

NIRB File No.: 09MN003

CNSC File No.: 2.04, e-DOC: 3333038

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DFO File No.: 08-HCAA-CA7-00052

February 24, 2009

Honourable Chuck Strahl Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Gatineau, QC

Via email: <a href="mailto:strahl.c@parl.gc.ca">strahl.c@parl.gc.ca</a>

## Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of AREVA's "Kiggavik" project proposal

Dear Honourable Chuck Strahl:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5 (b) of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen AREVA Resources Canada Inc's (AREVA) *Kiggavik* mine development project proposal.

On November 25, 2008 the NIRB received the *Kiggavik* mine development project proposal from 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** and commenced the Part 4 Screening, including the public commenting period.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the NIRB received a request from the Government of Nunavut for an extension to the public commenting period. The NIRB issued a notification to the AREVA distribution list advising parties that the commenting deadline would be extended to February 18, 2009 from the original due date of February 10, 2009. The NIRB continued to receive comments from parties until February 19, 2009.

Consequently, the NIRB will not be able to provide a screening decision within the original 45 day time period as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and requires additional time to screen the project proposal. The NIRB anticipates that the screening process can be completed on or before March 13, 2009.

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

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Autut, Executive Director

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Diane Martens, AREVA

Brian Aglukark, NPC

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