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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD  
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

Mr. Robert D. Nault  
Minister  
Indian and Northern Affairs  
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0H4

August 07, 2003

Dear Mr. Minister:

I acknowledge your letter of June 20, 2003 informing me that you have approved the Polaris Licence issued by the Board. I concur with your assessment of the Board's authority relating to fresh water and the security as it relates to the same.

I agree with you that it is sometimes difficult to separate land and water-related components of a project, recognizing that the several parts of the environment by definition are inter-connected. This principle was indeed articulated by representatives of DIAND during Nunavut Water Board hearings and it is acknowledged in a variety of federal statutory definitions. In addition, the Nunavut waters legislation (section 33) and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement require the Board to give "due regard and weight...to Inuit culture, customs and knowledge." As it relates to this issue, Inuit culture and the Elders' opinion as expressed during previous hearings accord with the complexity of the ecosystem and its inter-connectedness. The hydrological cycle demonstrates this inter-connectedness through the constant circulation of water from sea, to the atmosphere, to the land, and back to the sea by overland, underground and atmospheric routes.

This said, I should stress that the Board will do everything it can to distinguish between water and land-related issues for security assessments and we encourage all parties including DIAND to assist the Board by identifying the precise land/water demarcation during the presentation of evidence at Nunavut Water Board hearings.

Again, thank you for your support of the Board.

Yours truly,

*Thomas Kudloo*  
Thomas Kudloo  
Chairperson

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