

September 4, 2020

Karen Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
Cambridge Bay, NU X0C 0E0

Sent via Email: info@nirb.ca

RE: Igloodik Working group Comment on NIRB's Draft Agenda and Logistical Arrangements for Upcoming Mary River Phase 2 Technical Meeting

Dear Karen Costello:

The Igloodik Working Group appreciates the opportunity to provide comment and input with regard to the Draft Agenda for the Mary River Phase 2 Technical Meeting as requested by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) on August 25, 2020.

The Igloodik Working group also appreciates the need to proceed with meetings as outlined in the NIRB's recent Disposition of Notice of Motion (August 24, 2020), however we reiterate our concerns that the timing of these meetings has negatively impacted on the hunting and gathering of our representatives normally working to prepare for the coming winter. We also acknowledge the NIRB's scheduling the upcoming meetings which has included a two-week delay, but note that this is not adequate to address the concerns raised in our prior submissions. We also submit that we remain of the opinion that teleconferencing is an inadequate means by which to conduct these technical meetings, and that our participation will be significantly limited if engaging in meetings that are not held face-to-face.

We will participate in the planned Technical Meetings because removing ourselves from the discussion would be introducing even greater disadvantage. Please find enclosed as Appendix A, a list of individuals we anticipate will be attending the upcoming Technical Meetings, along with short summaries of their areas of expertise and focus. Our comments on the proposed meeting logistics and agenda are as follows.

In terms of comment on **logistical arrangements**, we ask that the NIRB consider the following:

1. The NIRB consider providing a video option to participants. Using a platform such as Zoom, parties can utilize telephone only, or video format, all within the same meeting space. Parties can also share the screen of presenters, removing confusion about which deck and slide number are being discussed. Participants can be sent to breakout rooms, and perhaps the largest benefit, is that participants are able to see one another face to face during these heady interactions. We suggest that this format is preferable to a strictly

telephone based meeting structure, and does not detract from the current plan, only augments it with an additional and slightly more appropriate level of engagement.

2. The NIRB's August 25, 2020 correspondence indicates that "simultaneous English and Inuktitut interpretation will be provided to the extent practicable", however we advise that English and Inuktitut interpretation are a requirement for our participation.
3. Given the highly technical nature of the discussions, we request that the NIRB consider extending the agenda and lessening the number of hours in session each day. This will give opportunity for parties to make connections after the formal meeting closes each day to caucus on items of interest, and return the following day having had time and space for these important discussions to take place. We suggest a 3/4 day format - beginning at 8:00 MT as planned, and ending at 2:00 MT, also keeping the NIRB's proposed 15 minute health and 1 hour lunch breaks. This would mean extending the Technical Meeting agenda to include 2-4 additional days over the following week.

With regard to comment on the **Draft Technical Meeting Agenda** provided August 25, 2020, we provide the following comments:

1. We have concerns with the amount of time allotted to Baffinland - the entire first day is dedicated to its update presentations, and the agenda provides for it to make presentations at the start of each topic and sub-topic. We have had experiences where Baffinland extends its presentation window to the point where the time available for questions and comments from parties is significantly limited. We request that NIRB provide clear guidance to Baffinland in terms of its presentations, that these focus on issues presented by intervenors, commitments made to address outstanding issues, resolution status, and any next steps. We also ask that during the meeting, the NIRB be conscientious of this issue, and ensure the presentations are kept within the designated time windows.
2. The recent Marine Workshop held in Pond Inlet extended past the meeting time, leaving some intervenors without an opportunity to present questions and concerns for the benefit of members of the public in attendance. The NIRB has suggested it would allow time at the Technical Meeting for those agencies to make presentations.

We are concerned that the Technical Meeting agenda is already full, and suggest that additional time be built in to a 5th day to provide an opportunity for those agencies not having had a chance to present their questions and comments to the NIRB and Baffinland, to do so.

3. The North Baffin Communities have recently tabled important information regarding Baffinland's intention to ultimately ship 18 MT of ore per year via Milne Port. This significantly affects our understanding of the project, and the matter should be given space as a solitary agenda item to engage discussion among parties, including Baffinland.
4. The current agenda provides review of the Commitment List only during the last day of the Meeting. We request the NIRB give consideration to circulating a draft list at the end of each day (or as close to as possible), so that agencies might review and confirm the following day if any changes are required. We suggest that waiting to review the entire list at the close of the meeting may be onerous and delay its ultimate acceptance and finalization.

We thank the NIRB for considering our comments and suggestions, and look forward to attending and participating in productive and informative Technical Meetings later this month. Please direct any questions to Merlyn Recinos, Mayor of Igloolik @ Igloolik@Mayor.ca

Sincerely,



Merlyn Recinos
Mayor of Igloolik

Encl: Appendix A: List of Participants for NIRB Technical Meeting

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Peter Ivalu, Chairperson, Igloolik working Group

Erasmus Ivalu, Vice-Chair, Igloolik working Group

Jake Maliki, Secretary, Igloolik working Group

Joana Quassa, 2nd Vice-Chair, Igloolik working Group

Merlyn Recinos, Technical Advisor