



Nunavut Regional Office
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January 16, 2023

Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
PO Box 1797
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

RE: Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan

Dear Ms. Ehaloak:

The following consolidates the views of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, Department of National Defence, Natural Resources Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard in response to the Nunavut Planning Commission's notice of December 9, 2022, regarding Amendment No. 1 of the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP).

The Government of Canada appreciates the opportunity to comment on the revised proposed Amendment No. 1 to the NBRLUP and other information provided in the November 24, 2022 letter from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. In providing these comments, we have also examined the work completed by the Commission in its reviews of Amendments No. 1, 2, and 3, as well as the work of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) in its review of the Mary River Project, the Mary River Early Revenue Phase, the Mary River Production Increase Proposal, the Mary River Production Increase Proposal Extension, the Mary River Phase 2 Project, and the Mary River Production Increase Proposal Renewal.

On July 26, 2019, the Commission adjourned the public review process for Amendment No. 1 of the NBRLUP pending Baffinland's submission of a current Cumulative Effects Assessment to the Commission, as required under sections 3.5.11 and 3.5.12 as well as appendices J and K of the NBRLUP. The Government of Canada acknowledges that the rejection of the Phase 2 proposal is relevant to the issue of potential cumulative effects between the approved southern railway and the proposed northern railway, however this does not necessarily mean that no additional information is warranted with respect to cumulative effects considerations.





The incremental cumulative effects from the Early Revenue Phase approved ore volume of 4.2 Mtpa to any long term increase of ore hauling and marine shipping via Milne Inlet have not yet been considered through the Commission's NBRLUP amendment processes or either of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Production Increase Proposal reconsiderations. While this was considered in the NIRB's Reconsideration Report and Recommendations for Baffinland's Phase 2 Development Proposal, that report notes there are cumulative effects concerns that remain outstanding, including deficiencies in the analysis with respect to caribou.

The Government of Canada continues to support amending the NBRLUP to create a multi-use transportation corridor south from the Mary River mine site to Steensby Inlet. It is the Government of Canada's view that outstanding cumulative effects of the Project as a whole, including in combination with any future proposed modifications, should be addressed as part of the NIRB's assessment of future iterations of the project proposed by Baffinland, rather than within the process for NBRLUP Amendment No. 1. Recognizing the importance of regulatory efficiency, the Government of Canada encourages the continued cooperation between the Nunavut Planning Commission and the Nunavut Impact Review Board in relation to cumulative effects considerations.

The Government of Canada further recognizes there may be other views, especially given the years that have passed since the original review of the amendment. We encourage the Commission to consider all perspectives, including those of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, in its role as the Designated Inuit Organization under the Nunavut Agreement, as it makes a decision on this matter.

With respect to the revised wording of the proposed Amendment No. 1 proposed by Baffinland in its letter of November 24, 2022, the Government of Canada appreciates the incorporation of its recommendation to describe the corridor as "generally illustrated" in Schedule A, and is recommending the following changes:

- include the omitted text at the end of section 2.3 "...*approximate. Minor adjustments shall not require a further amendment to the NBRLUP.*"; and
- ensure the correct map with high resolution is included under Schedule A of Amendment No. 1.

Translations of this letter are underway into French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and these versions will be provided to the Commission as soon as available.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding the submission, please do not hesitate to contact Spencer Dewar, Director, Resource Management, at (867) 975-4657 or myself at (867) 975-4501.

Sincerely,



Terry Audla
Regional Director General
Nunavut Region
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

c.c.: Emmanuel Chabot, Executive Regional Director, Issues and Program
Management, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada

Bruce MacDonald, Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region,
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Erin Jackson, A/Deputy Director, Industry and Economic Analysis Division, Lands
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Debra Beauchamp, Policy Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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