



**NIRB File No.: 08MN053**

June 30, 2025

To: *Mary River Distribution List*

Re: **Commencement of the NIRB's development of a Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework for Baffinland Iron Mines Limited's Mary River Iron Ore Mine Project**

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Dear Parties:

In March 2025, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs provided the enclosed correspondence advising the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) that the responsible Ministers had accepted the Board's recommendations as provided in the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Framework Workshop Report<sup>1</sup> associated with the Mary River Iron Ore Project (NIRB File No. 08MN053) and referred the development of the CEA Framework to the NIRB. In April and May, the NIRB developed the workplans and funding proposals necessary to facilitate this work.

As set out in the NIRB's Workshop Report, a key activity to advance the CEA Framework development process is the establishment of a CEA-focused multi-party committee to support the identification of improvements to the monitoring and assessment of cumulative effects for the approved Project, and development and incorporation of the improved CEA Framework to guide future assessment. Consequently, the NIRB will seek to schedule an initial meeting with representatives from Baffinland Iron Mines Corp., Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut and Government of Canada to discuss:

- establishment of the multi-party committee recommended in the CEA Framework Report; and
- key process steps and timelines associated with the development of the CEA Framework and evaluation of the Mary River Project monitoring program.

To support these discussions, the NIRB is developing a draft discussion paper on the CEA conducted to date for the Project, and best practices/opportunities for improvements to CEA that may be considered in the development of the project-specific CEA Framework.

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<sup>1</sup> NIRB Doc ID: 349249

Following these directed discussions with key stakeholders in the months ahead, the NIRB anticipates distributing the draft CEA Framework discussion paper to the public, hosting community engagement and information sessions in the North Baffin communities to discuss the CEA Framework development initiative and process, and also to seek community views and knowledge in relation to cumulative effects issues and improvements to be incorporated into the CEA Framework.

As this initiative advances, the Board will provide updated reporting and additional procedural guidance to ensure interested parties and the public remain informed about the ongoing efforts of all participants to advance this important work. The Board thanks everyone who has contributed to this initiative to date and appreciates parties remaining engaged in this process going forward.

Sincerely,



Dionne Filiatrault  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure: Ministerial Referral Letter, NIRB File No. 08MN053 (March 5, 2025)

cc: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation  
Lou Kamermans, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation  
Jonathon Savoy, Nunavut Planning Commission  
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut  
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency  
Melissa Alexander, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency  
Eva Walker, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Paul Harper, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Kim Pawley, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
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