

Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Presentation to the Nunavut Impact Review Board

Cumulative Effects Assessment
Framework Workshop—Mary River
Project

February 19, 2024
Iqaluit, NU



Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Mary River Project

- The Mary River Project:
 - QIA manages Inuit Owned Lands
 - QIA has a land lease, water compensation agreement, and IIBA with Baffinland
 - QIA welcomes the opportunities provided to Inuit from the Mary River Project and looks for an **equitable balance** between benefits for Inuit and environmental and socio-economic impacts



Minister's Instruction, October 17, 2023

- *“... a multi-party workshop in order to establish the components and set the parameters of a comprehensive cumulative effects assessment of the Mary River Project... This cumulative effects assessment framework will set an agreed-upon scope and methodology for an assessment which, once completed, will be used to update mitigation and monitoring plans, with consideration of any related Project Certificate amendments that may be required.”*



Minister's Instruction, October 17, 2023

- QIA has been providing technical comments on CEA since the review of the Early Revenue Phase proposal
- QIA raised the issue of an inadequate CEA during Section 35 discussions with GoC for
 - 2022 Production Increase Proposal Renewal
 - 2023 Sustaining Operations Proposal
- QIA worked with GoC and NTI to ensure the Minister's Direction included a firm direction for a new CEA



Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs)

- Consideration of all VECs, VSECs, and Inuit Rights associated with them, in particular:
 - Narwhal:
 - Inuit parties have raised extensive concerns about potential underestimation of project-specific effects on narwhal in the northern shipping route, as have credible independent scientists
 - Inuit Culture, Resources, and Land Use:
 - Inuit have raised concerns that both project specific and cumulative effects on Inuit culture, resources and land use are likely already higher than predicted as 6mtpa, and have strong concerns about how this could increase at production levels and an activity sphere that expand mightily with the proposed full build out of the project
 - Caribou:
 - Inuit evidence suggests that caribou experience effects at distances larger than that predicted by the proponent



Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs)

- Consideration of all VECs, VSECs, and Inuit Rights associated with them (cont'd):
 - Snow and vegetation quality:
 - Effects on Inuit, ice and snow conditions, wildlife, vegetation, and harvesting are of high concern at current production levels
 - Water and sediment quality:
 - Full build out of the project will increase risks to more water sources - their quality and quantity, in ways that have yet to be properly investigated
 - Ringed seal:
 - Inuit have raised concerns about impacts of northern shipping on ringed seal
 - Walrus:
 - A critical resource in particular in the Steensby Port proposed area
 - Anadromous arctic char:
 - Inuit have raised concerns about risks to and existing impacts on arctic char in relation to existing operations
 - An update on knowledge of conditions in the southern port and shipping route is required



Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs)

- Consideration of all VECs, VSECs, and Inuit Rights associated with them (cont'd):
 - Sea ice:
 - There are potential risks to habitat quality, population numbers of wildlife as well as to harvesting success and safety for Inuit on ice from project-specific and cumulative effects
 - Public transportation safety:
 - The project affected area intersects with important travel corridors for Inuit
 - Other terrestrial wildlife:
 - The new rail line may have morbidity, mortality and movement effects on other terrestrial wildlife, as does climate change
 - Ground / permafrost stability:
 - This is an erosion, public safety, transportation feasibility, and water quality issue. Project effects and climate change may contribute to increased loss of permafrost and reduced ground stability



Scope of Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)

- Inuit Qaujimagatuuqangit
 - Approach for integrating Inuit Qaujimagatuuqangit into CEA framework
- Inuit involvement
- Impacted communities:
 - Mittimatalik
 - Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay)
 - Kangitugaapik (Clyde River)
 - Sanirajak
 - Igloolik
 - Kimmirut
 - Kinngait



Scope of CEA

- Geographical boundaries:
 - Impacted communities
 - Project effects are experienced very close to communities, beyond the PDA
 - Include communities potentially affected by the Southern Transportation Route and Southern Shipping Corridor
 - Range of mobile wildlife
 - Effects on wildlife throughout their lifecycle need to be understood
 - Tallurutiup Imanga
 - Project shipping will occur in this area and have direct and indirect impacts throughout the protected area
 - The birthplace and refuge for nearly all species found in the Eastern Arctic
 - An artery connecting communities and allowing travel throughout the High Arctic



Scope of CEA

- Temporal boundaries:
 - Pre-Project
 - Pre-Project conditions to be used as a baseline
 - Full Project scope
 - “reasonably foreseeable” scope
 - Mining of Deposits 2 and 3
 - Post-closure
 - Until impacts of the Project are no longer measurable
- Climate change
 - Future climate change scenarios



Process

- NIRB-led, multi-party process
- Coordinated and overseen by NIRB
 - Nunavut Agreement, Article 12, Part 2, Item (2b)
 - Nunavut Agreement, Article 2, Part 2, Item 5
- Timeline allowing for a truly comprehensive assessment
- Requirement to set process milestones:
 - Feedback and accountability mechanisms
 - Community consultations
 - Periodic check-ins
 - Thematical technical meetings
 - Interim report
- Involvement of affected communities, HTOs, DIOs
- Post-CEA process:
 - Monitoring, mitigation and management plans
 - Changes to Project Certificate terms and conditions, if required

