

nirb info

From: Ministre des Affaires du Nord, ministre responsable de Développement économique Canada pour les Prairies et ministre responsable de l'Agence canadienne de développement économique du Nord / Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister responsible for Prairies Ec <ministrean-ministerna@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca>
Sent: July 11, 2022 3:00 PM
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Correspondence from the Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister Responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada and Minister Responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

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Ministre des Affaires du Nord, ministre responsable de
Développement économique Canada pour les Prairies et
ministre responsable de l'Agence canadienne de
développement économique du Nord



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister Responsible for
Prairies Economic Development Canada and
Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern
Economic Development Agency

July 11, 2022

Mr. Brian Penney
Chief Executive Officer
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
300–2275 Upper Middle Road East
OAKVILLE ON L6H 0C3

Dear Mr. Penney:

I would like to provide you with an update regarding the decision process for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Phase 2 Development Proposal [Nunavut Impact Review Board File number 08MN053]. As you are aware, the Nunavut Impact Review Board ("the Board") submitted its Reconsideration Report and Recommendations ("the Report") to me on May 13, 2022, recommending that the proposed project should not be allowed to proceed at this time.

As per subsection 112(6) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (“the Act,”) the responsible ministers have 90 days to accept, vary, or reject the Board’s recommendations. Pursuant to subsection 112(8) of the Act, if the responsible ministers are of the opinion that more time is needed to exercise powers and perform duties and functions in respect of the Report, they may extend the timeline up to 90 days and must notify the proponent of the extension in writing.

Since the release of the Board’s Phase 2 Report on May 13, 2022, Baffinland has submitted a new proposal to the Board for the Production Increase Proposal Renewal. On June 13, 2022, the Board issued notice of Baffinland’s proposal, and sought comments and advice from interested parties and regulatory authorities. Given the Government of Canada’s commitment to renewing the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples, the responsible ministers and I want to ensure that potentially affected Inuit have adequate time to consider the Board’s Phase 2 report and recommendation relative to potential impacts on their rights. We have therefore decided that it is necessary to extend the decision timeline for the Phase 2 Development Proposal by 90 days.

This extension will provide Inuit and others time to focus their efforts on the current Production Increase Proposal Renewal, especially given the limited capacity of some groups during the summer months when many Inuit are on the land. The extension will also allow officials to complete consultation with the affected Inuit groups in a manner

that is respectful and will allow for meaningful discussions to take place. I would like to assure you that the Government of Canada is committed to meeting its legislated timelines. The responsible ministers and I will endeavour to make a final decision on this project proposal as soon as practicable, especially given the importance of a predictable regulatory process for investors.

I would like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding on this matter, as the other responsible ministers and I work toward a final decision on the Mary River Phase 2 proposal. Should you have any questions, please direct them to Joanna Ankersmit, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment at Joanna.ankersmit@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Hon. Daniel Vandal, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Ms. Marjorie Kaviq Kaluraq
Ms. Karen Costello



