



NIRB File No. 09MN003

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

EC File No.: 4703 001 006

INAC File No.: 5510-5-25

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

October 23, 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: AREVA Resources Canada Inc's amendment request to authorize on-ice geotechnical drilling

Dear Diane Martens:

On October 13, 2009 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received AREVA Resources Canada Inc.'s (AREVA) amendment request to its Nunavut Water Board Licence (2BE-KIG0812) and to its Kivalliq Inuit Association Licence (KVL306C02). In the application, AREVA is requesting to amend the above licences to allow for the drilling of 10 – 12 geotechnical holes at the proposed Thelon River crossing as identified in the Kiggavik project proposal. Eight of the geotechnical holes are proposed to be drilled on-ice and are meant to gain a better understanding of the existing rock structure and therefore the bridge requirements for the proposed Kiggavik project.

Please be advised that this proposed activity was not included within the scope of NIRB's screening for AREVA's exploration program (NIRB File No. 06AN085). However, this activity is considered to be a component of AREVA's "Kiggavik" uranium mine project proposal. Specifically, in its March 13, 2009 Screening Decision Report for this project proposal¹, the NIRB identified "*works in and around water such as the construction of bridge crossings or cable-ferry/ice bridge crossing over the Thelon River*" as an issue of concern that requires further attention, which would be best done through a full public review. As you may be aware, the NIRB is currently awaiting the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC)

¹NIRB Screening Decision Report dated March 13, 2009 from Lucassie Arragutainaq, NIRB to Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of INAC, Re: *Screening Decision for AREVA Resources Canada's "Kiggavik" Project Proposal*. Available at: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/2009%20DECISIONS/12.4.4%20SCREENINGS/09MN003-AREVA/>

decision regarding the Board's recommendation that this project proposal undergo a review under Part 5 or Part 6 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

At present, the Board is not able to provide a decision under Section 12.10.1 or Section 12.10.2 of the NLCA for this proposed activity without having a referral from the Minister of INAC for this file.

For further information, feel free to contact NIRB's Technical Advisor, Sophia Granchinho at (867) 983-4607 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Autut', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Stephanie Autut
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Honourable Minister Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Director of Lands, Kivalliq Inuit Association
AREVA Distribution List