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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

September 23, 2013

Mr. Oliver Curran
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
2275 Upper Middle Road East, Suite 300
Oakville, OT., Canada L6H 0C3

BY E-MAIL oliver.curran@baffinland.com

Dear Mr. Curran,

Re: Information Request for Joint Review of Proposed Corridor

Thank you for your application to develop a transportation and/or communications corridor in the North Baffin Region pursuant to section 3.5.11 of the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) and either the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) or a federal environmental assessment panel appointed under section 12.4.7 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) shall publicly review the proposed corridor to determine whether the proposal adequately meets the guidelines set out in Appendices J and K.

Prior to commencing its joint review of the proposed corridor, the NPC asks the proponent to confirm that it has submitted all relevant information required by Appendix J of the NBRLUP:

1. A description of the proposed corridor, including its use, its general routing, the possible environmental and social impacts, and any seasonal considerations that may be appropriate.
2. A comparison of the proposed route with alternative routes in terms of environmental and social factors as well as technical and cost considerations.
3. An assessment of the suitability of the corridor for the inclusion of other possible communication and transportation initiatives (roads, transmission lines, pipelines, etc.).

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This assessment should include:

- the environmental, social and terrain engineering consequences, and the cumulative impacts of the project, and
- the environmental and social impact of the project on nearby settlements or on nearby existing and proposed transportation systems.

Once it is determined that a proposal does meet the guidelines, the NPC may request the ministers to amend the plan to include the new transportation corridor. In accordance with the NLCA, in order to determine whether to request the ministers to amend the NBRLUP, the NPC shall consider all relevant information, including whether the proposed amendment develops the NBRLUP in a matter consistent with Article 11 of the NLCA generally, and the principles listed in Section 11.2.1 of the NLCA. For ease of reference, section 11.2.1 of the NLCA lists the following principles:

(a) people are a functional part of a dynamic biophysical environment, and land use cannot be planned and managed without reference to the human community; accordingly, social, cultural and economic endeavours of the human community must be central to land use planning and implementation;
(b) the primary purpose of land use planning in the Nunavut Settlement Area shall be to protect and promote the existing and future well being of those persons ordinarily resident and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area taking into account the interests of all Canadians; special attention shall be devoted to protecting and promoting the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands;
(c) the planning process shall ensure land use plans reflect the priorities and values of the residents of the planning regions;
(d) the public planning process shall provide an opportunity for the active and informed participation and support of Inuit and other residents affected by the land use plans; such participation shall be promoted through various means, including ready access to all relevant materials, appropriate and realistic schedules, recruitment and training of local residents to participate in comprehensive land use planning;
(e) plans shall provide for the conservation, development and utilization of land;
(f) the planning process shall be systematic and integrated with all other planning processes and operations, including the impact review process contained in the Agreement; and
(g) an effective land use planning process requires the active participation of both Government and Inuit.

The NPC also refers the proponent to the principles guiding development of the NBRLUP in chapter 1.2 of the plan. Kindly provide any further information relating to these principles that the proponent wishes the NPC to consider in its public review of the proposed amendment, or indicate any sections particularly relevant to these principles in the materials already provided, by October 18, 2013.

If there is any further information the NPC requires, it will advise the proponent at its earliest practicable convenience.

Yours Truly,

Brian Aglukark,
Director Regional Planning

CC. Amanda Hanson, NIRB
Georgina Williston, DFO
Bernie Mac Isaac, QIA
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB

Encl. NBRLUP

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