



NIRB File No. 09MN003

January 20, 2009

Diane Martens
AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
PO Box 9204, 817-45th Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 3X5

Via email: diane.martens@areva.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for AREVA Resources Canada's "Kiggavik" project proposal

Dear Diane Martens:

On November 25, 2008, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received the "Kiggavik" mine project proposal from AREVA Resources Canada Inc. (AREVA). On November 26, 2008, the NIRB informed AREVA that the project proposal appeared to be located in an area which required conformity to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). By January 16, 2009, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 09MN003.

The proposed "Kiggavik" project is located in the Kivalliq Region, approximately 80 kilometres (km) west of Baker Lake. The project is a proposed uranium ore mining and milling operation that includes two properties: Kiggavik and Sissons (collectively called the Kiggavik Project). The project involves the development of three open pit mines at Kiggavik and both an open pit mine and an underground mine at Sissons. The project is expected to commence in mid 2012 with the pre-operational construction phase requiring 3 years. The planned operational life of the project is approximately 17 years with a post-operational decommissioning period of approximately 5 years.

The following is a summary of the *main* project activities and components:

- Development of three open pit mines at Kiggavik; East Zone, Center Zone and Main Zone.
- Development of one open pit mine, Andrew Lake; and an underground mine, East Grid, at Sissons.
- Dewatering of a portion of Andrew Lake.
- Construction of waste rock stockpile and special waste management facilities.
- Use of clean waste rock for the construction of haul roads, pads, berms, etc.
- Construction of ore storage pads at Kiggavik and Sissons.
- Transportation of ore from Sissons to the Kiggavik ore storage pad for mill processing.
- Construction of a mill facility at Kiggavik.
- On-site processing of 675,000 tonnes of ore per year with an approximate mill production rate of 3,000 tonnes uranium (U) per year.
- Construction of Tailings Management Facilities based on the "in-pit" disposal concept. Center Zone and Main Zone mined out pits will serve as the repository for all tailings resulting from the uranium processing.
- Construction of a Backfill Plant at Sissons to backfill the End Grid mine.

- Construction of a 2,000 metre (m) airstrip, and airport facilities for the transportation of employees and material including drums of uranium (yellowcake).
- Construction of fuel storage facilities at Kiggavik and Baker Lake. Tank farm at Kiggavik includes 2 to 6 tanks, each of 10 megalitre (ML) capacity; tank farm at Baker Lake includes 4 to 7 tanks, each of 10 ML capacity. Number of tanks at each location dependent on road option selected.
- Explosives transportation, storage and on-site manufacture.
- Chemical and hazardous material transportation and storage.
- Construction of water storage, wastewater treatment and sewage treatment facilities.
- Water withdrawal from lakes to the north and east of Kiggavik site.
- Discharge of treated effluent into receiving environment.
- Construction of an access road from Baker Lake to Kiggavik. The road option is dependent on location of the Storage Facility in Baker Lake. The options include two all-weather roads (north route or south route) or a winter road.
- Potential construction of bridge crossing or cable-ferry/ice bridge crossing over the Thelon River in association with the all-weather road, north route.
- Borrow source development along the proposed access road.
- Construction of an approximate 20 km all season Kiggavik-Sissons site haul road.
- Construction of a permanent accommodation complex for capacity of approximately 300 people.
- Construction of additional site infrastructure to support the mine; including power supply and facilities, warehouse, maintenance shops, administration complexes and offices and dry facilities.
- Construction of facilities at Baker Lake including wharf, fuel storage tank farm, storage facility, laydown area, and satellite administration and community liaison office.
- Marine shipment of reagents, fuel and supplies to storage facility near Baker Lake and continued shipment via truck to the Kiggavik site.
- Shipment of yellowcake (~ 3,000 tonnes as U annually or 3,600 tonnes yellowcake) from the Kiggavik site via truck to Baker Lake port and/or via air from Kiggavik to southern Canada.
- Landfill construction and solid waste management.
- Incineration of domestic wastes.
- Industrial/non-combustible wastes deposited in landfills located in waste rock piles.
- Decommissioning and Reclamation activities.

In addition, AREVA has indicated in the project proposal that it anticipates that the results of the screening of the project will be a determination that the Kiggavik project has significant impact potential and therefore the NIRB will recommend to the Minister that a Review under Part 5 or 6 in accordance with Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) be conducted.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/09MN003-AREVA/1-SCREENING/> including:

- *NIRB Part 1 Form in English and Inuktitut*
- *NIRB Part 2 Project Specific Information Requirements (PSIR)*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Application for a Water Use Licence*
- *Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Application for a Land Use Permit*
- *Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) Application for Access to Inuit Owned Land*
- *Project Proposal with Maps*
- *Non-Technical Project Description in English and Inuktitut*

- *Notification Letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) related to a Licence to Prepare and Construct*
- *Notification form to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) stating conformity with applicable Operational Statements*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the NLCA, the NIRB shall proceed to screen the project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

The NIRB is copying interested Parties and municipalities most affected by AREVA's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 10, 2009**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments to the attention of the NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration, Leslie Payette via email at lpayette@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Sophia Granchinho at 867-983-4607 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: AREVA Distribution List

Attachments:
Comment Form