



September 4, 2020

Via e-mail: info@nirb.ca

Ms. Karen Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Costello:

Re: NIRB File No. 08MN053 – Updates on Logistics Information and Draft Agenda for the NIRB Teleconference Technical Meeting for Baffinland Iron Mines Corp’s “Phase 2 Development” Project Proposal

We are writing in response to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) letter of August 25, 2020 with the following information on behalf of Dr. Zacharias Kunuk and the Nunavut Independent Television Network (NITV):

Representatives

- Dr. Zacharias Kunuk
- Lloyd Lipsett (advisor)
- Isabelle Gilles (advisor)

Comments

1. Importance of Inuktitut translation

We emphasized the importance of Inuktitut translation throughout all of our past interventions in the hearings related to the Mary River Mine, and have highlighted some of the challenges of engaging with Inuit communities in a remote manner in our previous correspondence about the resumption of the hearings. We therefore look forward to further technical details about how translation will be managed throughout the Technical Meetings in a manner that will adequately respect Inuit rights to informed consultation. In this regard, we request that the NIRB, as the

facilitator of these meetings, check in regularly with Inuit participants to ensure that they are understanding the information and discussions to a satisfactory level.

2. Need for time to consult internally

In a normal hearing setting, our team is able to consult internally “on the fly” about issues that arise in the normal course of discussions. We are concerned that it will be difficult to do this remotely while paying proper attention to the ongoing discussions. So we encourage the NIRB to consider providing additional time for breaks and perhaps having shorter days so that there is sufficient time for Inuit intervenors to consult with their advisors on a regular basis, and not get left behind in the discussions. We understand that this will imply extending the number of days for the remote meetings—which is closely related to our final point.

3. Need to complete the agenda

From our participation in previous Technical Meetings and Public Hearings about the Mary River project, we have noticed a pattern that there is never enough time to fully complete the agenda. Often the socio-economic issues that are important to communities and to us as intervenors are squeezed. In anticipation that this could happen again (especially if the meetings are conducted at a pace that helps to ensure that Inuit are understanding information along the way), we invite the NIRB to retain sufficient flexibility to add additional sessions to ensure that all topics on the agenda are reviewed and discussed in a satisfactory manner.

We thank the NIRB for this opportunity to present our views on the draft agenda, and look forward to receiving more details about the conduct and Inuktitut translation of the Technical Meetings.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lloyd Lipsett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line crossing through the middle of the letters.

Lloyd Lipsett
Advisor to Dr. Kunuk and NITV