



NIRB File No.: 08MN053

March 17, 2020

Mary River Distribution List

Sent via regular email

Re: Updated Direction from the Nunavut Impact Review Board Regarding Changes to the Format and Timing for the Technical Meetings for Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation's Phase 2 Development Proposal

Dear Parties:

As indicated by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) in guidance issued on March 12 and 13, 2020, due to public health concerns the NIRB cancelled the in-person Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference that was to be held in Iqaluit from March 16 - 25, 2020 as part of the Board's assessment of Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s (Baffinland) Phase 2 Development Proposal. In the Board's Notice cancelling these meetings, the Board indicated that: "...*the upcoming meetings will no longer be held in-person, the NIRB will re-schedule and re-format the meetings, which are expected to occur via a combination of teleconference sessions and written submissions over the coming weeks.*"

Although the NIRB hoped to be able to issue a revised schedule this week for formal topic-specific teleconferences to discuss technical issues raised by parties to date, the Board understands that the recent directions of public health authorities in Nunavut and across the country involving office, school and day care closures could impact the ability of parties to participate fully in scheduled teleconferences. The NIRB's office has been similarly affected, with staff teleworking and encountering challenges and limitations with local phone networks and internet access in Nunavut which impact the effectiveness of our operations. Recognizing these developments and the limitations on the participation of parties that may result, the Board will not be issuing a revised schedule for formal technical teleconferences at this time.

Once these circumstances change or organizations have had sufficient time to adjust their operations to current conditions, the Board will revisit its guidance regarding next steps. In the interim, the Board continues to encourage Baffinland and individual parties to use this pause in the NIRB's process to engage in party-to-party dialogue regarding outstanding technical issues if possible, and to report any progress on resolution of issues back to the Board and all parties. The NIRB is prepared to assist in these efforts upon request by facilitating and/or moderating

teleconferences and providing specific guidance to ensure the details and results of any such discussions are reported promptly and transparently for the information of all parties.

As the Board continues to monitor and respond to ongoing developments arising from the unprecedented public health response to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), the Board appreciates the feedback and support provided by all participants in the assessment of the Phase 2 Development Proposal in light of these challenging and completely unforeseen circumstances. If you have any questions regarding the Board's approach moving forward, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4608 or rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation