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Ministère de l'Exécutif et des Affaires Intergouvernementales **Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs**

February 17, 2009

Leslie Payette Manager, Environmental Administration Nunavut Impact Review Board

via Email to: lpayette@nirb.ca

RE: NIRB FILE # 09MN003 – AREVA Resources – NIRB Screening on Kiggavik Project Proposal

Dear Ms. Payette:

On January 20th, 2009, the Government of Nunavut (GN) received correspondence from the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) requesting comments on the Kiggavik project proposal pursuant to Section 12.4.4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

Due to the scale and character of the proposed project the Government of Nunavut recommends that the project proceed to a full environmental assessment review as set out under part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

As the project proposal involves the mining of uranium NIRB is reminded of the Uranium Management Plan Principles approved by the Government of Nunavut on June 4, 2007.

The six principles are:

- 1. The Government of Nunavut regards mining, including uranium mining, as an important source of jobs for Nunavummiut and for revenues to meet the needs of our growing population.
- 2. The Government of Nunavut recognizes that uranium development places special responsibilities on government because of the nature of uranium and its by-products, the history of its use for both peaceful and non-peaceful purposes, and its potential risks to human health and the environment.
- 3. Uranium development must have the support of Nunavummiut, especially in communities close to development.
- 4. The Government of Nunavut will support uranium development in Nunavut provided that the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. Health and safety standards are issued for workers.
 - b. Environmental standards are assured.
 - c. Nunavummiut must be the major beneficiaries of uranium development.
- 5. The Government of Nunavut believes that nuclear power will be an important part of meeting global energy needs while limiting greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Government of Nunavut believes that Canadian Law and international agreements provide assurance that uranium mined in Nunavut will be used for peaceful purposes.

Following the INAC Minister's decision to send this project to a Part 5 review the Government of Nunavut would be pleased to have an opportunity to provide input on the development of guidelines for the Environmental Impact Statement.

We thank NIRB for the opportunity to review and provide comments on this project proposal, and we look forward to receiving further information on this project from NIRB. Please contact us if you have any



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questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact myself or Laurie-Anne White, our General Monitoring Coordinator at 867 975 6026.

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Paul Suvega Assistant Deputy Minister Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

CC:

Sharon Ehaloak, Executive Director, Nunavut Planning Commission Dionne Filiatrault, A/Executive Director, Nunavut Water Board