



NIRB File No.: 08MN053

August 08, 2025

James Gunvaldsen Klassen
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Transmitted via email: igunvaldsenklassen@ecojustice.ca

Re: Work in Relation to the Development of a Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework for Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River Project

Dear James Gunvaldsen Klassen:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 31, 2025, submitted on behalf of your clients, the Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (Arviq HTO). In that correspondence, you advised that the Arviq HTO intends to file a request with the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) for a reconsideration under s. 112 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* of NIRB Project Certificate No. 005, governing Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River Project (NIRB File No. 08MN053) (specifically in relation to the project components of the railway and port at Steensby Inlet that have not been constructed to date). You also asked for more detail about the process the NIRB is proposing to develop a Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework (CEA Framework) and asserted the consultation and accommodation rights of the Arviq HTO associated with the CEA Framework development process.

The NIRB appreciates being advised of Arviq HTO's upcoming reconsideration request and will process it when received. As the NIRB does not have jurisdiction over the substantive aspects of the Federal Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Inuit rights, the NIRB's response that follows addresses only the procedural issues raised in your correspondence.

Recognizing that the CEA Framework development process is unique to the Mary River Project and that the Minister did not prescribe a process for these activities when directing the NIRB to facilitate the process, the NIRB has not issued detailed procedural guidance in relation to the development of the CEA Framework while two preliminary activities are being undertaken to map out the development process and timing in greater detail. As set out in the NIRB's June 30, 2025

correspondence¹ to the Mary River Project Distribution List, the NIRB is broadly following the process recommendations set out in the CEA Framework Workshop Report issued by the NIRB in April 2024.² Accordingly, the Board is currently preparing a draft discussion paper summarizing the cumulative effects assessment conducted to date for the Mary River Project, and providing an overview of best practices/opportunities for improvements to cumulative effects assessment that may be considered in the development of the project-specific CEA Framework. The Board is also initiating establishment of a multi-party committee with the stakeholders who provided the impetus for the Minister's direction to develop the CEA Framework, to guide the process for developing the CEA Framework.

After these initial activities are completed, the NIRB will outline further steps on the process to develop a CEA Framework. The Board has indicated that these steps will include inviting comments and facilitating broader engagement with interested stakeholders, such as local and regional Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Hamlets, community groups, and members of the public in the North Baffin communities. These engagement activities will focus on providing information and seeking comment on the proposed CEA Framework development process; in relation to HTOs and individual harvesters specifically, the NIRB will be seeking feedback on how these parties want to be participate in the development process and their preferences for ensuring Inuit Qaujimaningit, community perspectives and knowledge concerning cumulative effects and potential improvements are included in the CEA Framework.

The Board anticipates that Hunters and Trappers Organizations will continue to have a significant role in sharing their knowledge and experience and identifying gaps and improvements to the assessment and monitoring of cumulative effects in relation to the Mary River Project. The Board appreciates Arviq HTO's interest in participating in the development of the CEA Framework development going forward and will ensure your organization is included when next steps in the process are communicated.

All documentation related to the CEA Framework development process is available from the NIRB public registry link www.nirb.ca/project/125767. If you have any questions, comments or follow up about the CEA Framework development initiative, please contact the NIRB's Executive Director, Dionne Filiatrault to discuss.

1 NIRB Registry Doc. ID: 356202.

2 NIRB Registry Doc. ID: 349249.

Sincerely,



Mark Hadlari
Acting Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Danielle Anderson, Ecojustice
Sarah MacDonald, Ecojustice
Joshua Ginsberg, Ecojustice
Arviq HTO
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
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