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Havakvik Atanita

Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Ministère de l'Exécutif et des Affaires intergouvernementales

August 31, 2012

Ms. Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay NU X0B 0C0

via Email to: info@nirb.ca

Re: NIRB File No: 09MN003 – Response to Information Requests received from Parties regarding Areva Resources Canada Inc's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kiggavik Project.

Dear Ms Hanson,

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut (GN), I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to respond to Information Requests regarding the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) submitted by AREVA Resources Canada Inc. "Kiggavik Project".

We are pleased to provide you our comments regarding Makita information requests #20, #22, #23. Please see the attached appendix. The GN still plans to provide responses to the remaining requests from Makita, Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association by September 7th, 2012.

The GN looks forward to our continued participation in the review process for the Kiggavik project proposal.

Should you have any questions or concerns related to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 975-6071 or by email at JPrice@gov.nu.ca.

Thank you,

John Price
Avatiliriniq (Environment) Coordinator
Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Government of Nunavut

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Appendix

General Comments

The Government of Nunavut (GN) considers the Information Requests issued by Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit (Makita) regarding the GN Uranium Policy (IR #20, #22, #23) to be outside the scope of an environmental impact assessment for the Kiggavik project. Since the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) forwarded these Information Requests to the GN, we have addressed them below. However, we encourage governments, agencies or other groups to communicate directly with the GN any questions they may have on our policies, programs and strategies. All policies and strategies (and supporting reports or documentation) can be found on the Government of Nunavut website (www.gov.nu.ca).

The GN considers the Information Requests issued to the GN by Makita (pg. 16 of Makita's submission), Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB IR #25), Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA IR #7, #8) regarding wildlife management and monitoring to be relevant to the impact assessment process, since these directly address project outcomes. We welcome the opportunity to share this information to the best of our ability through the environmental review administered by NIRB.

Response to Makita IR #20

The GN encourages Makita and other stakeholders to refer to the jurisdiction of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, all relevant federal Acts and Regulations, and Federal treaties regarding the use of uranium.

Response to Makita IR #22

Nunavut's mining sector represents a quarter of the Territory's economy. In both 2010 and 2011, Nunavut's economic growth was the highest in Canada, and Nunavut ranks fourth in Canada in terms of mineral exploration investment. This illustrates the importance of mining in Nunavut to the national economy. Mining in Nunavut is also important to Nunavut itself; if even a small number of exploration projects go on to be developed as mines, they will represent a tremendous opportunity for employment and economic development for the territory.

As such, the GN recognizes that resource development will benefit Nunavut and will have an economic effect on the rest of Canada. During construction of any major development project, financial benefits may flow to Canadian companies due to required manufactured goods or specific technical skills unavailable in Nunavut. However, long term jobs during the operations phase provide the greater benefit to Nunavummiut seeking employment with major projects. Furthermore, it is our expectation that, with continued economic growth, such goods may become available in Nunavut and skills can be increasingly sourced within our territory.

Benefits that the GN expects will flow to Nunavummiut include opportunities for jobs, training, and business contracts, and the long term investment in all these areas that will contribute to the pursuit of higher levels of education and to individual career development. With proper planning and investment, Nunavummiut will have access to opportunities for a wide range of benefits and will gain the ability to take advantage of those opportunities. As our economy grows, economic

benefits will also grow beyond those directly associated with mining.

The GN encourages Makita and other stakeholders to review *Parnautit*, the Government of Nunavut's Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy; and the Government of Nunavut Uranium Policy Statement. Both of these documents can be found on the ED&T website at <http://www.edt.gov.nu.ca>. These documents guide the GN in all its decisions relating to mineral development in Nunavut to maximize the economic benefits that will accrue to Nunavummiut.

Response to Makita IR #23

The GN encourages Makita and other stakeholders to review the Summary Report from the Public Forums held in spring of 2011, titled 'What was said about Uranium in Nunavut'. This report can be found at: <http://www.uranium.gov.nu.ca>