



NIRB File No.: 08MN053
CIRNAC File No.: N2008T0014
DFO File No.: 2008 MR
QIA File No.: LUA-2008-008

December 6, 2022

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Sent via email: megan.lord-hoyle@baffinland.com and lou.kamermans@baffinland.com

Re: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2021-2022 Annual Monitoring Report for the Mary River Project and Board's Recommendations

Dear Ms. Megan Lord-Hoyle and Mr. Lou Kamermans,

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is hereby releasing its *2021-2022 Annual Monitoring Report for Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River Project* which includes the NIRB's Assessment of Baffinland's Compliance Status with the Mary River Project Certificate No. 005 (Appendix II). The enclosed Monitoring Report is based on the NIRB's monitoring activities as set out within the Mary River Project Certificate No. 005 and under Sections 12.7.1 and 12.7.2 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 112(1) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*. This report contains the findings of information that was provided to the Board between October 2021 through September 2022. The results provided to the Board during this monitoring period do not necessarily represent data that was collected in the 2021-2022 period; but due to the time needed to analyze the data, it may have been collected in previous years.

By way of a motion carried out during its regular meeting held in October 2022, the Board has issued the following recommendation to assist Baffinland in achieving compliance with the Mary River Project Certificate and to ensure the NIRB has all information necessary to adequately discharge its mandate with respect to the provisions within the *Nunavut Agreement* and *NuPPAA* as they pertain to the Mary River Project.

Narwhal Population Exchange Between Admiralty and Milne Inlet

Through the 2021-2022 Monitoring Period the Board heard opposing arguments, specifically:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada stated that their research indicates a natural exchange rate of narwhal up to 30% between Admiralty and Milne Inlet populations, and they further note that this aligns with their understanding of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in the region.
- Baffinland noted that their research, understanding of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, and review of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's information indicates that there are no distinct populations of narwhal between Admiralty and Milne Inlet.

This conflicting information regarding narwhal populations along with the ongoing decline in narwhal numbers Baffinland tracked in their monitoring data creates challenges for the Board to fully assess the extent of project-related impacts on narwhal populations. Baffinland's aerial surveys only indicate a decline in narwhal populations in Milne Inlet. As such:

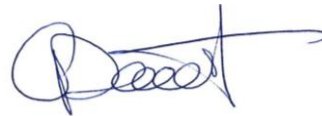
1. The Board requests that Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Baffinland Iron Ore Mines coordinate on collection and analysis of monitoring data as it relates to the narwhal population(s) of Admiralty and Milne Inlet. The Board looks forward to an update on the progress of coordination in the 2022 Annual Report.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the Board's recommendations or the NIRB's monitoring program for the Mary River Project, please contact Cory Barker at (867) 983-4607 or cbarker@nirb.ca; or contact Guillaume Daoust at (867) 983-4609 or gdaoust@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Cory Barker
Technical Advisor III
Nunavut Impact Review Board



Guillaume Daoust
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Mary River Distribution List

Enclosure (1): The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2021– 2022 *Annual Monitoring Report for Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River Project*.