

NIRB File No.: 07EN047 AANDC File No.: N2011C0025 Previous AANDC File No.: N2007C0024

November 25, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Executive Offices 10 Wellington St. Gatineau, QC

Via email: Duncan.J@parl.gc.ca and minister@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Uranium North's "Mining Exploration and Campsite at Amer Lake" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. John Duncan:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5 (b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above (AANDC No. N20011C0025).

On October 19, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for Uranium North's "Mining Exploration and Campsite at Amer Lake" project proposal. On October 20, 2011 the NIRB received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for a new Land Use Permit (N2011C0025) to replace the previously issued Land Use Permit N2007C0024. The new Land Use Permit would allow Uranium North to continue its uranium exploration activities within the Amer Lake Project area.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 07EN047) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC, now AANDC) on May 31, 2007 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the NLCA. On August 22, 2007 the NIRB issued a NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Following an internal completeness check of the current application, the NIRB determined that further information would be required in order to permit proper screening and requested additional information from the Proponent on October 24, 2011 and October 28, 2011. The NIRB made an additional request for the required information on November 17, 2011. On November 24, 2011, all outstanding information was received and the NIRB is presently completing its assessment of Uranium North's project proposal.

The NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision within the 42 day time period as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed by November 30, 2011.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested Parties on the extension.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

**Executive Director** 

Ryan Barry

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Graham Gill, Uranium North

Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board