



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

May 7, 2012

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@aandc.gc.ca and landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for 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 May 2, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit N2008C0015 for Savant Explorations Ltd.'s "Retort Lake-Yava Property Mining Exploration" project.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08EN034) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC, now AANDC) 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 INAC 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 AANDC Land Use Permit No. N2008C0015 for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on June 14, 2010.

On July 4, 2011 the NIRB received an additional application for an extension request to AANDC Land Use Permit No. N2008C0015 for the above mentioned project. After a thorough

assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on July 7, 2011.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (NIRB File No. 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:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08EN034), the "Retort Lake-Yava Property Mining Exploration" and is located in the Kitikmeot Region, approximately 125 kilometres southwest 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 9 tent temporary exploration camp for 12 personnel;
- Temporary pier construction for docking of float plane;
- Diamond drilling program with 10+ targets (2000-2500 metres total);
- Helicopter support for drill rig and personnel movements; and
- Fuel storage at camp site.

In 2010, Savant requested a 1 year extension to AANDC Land Use Permit No. N2008C0015 to allow for additional time to seek adequate project financing and/or an appropriate joint venture partner to support the completion of originally proposed exploration activities.

In 2011, Savant requested an additional 1 year extension to AANDC Land Use Permit No. N2008C0015 to allow for additional time to seek the financing required to complete proposed exploration activities.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Savant is again proposing to extend AANDC Land Use Permit No. N2008C0015 in order to seek the project financing necessary to continue exploration as previously proposed.

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 the requirement for screening pursuant to 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 that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: John McClintock, Savant Explorations Ltd.
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB
Stanley Anablak, KIA
Tracey McCaie, AANDC

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