



NIRB File No.: 08MN053

April 8, 2024

The Honourable Dan Vandal, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Northern Affairs
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email and courier: dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca

Re: Follow up Report of the Nunavut Impact Review Board regarding the Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework Workshop in relation to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project conducted in Iqaluit on February 19-20, 2024

Dear Honourable Dan Vandal:

Please find attached the Report prepared by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) to summarize the discussions and outcomes of the Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework Workshop associated with Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (Baffinland or Proponent) Mary River Project (Project) conducted by the Nunavut Impact Review Board in Iqaluit on February 19-20, 2024 (the Workshop).

The associated documentation for this activity can be accessed directly via the NIRB's online Public Registry associated with Baffinland's Sustaining Operations Proposal at <https://www.nirb.ca/project/125767>.

This Report provides a brief overview of the written submissions provided in advance of the workshop, summarizes the discussions during the Workshop and proposes a path forward for the development of a cumulative effects assessment framework for the Mary River Project.

Specifically, after due consideration of the feedback provided in advance of, during and after the Workshop, the Board has provided recommendations to improve cumulative effects assessment of the Project and subsequent reconsiderations in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term, as follows:

- 1. Improvements to the assessment of cumulative effects in the SOP2 amendment application:**



The Board will determine whether commitments made by the Proponent to update the approach to cumulative effects assessment are sufficient to support the assessment of the SOP2 amendment application, and if not, the NIRB will issue additional guidance.

2. **Identification of improvements to the monitoring and assessment of cumulative effects for the approved Project:** Following the completion of the assessment process for the SOP2 amendment application (or in parallel, depending on process and timelines) the Board proposes commencing an evaluation of the existing Mary River Project monitoring program (with the continued participation of the Workshop participants) to identify improvements and to consider whether updates to the existing Project Certificate terms and conditions or further direction on the effective implementation of the existing Project Certificate terms and conditions are needed to address concerns about potential cumulative effects associated with existing operations or for those project components that are approved under the current Project Certificate but that have yet to be constructed (e.g., the southern railroad and the port at Steensby Inlet).
3. **Development and incorporation of the CEA Framework to guide future assessments:** The Board, in collaboration with a new CEA-focused multi-party committee as referenced above (or if not a formal committee, informed by consultations with relevant stakeholders) develop an updated CEA Framework to support the consideration of future assessments. (It is the Board's expectation that this work for the Mary River Project will likely parallel and support the current work of the Board in the development of Standard Impact Assessment Guidelines and may become incorporated into the finalized Standard Impact Statement Guidelines when complete).

Translated versions of this Report are being prepared in Inuktitut and will be available as soon as possible.

Should you have questions or require clarification regarding this matter, please contact the NIRB's Executive Director, Robbin Sinclair at (867) 983-4608 or rsinclair@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Marjorie (Kaviq) Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., Minister of Environment and Climate Change

