

Preface

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared for a proposed nickel processing plant at Long Harbour, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador (“the Project”) to be built by Voisey’s Bay Nickel Company Limited (VBNC). The overall document and associated Component Studies satisfy the requirements for an EIS under *Part X* of the *Environmental Protection Act* (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador) and do so in conformance with Guidelines as issued by the Minister on October 31, 2006. This EIS will also support an environmental assessment screening to be completed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and by Transport Canada under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry 06-01-27173).

The EIS is organized in the following manner:

- The **Executive Summary** provides an overview of the full EIS using non-technical language. A Table of Concordance is appended to illustrate compliance by the EIS with the Guidelines.
- The **Environmental Impact Statement** comprises three volumes and a set of Appendices:
 - **Volume 1 – The Project** identifies the Proponent and describes the proposed undertaking, including all phases of construction, operation, closure and decommissioning. Also presented is an overview of the physical environment and consideration of the effects of the environment on the Project.
 - **Volume 2 – Effects Assessment - Biophysical Environment** describes the existing natural environment that will interact with the Project and includes effects assessment of Biophysical Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)..
 - **Volume 3 – Effects Assessment - Socio-Economic Environment** describes the human environment including area communities, associated activities which will interact with the Project, and the effects assessment of Socio-economic VECs.

The EIS has been produced using recycled paper with two-sided copying and in a loosely-bound format.

