

Outstanding questions from Clyde River for the 2020 public hearing pertaining to Baffinland's "Phase 2" proposal

2021-03-01

Questions to Baffinland

Terrestrial Environment

- 1) Please provide more information about the various agreements Baffinland has entered into and is currently negotiating with the Government of Nunavut pertaining to caribou research. Please provide copies of all previous and existing agreements between Baffinland and the Government of Nunavut pertaining to caribou. Please provide copies of draft agreements currently being discussed by the parties.
- 2) Do any the draft agreements being discussed by Baffinland and the GN provide Baffinland with control over the results of caribou research? For example, are there provisions in any of the draft agreements that give Baffinland influence or control over the ability of the Government of Nunavut to communicate the results of this research to communities and other stakeholders in a timely manner?
- 3) Baffinland indicated that it would develop protocols for temporary road and rail closures when caribou return to the area "in numbers that require it". How many caribou need to be in the North Baffin region before Baffinland develops these mitigation measures?

Marine Environment

- 4) This question pertains to Baffinland's marine mammal monitoring program and the time frames it would take Baffinland's monitoring programs to detect population changes in marine mammals. How many seasons would the proponent need to determine if their shipping operations have an impact on seal populations?
- 5) Baffinland has indicated that it has concerns with the quality of the peer reviewed paper on cortisol levels in narwhal. Please explain the concerns with this paper and indicate who specifically reviewed this paper for Baffinland and what their technical qualifications are.
- 6) Baffinland asserts that its monitoring program has not identified any significant negative effects on marine mammals. However, hunters in Pond Inlet have observed negative effects on marine mammals as a result of marine shipping. Please provide more information about whether or not members of the Marine Environmental Working Group are satisfied with Baffinland's approach to monitoring. Have any working group members raised concerns that Baffinland's approach to monitoring might be not be capturing all of the effects of shipping on marine mammals? If so, how has Baffinland addressed these concerns?

- 7) Baffinland indicated that the Marine Environmental Working Group met in November to discuss new draft terms of reference prepared by Baffinland. Please provide a copy of these draft terms of reference. Please summarize any concerns expressed with the draft terms of reference by working group members and explain how Baffinland will address these concerns.

Adaptive Management

- 8) Baffinland intends to develop the triggers and actions for the adaptive management plan in conjunction with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Does Baffinland foresee a role for the Marine Environmental Working Group or Terrestrial Environment Working Group in the development of these triggers and actions?

Questions Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- 1) Do DFO scientists agree with the proponent's conclusions that the Phase 2 expansion will have no significant impacts on marine mammals?

Questions to the Government of Nunavut

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- 2) Do any the draft agreements being discussed by Baffinland and the GN provide Baffinland with control over the results of caribou research? For example, are there provisions in any of the draft agreements that give Baffinland influence or control over the ability of the Government of Nunavut to communicate the results of this research to communities and other stakeholders in a timely manner?