



19 February 2019

Shelagh Montgomery
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
4922 48th Ave., 7th Floor, YK Centre Mall
PO Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P6

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Barry,

Re. Type A Land Use Permits for Nahanni Construction Ltd.'s Lupin Winter Access (MVLWB File # 2018MVF0024, NIRB File #19RN005)

Further to the end of the public comment periods for Nahanni Construction Ltd.'s (Nahanni) applications submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) in December 2018 and the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) in January 2019, I wish to apprise you and your organization of the critical nature of the project timelines we are now facing, and urge you to engage with your organization to support expedient issuance of authorizations.

The Lupin Winter Access Project (the Project) is a transboundary project, occurring from the Ekati Mine turnoff on Lac de Gras to the Lupin Mine in Nunavut. The Project involves construction, operation and closure of a seasonal winter road within the existing Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road (TCWR) corridor, for the purposes of supporting progressive reclamation and closure activities at the Lupin Mine. The road is planned for construction and use in 2019 to mobilize equipment and supplies to the Lupin Mine, and in a subsequent year, to demobilize equipment and supplies. The winter road has been built in the past, and use of an existing corridor is proposed. Extensive public engagement has been undertaken in both territories, and robust mitigation measures, including caribou-specific measures, have been developed and reviewed.

It is understood that both the NIRB and the MVLWB have process timelines enshrined in legislation, and the coordinated efforts expended by the NIRB and the MVLWB staff to date are respected and greatly appreciated. The Project is now, however, facing a critical schedule challenge; timely issuance of decisions from your Boards is required to allow issuance of land use permits for road construction and use this season. Failure to obtain land use permits and commence winter road construction imminently may defer reclamation and closure activities at the Lupin Mine by at least one (1) year, if not longer.

Accordingly, Nahanni respectfully requests that your organizations expend every effort to support timely issuance of Board decisions, to in turn support expedient licensing and the commencement of winter road building and the related mine closure activities.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration with your organizations and remain available to provide any support or input that may be required.

Regards,

Kenny Ruptash
Vice President
Nahanni Construction Ltd.

cc. T. Arko, Technical Director, Nunavut Impact Review Board
S. Autut, Executive Director, Nunavut Water Board
T. Mullaney, Regulatory Specialist, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
T. McCaie, Manager of Lands Administration, Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
G. Stephens, Lands Manager, Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
G. Clark, Director of Lands, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
R. Near, Director, Winter Road, Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road Joint Venture
K. Lewis, Lupin Mine Project Manager, Mandalay Resource