

Consultation between with the Nunavut Impact Review Board, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Natural Resources Canada on the Proposed Kahuna Diamond Exploration Project's Screening Decision Report

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 15, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm Ottawa /11:00 am Cambridge Bay

Participants:

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

- James Neary - Senior Environmental Policy Analyst
- Johanna Ceasar - Environmental Policy Analyst
- Kim Pawley - Manager of Environmental Assessment, Land Use Planning and Conservation

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

- Rob Johnstone - Deputy Director, Sustainable Mineral Resource Development Division

Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or the Board)

- Ryan Barry - Executive Director
- Tara Arko – Director, Technical Services

Agenda Topic: Brief overview of Project and NIRB Decision

Discussion

- Screening Decision Report issued by NIRB April 4, 2016 recommending project be modified or abandoned.
- Pursuant to Section 95 of *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the Minister has 150 days after receiving the Board's report to respond and there is a requirement to consult with the Board
 - This meeting is held to satisfy consultation requirements.
- Proposed project is a diamond exploration project located in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut between Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.
 - Site has previously been used for prospecting.
- Concerns raised during screening process included:
 - Lack of community consultation
 - Inadequacy of proposed wildlife and environmental mitigation measures
 - Areas of cultural and archaeological value around the site
 - Abandonment and contamination from previous projects in the area that left a poor view in the communities of exploration projects.

Agenda Topic: Options available to INAC to respond to NIRB Decision

Discussion

- Minister has three decision options available:

- Agree with determination and indicate that project can be modified and resubmitted,
- Agree with determination and indicate that project should not proceed, or
- Reject determination if it is in national or regional interest for the project to be reviewed.

**Agenda Topic: INAC's recommendation for the Minister
Discussion**

- Internal criteria tools used in conjunction with NRCan to determine recommendation to Minister.
 - The proposal involves the use of industry standard practices and technology that has proven effective in similar scenarios. However, the proponent has not consulted the community adequately or incorporated Traditional Knowledge (TK) or Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) within their project proposal. However, it is the view of INAC and NRCan that this can be corrected in a future submission.
 - If thorough consultation is incorporated into the proposal concerns should be adequately addressed at the screening level.
 - The community of Chesterfield Inlet has previously recommended that the area in which the project is proposed to occur be designated protected under the Nunavut Land Use Plan (now in draft form) as an important cultural and recreational resource. It is currently a designated mixed-use under the current draft plan.
 - Communities have previously supported exploration projects; however, an abandoned exploration camp near Josephine Lake has affected some residents' views of exploration activities. If the proponent wishes to proceed, the project must be designed in such a way to minimize community concerns. Effective consultation and incorporation of community concerns (TK and IQ) into the proposal will help alleviate concern.
 - Company has begun consultation with surrounding communities since Screening Decision report was issued.
 - Project should not move forward as a review at this stage as all parties are of the view that the scale of the project lacks the significance required to be considered in the regional or national interest.
- INAC and NRCan representatives are of the view that the project be modified and resubmitted; NIRB is in agreement.
 - If modification is recommended, proponent will be strongly encouraged to demonstrate in their proposal where changes have been made in submission and demonstrate that community concerns have been addressed.

**Agenda Topic: Next Steps
Discussion**

- Concurrence letter with Minister of Natural Resources
- Decision by Minister on or before September 1, 2016