to deliver supplies to the beach near the proposed exploration area;
- Conduct archaeological surveys around the Project area in the summer of 2018;
- Initial set-up of a fifty (50) person trailer camp to support personnel in the fall of 2018, and subsequent expansion of the camp to accommodate 100 persons from 2019;
- Conduct initial drilling operations and exploration activities (i.e. geological mapping, till sampling and a backpack drill program) in late winter or spring of 2019:
  - Use of drill equipment to drill several holes to a depth of up to 100m;
  - Use of helicopters to move drills, and to transport workers between the drill and camp site;
  - Use of a Twin Otter aircraft to transport workers and deliver supplies to the camp site from either Mary River, Hall Beach or Igloolik;
- Use and storage of 4,100 litres (L) of engine oil, 1,025 L of antifreeze, and 50 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of calcium chloride;
- Undertake construction of an airstrip including access trails to improve air access to the exploration site, and to connect the camp site to the exploration area;
- Use of up to 299 m<sup>3</sup> of water from unnamed lakes/ponds in the project area;
- Use and temporary storage (cache) of up to 4,000 L of gasoline, 2,024,500 L of diesel and 20 m<sup>3</sup> per day of prepackaged explosives to support exploration, mobile equipment and heating;
- Incineration of 200 kilograms of combustible non-hazardous waste materials, including storage and backhaul of combustible wastes by sealift to southern disposal or recycling facility;
- Generation and onsite treatment of greywater and sewage in a sewage treatment facility.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

#### REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Ege Bay Exploration Program
- NIRB File No.: 18EN026
- Application No.: 125336

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, French and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting location of the Ege Bay Exploration Area*
- *Project Proposal*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Baffinland project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 30, 2018**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Ege Bay Exploration Program
- NIRB File No.: 18EN026
- Application No.: 125336

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or at [samuno@nirb.ca](mailto:samuno@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Salomonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Alexander Stubbing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage  
Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage  
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)