



May 8, 2012

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Mr. Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nu X0B 0C0

Dear Mr. Barry,

I am writing you regarding the environmental assessment timelines for AREVA's proposed Kiggavik project. We received the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) from the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) late on Friday afternoon, May 4, 2012 and have begun our 30-day information request stage of the review. However, we have determined that an additional 18 days is needed to complete our review. This would take our review to June 21, 2012.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), as the federal regulator for nuclear facilities and expert authority on nuclear safety, is responsible for reviewing all aspects of the project. It is therefore, important that the CNSC has sufficient time to ensure that our review is done in a consistent and complete manner, especially for key subject areas such as:

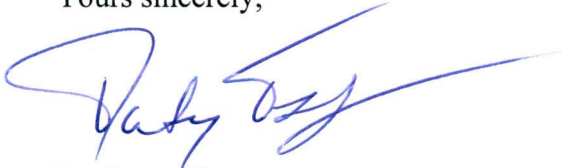
- permafrost and ground stability
- tailings management
- ground and surface water quality
- impacts to both the freshwater and marine aquatic environments
- risk management and emergency response
- mine closure and reclamation
- waste rock management
- environmental monitoring and protection planning
- transportation of contaminants

The CNSC also believes it is important, especially given the size of the project, that we ensure that the completeness review is done in coordination across federal departments in an exemplary way. There are several project elements that cut across departmental mandates and may require consultation prior to completing our review.

For these reasons, the CNSC requests an extension of the 30-day completeness review period. We have spoken with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Health Canada and Transport Canada and all are in agreement with the request for an extension to ensure better coordination and a more thorough review.

The CNSC looks forward to your response to our request.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Patsy Thompson
Director General
Director of Environmental and Radiation Protection and Assessment,
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c.: Margaux Brisco, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
 Rosanne D'Orazio, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
 Sophia Grandchino, Nunavut Impact Review Board
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