

Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Community Roundtable Presentation

For Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's
"Sustaining Operations Proposal"



Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Lands & Resources ᓄᓇᓕᓚᓂᓄᓂᓐ



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Qikiqtani Inuit Association



**One of Nunavut's
three Regional Inuit
Associations**



**Represents over
14,000 Inuit in the
Qikiqtani (Baffin)
Region**



Mandate: to safeguard, administer and advance the rights and benefits of Inuit, to promote the Inuit language and traditions, Inuit environmental values, Inuit self-sufficiency as well as economic, social and cultural well-being through succeeding generations.



As Designated Inuit Organization under NLCA, manage Inuit Owned Lands in the Qikiqtani Region including the project area.



QIA's Relationship with Baffinland

- QIA, on behalf of Qikiqtani Inuit, entered into an IIBA with Baffinland (as required by NLCA Article 26)
- The IIBA ensures benefits for the impacted communities: Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik, and Pond Inlet.
- QIA has maintained relationships with Baffinland and has been advocating on behalf of Qikiqtani Inuit to improve the Mary River Project.
- QIA's relationship with Baffinland is informed by the feedback we receive from Community Directors, working group meetings, staff consultations, and external advisors.



Key Issues in the SOP Review

QIA raised technical concerns in 7 different subject areas.

Technical Concerns that QIA has been focused on are:

- Understanding **cumulative impacts**, so they can be addressed.
- Addressing **caribou impacts**.
- Monitoring and addressing **dust impacts**.
- Addressing **marine impacts** from **shipping**.
- **Protecting the rights of Inuit** who travel on, use and harvest from the impacted areas.



QIA is not supporting, and not opposing the SOP

But if the SOP is approved, certain conditions must be implemented.

The timeline set to review and respond to the SOP created obstacles for QIA to be able to compile fulsome technical comments, allow for meaningful engagement with impacted communities and secure Board direction for a position.

Intervenors and community representatives are suffering **regulatory exhaustion** from Baffinland's repeated short-term proposals.

QIA understands that some communities are satisfied with the Mary River Project operating at 6mtpa for now, but there are still significant concerns about environmental stewardship and rights protections.



QIA's Recommendations on Adaptive Management and Environmental Oversight

- Reviewing approval processes for adaptive management OITRS.
- Baffinland must take a precautionary approach to environmental management while system changes are tested and studied for effectiveness.
- Cumulative effects need to be properly studied, incorporating both internal and external factors.



QIA's Recommendations on Atmospheric Environment Issues

- Making the Dust Audit Committee jointly accountable to Baffinland and QIA.
- Enhanced monitoring of dust, and Inuit-led dust monitoring (continuation of 2022 commitment).
- Monitoring and improving understanding of dust impact on snow melt.



QIA's Recommendations on Terrestrial Environmental Impacts

- Reviewing the 'zone of influence' of the Mary River Project to better account for caribou habitat loss and movement.
- Consideration how changes to caribou migration patterns must have been caused by the Mary River Project, and be affected by it.
- Enhanced monitoring and mitigation for the presence of metals in dust and lichen.



QIA's Recommendations on Freshwater Impacts

- Requiring mitigations for direct dust fall on fresh water.
- Study whether a buffer zone to protect streams along Tote Road from dust suppressants is needed.
- Study whether existing reference lakes are now being affected by the Mary River Project, and need to be adjusted.



QIA's Recommendations on Marine Impacts from Shipping

- Identifying the need to better understand impacts of shipping on narwhal in Eclipse Sound.
- Clarifying impacts on ringed seals, and identifying potential mitigations.
- Reducing use of the largest and loudest ships.



QIA's Recommendations on Socio-Economic Issues

QIA is focused on making sure that commitments Baffinland made in the Phase 2 process and the 2022 Production Increase Proposal Renewal are brought forward, renewed, and committed to for long-term implementation.



QIA's Recommendations on Culture, Resources and Land Use

- QIA has expressed concerns about Baffinland's minimization of Inuit observations of impacts to Inuit culture, resources and land use caused by the Mary River Project.



Next Steps

1. QIA agrees with many of the other participants in this process, including NTI, and Canada, that the current state of Baffinland's cumulative effects assessment is not sufficient.
2. A long-term solution to Mary River Project operations must be identified so that Inuit are not forced into a constant cycle of regulatory approvals by Baffinland.
3. QIA is committed to supporting continued efforts to enhance Inuit participation and ensuring full inclusion of Inuit evidence in NIRB processes.

