



NIRB File No.: 08EN034
INAC File No.: N2008C0015
NWB File No.: 2BE-YAV0810

July 7, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer
Manager, Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: jeff.mercer@inac-ainc.gc.ca and landsmining@inac.gc.ca

Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Savant Explorations Ltd.'s "Retort Lake – Yava Property Mining Exploration" project

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On July 4, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC, formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) for an extension to Land Use Permit N2008C0015 for Savant Exploration Ltd.'s (Savant) "Retort Lake – Yava Property Mining Exploration" project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08EN034) was received by the NIRB from INAC on March 28, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 28, 2008 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of AANDC indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On June 10, 2010 the NIRB received an extension request to Land Use Permit N2008C0015 from AANDC. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from further screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on June 14, 2010.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (08EN034) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08EN034-Savant%20Explorations%20Ltd/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Exploration activities conducted by Pacifica Resources Ltd. on the Yava property were previously screened by the NIRB in 2005 under NIRB File No. **05EN027**. The proposed project is located in the Kitikmeot Region, approximately 125 km SSW of the community of Kingoak (Bathurst Inlet). Savant proposed to conduct exploration activities from June 15 to September 5, 2008 and from June 1 to May 31, 2009.

The proposed project activities included:

- Establishing a 12 person, 9 wall tent temporary exploration camp;
- Temporary pier construction for docking of float plane;
- Diamond drilling program with 10+ targets (2000-2500 m total);
- Helicopter support for drill rig and personnel movements; and
- Fuel storage at camp site.

In 2010, Savant proposed a 12 month extension to Land Use Permit N2008C0015 to allow for additional time to seek adequate project financing and/or an appropriate joint venture partner as it had been unable to complete any of the proposed exploration activities. The remaining materials at site were associated with the original 2007 camp site and are limited to several plywood floor structures for frame mounted canvas tents, and no fuel drums or fuel caches are present.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Savant is again proposing to amend Land Use Permit N2008C0015 for an additional year to allow additional time to seek adequate project financing and/or an appropriate joint venture partner which would enable it to conduct the proposed exploration activities.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

- (a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or*
- (b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”*

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 28, 2008 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Autut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: John McClintock, Savant Explorations Ltd.
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Stanley Anablak, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08EN034 (May 28, 2008)