



## NEWS RELEASE

NIRB File No. 08MN053

Project Certificate No. 005 Amendment No. 005

### **Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Amendment No. 005 to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project Certificate No. 005 for the "Sustaining Operations Proposal"**

**CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – November 17, 2023:** Following the acceptance by the Responsible Ministers of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) recommendation that the "Sustaining Operations Proposal" (SOP), a modification of the previously-approved Mary River Project (NIRB File No. 08MN053) be approved to proceed under revised Terms and Conditions, the NIRB has issued a revised version of Project Certificate No. 005 Amendment No. 005 to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland).<sup>1</sup> The changes to the Terms and Conditions in Project Certificate No. 005. Amendment 5 reflect the recommendations of the Board,<sup>2</sup> as approved by the Ministers of Northern Affairs; Environment and Climate Change; Fisheries and Oceans; Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada (the Responsible Ministers) and communicated by the Minister of Northern Affairs in his October 17, 2023, correspondence.<sup>3</sup>

Since 2018, Baffinland has received various short-term approvals to transport up to 6 million tonnes of iron ore each year (Mt/a) from the Mary River Mine along the Tote Road via Milne Inlet. In early 2023, Baffinland proposed the Sustaining Operations Proposal; to extend the 6 Mt/a production and transportation levels until December 31, 2024, and also requesting the operational flexibility to ship more than 6 Mt/a (up to an additional 0.9Mt/a) consisting of "stranded ore"<sup>4</sup> from the previous shipping season.

The Board recommended that the SOP could proceed in a manner that prevented or limited the potential for significant adverse ecosystemic and socio-economic effects as provided for under s. 112 (6)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, if the Board's recommended revisions were made to the Terms and Conditions 28, 35, 76, 82, 83(a), 85, 99, 101, 150, 179(a) and 179(b) of NIRB Project Certificate No. 005. Following review and consultation with Inuit rights holders (Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association), the Board's recommended revisions were approved by the Responsible Ministers. In the Responsible Ministers' correspondence, the Board was also directed to host a multi-party workshop to establish a comprehensive cumulative effects assessment framework to guide the assessment of future modifications to the Project and update mitigation and monitoring plans under the Project Certificate.

On November 3, 2023, the NIRB hosted the Project Certificate Workshop to discuss clarifications and the implementation of the revised Terms and Conditions of Project Certificate No. 005 Amendment 005, and the NIRB also invited Regulatory Authorities to provide some initial feedback on the timing and other logistics for the cumulative effects assessment framework workshop. The Board will be issuing additional direction to parties about the next steps in planning for that workshop in the coming weeks. The NIRB will also remain in contact with regulators to support the subsequent permitting process associated with the changes to activities for the Mary River Project as approved under the SOP. The NIRB will also continue to work with Baffinland to monitor the Project, as amended in accordance with the requirements of applicable

---

<sup>1</sup> Project Certificate No. 005 Amendment No. 005 is available from the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/> using Public Registry ID No.: 347553.

<sup>2</sup> The NIRB's September 13, 2023, *Reconsideration and Recommendation Report* is available from the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/> using Public Registry ID No.: 347145.

<sup>3</sup> The Minister's correspondence is available from the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/> using Public Registry ID No.:347422.

<sup>4</sup> "Stranded ore" is ore that is trucked to Milne Inlet and stored on the ore pad, but that is not able to be shipped in that shipping season.

legislation and the Terms and Conditions issued in Project Certificate No. 005 Amendment No. 005.

The NIRB appreciates the time and knowledge shared by the North Baffin communities, regulators, Baffinland, and other interested parties in the Board's assessment of the "Sustaining Operations Proposal" and the NIRB's ongoing monitoring program for the Mary River Project. Documentation relevant to Project Certificate No. 005 Amendment 005 and Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's "Sustaining Operations Proposal" is available online from the NIRB's Public Registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125767](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125767).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Kaviq Kaluraq". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and the last name "Kaluraq" clearly legible.

Kaviq Kaluraq  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

For more information, the media may contact:

Ryan Barry, *Interim* Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
[rbarry@nirb.ca](mailto:rbarry@nirb.ca)