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June 29, 2023

Megan Lord-Hoyle
Director, Sustainable Development
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
2275, Upper Middle Road East
Oakville, ON L6H 0C3

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

Re: 2023 Marine Monitoring and Marine Mitigation Workshop Report for the Mary River Project and NIRB's Recommendations

Dear Megan Lord-Hoyle:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is hereby releasing its *2023 Marine Monitoring and Marine Mitigation Workshop Report for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project* (the Report) which includes the Board's Recommendations for the 2023 shipping season and beyond. The enclosed Report provides the record of public concerns, questions, and comments raised during the Marine Monitoring and Marine Mitigation Workshop (the Workshop) held in Pond Inlet on May 24-25, 2023. The Board has issued the following recommendations to assist Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation (Baffinland or Proponent) in addressing concerns related to project-shipping and impacts around marine mammals. The Board's recommendations are based on the feedback received from community members and the gaps identified by the NIRB during the Workshop in the ongoing monitoring of the approved Mary River Project (the Project).

Access to traditional Harvesting Areas and Marine Mammal Population Health

Community members expressed concerns regarding the ongoing difficulties they face in accessing and sharing traditional harvesting areas for narwhal and seals. These challenges were often identified through the difficulties in navigating and accessing these areas due to the presence and movement of the large ore carrier vessels. The Board recognizes that for the Project to be able to transport its ore, there will need to be the shared use of some of these areas. The Board further notes that community members have expressed concerns regarding the health of the narwhal population in Milne Inlet as well as the ability to access the narwhal if they have relocated to other areas. The Board also understands that work on evaluating population health of narwhal in Milne Inlet is ongoing in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in response to the Board's 2022 Monitoring Recommendations.

Recommendation 1: The Board requests that Baffinland work closely with the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization or other community organizations to determine priority marine hunting areas for the community members and to provide a memo to the Board by the end of 2023 on approaches to avoiding or coordinating navigation near these areas in such way that reduces interaction between project vessels and Community vessels during peak harvesting periods.

Recommendation 2: The Board encourages Baffinland to continue working with DFO and community members in monitoring Narwhal presence and health in the project area. Visual data from Bruce Head monitoring should be linked to results from underwater recorders as well as information about convoys to demonstrate conclusions made by Baffinland that convoying is mitigating disturbance impacts.

Recommendation 3: The Board requests that Baffinland provide more direct monitoring observations in engaging and plain language formats (i.e. audio and video) to support community members awareness of ongoing monitoring activities, results and findings at next year's workshop. Baffinland is encouraged to also share more directly and with multi-media options, the experiences of Northern hires and monitoring staff as they conduct monitoring activities for the project.

The Board appreciates the efforts of all parties to attend the event and participate, and looks forward to hosting the next workshop in 2024.

The Board respectfully requests that for items requiring follow-up action by Baffinland that a response be provided within the timeline as requested for each of the recommendations. 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 the undersigned directly at cbarker@nirb.ca or Guillaume Daoust at gdaoust@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Cory Barker, M.Sc.
Technical Advisor III
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Lou Kamermans, Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.
Mary River Distribution List

Enclosure (1): The Nunavut Impact Review Board's *2023 Marine Monitoring and Marine Mitigation Workshop Report*