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Mark Ings
Acting Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

July 6, 2023

RE: Hamlet of Clyde River Technical Comments on Baffinland's Sustaining Operations Proposals (NIRB File No. 08MN053)

Mr. Ings,

The Municipality of Clyde River appreciates the opportunity to comment on Baffinland's Sustaining Operations Proposal (SOP). The Municipality of Clyde River's comments speak to the need to better address ongoing impacts on marine mammals, concerns with the proponent's request for operational flexibility, concerns with project splitting, concerns with chronic non-compliance issues at mining projects in Nunavut, and the need for free, prior, and informed consent before Baffinland proceeds with either the SOP or the Steensby port/road.

Alan Cormack
Mayor
Municipality of Clyde River



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Chronic Non-Compliance at Mining Projects in Nunavut

The Municipality of Clyde River is deeply concerned that a recent federal investigation found problems with chronic non-compliance at the Whale Tail gold mine. The Hamlet requests NIRB and the federal government explain what steps are being taken to ensure similar problems with chronic non-compliance do not occur at Mary River.

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

The Hamlet of Clyde River believes that major development projects should not proceed without the free, prior, and informed consent of the people of the region, with an emphasis on the communities most affected by proposed development. The SOP should not be approved without the full support of the Hamlet and Hunters and Trappers Organization in Pond Inlet.

With regards to the Steensby port/rail option, Baffinland calls this project “already approved”. The approvals for the Steensby port/rail were issued a decade ago. Since that time, ecological baselines, regional and community economies, and political realities have changed. The Hamlet believes that Baffinland should only proceed with the Steensby port/rail if it has the full support of the Hamlets and Hunters and Trappers Organizations in Igloolik, Sanirajak, and the other affected communities.

Alan Cormack
Mayor
Municipality of Clyde River