



NIRB File No.: 09MN003

August 12, 2010

Margaux Brisco
Environmental Scientist
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, Nunavut

Sent via email: Margaux.Brisco@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Re: Participant funding and the next steps in the NIRB's review of AREVA Resources Canada Inc's "Kiggavik" project

Dear Margaux Brisco:

On August 10, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the enclosed correspondence from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) regarding participant funding allocations for the NIRB's review of AREVA Resources Canada Inc's (AREVA or Proponent) "Kiggavik" project. In its correspondence to the Board, INAC indicated that funding allocations will be awarded to seven applicants based on the recommendations of the Participant Funding Review Committee. The NIRB would like to take this opportunity to provide parties with an update on the Kiggavik review and the next steps in the environmental assessment process.

The NIRB understands that funding is contingent on each party being able to enter into and meet the requirements of a contribution agreement with INAC, and that participants which have been allocated funding are currently working with INAC to finalize these agreements as soon as possible. In order to ensure meaningful participation of these parties, the Board will await formal indication from INAC that contribution agreements have been finalized and funding is accessible to qualified participants before proceeding to distribute and request comment on the *Revised Draft* Scope of the project proposal and the *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines for the review of this project.

Given that comments are being requested on the two documents simultaneously, the Board has decided to extend its public commenting timeline accordingly, from 30 days to 60 days. Once public comments have been received by the NIRB on the *Revised Draft* Scope and the *Draft* EIS Guidelines, the scope will be finalized and the Guidelines revised into a second draft. A second opportunity for the provision of public comments on the *Draft* EIS Guidelines will be provided, followed by a Guidelines Development Workshop in Baker Lake. The NIRB will integrate those recommendations it considers appropriate, finalize the Guidelines, and issue them to the Proponent for the preparation of a *Draft* EIS submission. Understanding

the need for parties to forecast their expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year, the NIRB does not anticipate receiving a *Draft* EIS submission from the Proponent this fiscal year (i.e. a submission would be anticipated following March 31, 2011). For further details on the anticipated timelines for the review of the Kiggavik project please see the attached Appendix A.

The Board appreciates INAC's efforts to ensure parties have access to allocated funding as soon as possible, which in turn will greatly assist the NIRB's goal of facilitating effective public participation in a timely and efficient review process. If you have any questions or comments regarding the NIRB's review of the project, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Technical Advisor, at sgranchinho@nirb.ca or by phone at (867) 983-4607.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Kiggavik Distribution List
Patrick Borbey, Assistant Deputy Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Frederic Guerin, AREVA Resources Canada
Diane Martens, AREVA Resources Canada

Attached: Appendix A: Anticipated Timeline for the NIRB's Review of the Kiggavik Project

Enclosed: INAC Letter to the NIRB Re Participant Funding Allocations (August 10, 2010)

APPENDIX A

Anticipated Timeline for the NIRB's Review of the Kiggavik Project

Note: Timelines may change based on project-specific circumstances and subject to the NIRB's discretion.

Phase 1: Scoping and Guideline Development

August 10, 2010	Receipt of Minister's decision regarding Participant Funding allocations
Day 1	Receipt of notice from INAC regarding finalization of contribution agreements; <i>Revised Draft Scope</i> and <i>Draft EIS Guidelines</i> released for public comment with updated review timeline.
Day 60	Comments received from parties on <i>Revised Draft Scope</i> and <i>Draft EIS Guidelines</i>
Day 75	Final Scope released by the NIRB; <i>Revised EIS Guidelines</i> released for comment
Day 90	Comments received from parties on <i>Revised EIS Guidelines</i>
Day 100	EIS Guidelines development workshop held in Baker Lake
Day 120	EIS Guidelines issued to Proponent

The Proponent will develop a *Draft EIS* submission with the issued EIS Guidelines based on its own timetable, making this section of the review completely Proponent-driven. The NIRB does not anticipate receiving a *Draft EIS* submission from the Proponent this fiscal year (i.e. a submission would be anticipated following March 31, 2011).

Phase 2: Draft EIS, Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference

Day 1	<i>Draft EIS</i> submission received by the NIRB; NIRB conformity review of submission with EIS Guidelines
Day 15	Conformity decision issued by the NIRB <i>Draft EIS</i> accepted by the NIRB Parties given 30 days to submit Information Requests (IRs)
Day 30	Schedule for community information sessions announced
Day 45	Deadline for parties to submit IRs to the NIRB
Day 48	The NIRB forwards approved IRs to Proponent

The time required for submission of an adequate IR response is primarily Proponent-driven. Under some circumstances, the NIRB may exercise its discretion and establish an acceptable timeline for the Proponent's response.

Day 49	Proponent submits IR response package Technical review of <i>Draft</i> EIS Tentative dates for Technical Meeting and Preliminary Hearing Conference (PHC) announced
Day 109	The NIRB receives technical review reports from parties
Day 119	Proponent submits response to technical review reports
Day 124	Technical meeting is held
Day 129	PHC is held
Day 159	Board issues PHC decision on administrative issues and direction for submission of <i>Final</i> EIS

The Proponent will develop a *Final* EIS with the issued PHC compliance report based on its own timetable, making this section of the review Proponent-driven. The NIRB's PHC compliance review may result in a negative decision, where extensive revisions to the submission and a second compliance review are required.

Phase 3: Final EIS and Final Hearing

Day 1	Final EIS submission received PHC compliance review begins Tentative date(s) and location(s) for Final Hearing announced
Day 15	The NIRB issues PHC compliance determination Parties receive <i>Final</i> EIS and technical review begins
Day 75	The NIRB receives final written submissions from parties
Day 90	Final Hearing is held
Day 125	The NIRB's Final Hearing Report submitted to the Minister