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May 23, 2018

*Your file*      *Votre référence*  
NIRB 125336 / 18EN026

*Our file*      *Notre référence*  
18-HCAA-00585

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
29 Mitik Street, P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU  
X0B 0C0

Dear Reviewer:

**Subject: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Baffinland's "Eqe Bay Exploration Program" Project Proposal**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Fisheries Protection Program (DFO-FPP) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (the Proponent) application for the Eqe Bay Exploration Program (the Project).

As directed by the NIRB in their letter dated May 9, 2018, DFO-FPP is providing the following comments with respect to the Project's screening. DFO-FPP understands that the NIRB would like interested parties to provide comments regarding:

- 1) Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

DFO-FPP is not aware of any significant public concern at this stage of review.

- 2) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;

DFO-FPP requires additional information to assess the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to maintain the on-going productivity of commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries.

- 3) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;

DFO-FPP has reviewed the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to determine whether it is likely to result in serious harm to fish which is prohibited under subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* unless authorized. The proposal states that culverts will need to be installed to build roads for the camp. Technical drawings and a hydrological report are required to evaluate the impacts of these culverts with regards to fish habitat and fish passage. Information regarding the volume of lakes EB-1 and EB-2 is required to assess impacts to fish and fish habitat for camp and drilling water use.

- 4) Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and

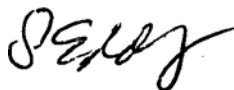
The Proponent has indicated that the intake structure will be screened. Please refer to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's 'Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline' for further mitigation measures for intake structures. Measures to avoid causing harm to fish and fish habitat can be found on our website and should be incorporated into project design for culvert installations (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesures/measures-mesures-eng.html>).

- 5) Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

In order for us to complete the review of the culvert installations and water taking activity, we ask that you complete a request for review form ([www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/index-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/index-eng.html)) and submit with associated documents to [FisheriesProtection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:FisheriesProtection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

If you have any questions please contact Sara Eddy at our Burlington office at 905-336-4535 or by email at [Sara.Eddy@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Sara.Eddy@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,



Sara Eddy  
Team Leader Triage and Planning

COPY: Amanda Conway – Fisheries and Oceans Canada