



NIRB File No.: 09MN003

KIA File No.: KVPL08D02

AANDC File No.: 5510-5-25-3

DFO File No.: 08-HCAA-CA7-00002

NRCan File No: NT-070

EC File No.: 4703 001 006

February 6, 2013

Kiggavik Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Commencement of Technical Review Period for the NIRB's Review of AREVA Resources Canada Inc.'s Kiggavik project

Dear Parties:

On May 4, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) initiated the public technical review period for the *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) submitted by AREVA Resources Canada Inc. (AREVA or Proponent) for the Kiggavik project (NIRB File No. 09MN003). The NIRB invited interested parties to submit Information Requests (IR) to the Board for consideration by June 4, 2012 in order to facilitate the technical review of the DEIS. The deadline for IRs was extended to June 29, 2012 at the request of parties and on July 13, 2012 the NIRB forwarded the IRs to the Proponent and other parties as appropriate. The NIRB requested that the Proponent and parties review the submissions and supply the Board with an indication of an anticipated date for submission of an IR Response Package by July 31, 2012, later extended to August 31, 2012. The NIRB confirmed receipt of the IR response packages from parties and AREVA on January 31, 2013.

The NIRB has conducted a preliminary completeness check to ensure that adequate information has been provided by all parties in order to commence the 60 day technical review period. Although unable to fully assess the technical quality of the responses and to determine whether they will meet with reviewers' requirements, the NIRB is of the opinion that adequate information has been provided to commence the technical review of the Kiggavik project proposal and to facilitate the next steps in the process including the preparation of technical review comments and the scheduling of a Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference.

The complete DEIS, IRs and response packages as received by the Board can be accessed online at the NIRB's public registry using the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/09MN003-AREVA%20KIGGAVIK/2-REVIEW/>.

Next Steps

The next steps in the NIRB's Review of the Kiggavik proposal are as follows:

- February 6, 2013:** Commencement of the 60 day public comment period. Parties are asked to provide their technical review comments on a number of specific points, outlined below.
- February 27, 2013:** NIRB to confirm dates for Technical Meeting and the PHC.
- April 8, 2013:** Submission of technical review comments to the NIRB by **12:00 pm MST**.
- May 8, 2013:** AREVA to provide response to technical review comments.
- May 13, 2013:** Circulation of *draft* agenda for the NIRB technical meeting.
- May 28-31, 2013:** Technical Meeting in Rankin Inlet (*tentative*). The objective of the Technical Meeting would be to clarify and resolve technical issues in the DEIS.
- June 4-6, 2013:** Community roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) in Baker Lake (*tentative*).
- July 4, 2013:** NIRB to issue its PHC Report for the Kiggavik Project.

Please refer to the enclosed process map and anticipated timeline for the NIRB's Review of the Kiggavik project for parties' information and the ongoing planning and updating of contribution agreements as may be necessary.

Call for Technical Review Comments

The technical review will serve as a detailed review of the DEIS with the intent of analyzing the completeness and quality of the information presented by the Proponent in its DEIS. The NIRB is requesting that responsible authorities, interested parties and those with specialist advice provide their technical review comments to the NIRB by the conclusion of the public comment period, at **12:00 pm MST, April 8, 2013**. Technical review comments should include the following:

- Determination of whether Parties agree/disagree with the conclusions in the DEIS regarding the alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, significance of impacts, and monitoring measures – and reasons to support the determination;
- Determination of whether or not conclusions in the DEIS are supported by the analysis – and reasons to support the determination;

- Determination of whether appropriate methodology was utilized in the DEIS to develop conclusions – and reasons to support the determination, along with any proposed alternative methodologies which may be more appropriate (if applicable);
- Assessment of the quality and presentation of the information in the DEIS; and,
- Any comments regarding additional information which would be useful in assessing impacts – and reasons to support any comments made.

Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference

The NIRB will hold a technical meeting involving discussions on technical matters related to the DEIS. The technical meeting is kept as informal as possible in an effort to resolve technical issues prior to the PHC. As such, the Board is not present and the meeting is facilitated by the NIRB staff, with participation by the Proponent, responsible authorities and interested parties. Break-out sessions are often used and each break out group (e.g., may be related to engineering, wildlife or socioeconomic issues) is facilitated by the NIRB staff. During the technical meeting, the NIRB staff will compile a list of commitments made by the Proponent. The list of commitments is then carried forward to the PHC and the possible incorporation into the Board's PHC Report.

Following the technical meeting, the NIRB will hold a PHC in order to discuss such matters as: timelines for submissions and the Final Hearing, future meetings, evidence, document exchange, Final Hearing venue(s), Final Hearing format and any other matters related to the logistics of the Final Hearing. The PHC provides an opportunity for parties to present to the Board on the issues that were resolved during the technical meeting, and those issues which remain outstanding. It is also an opportunity for the Board to hear from the public regarding the information contained in the DEIS. While the technical meeting is a structured but largely informal opportunity for technical experts to resolve outstanding issues, participation in the PHC is somewhat more restricted and formalized.

The Board will facilitate a Community Roundtable session in Baker Lake in conjunction with the PHC and with representation from communities identified as potentially impacted by the proposed project in order to provide an opportunity for meaningful participation in the Board's Review. Following the PHC, the Board will issue a PHC decision which will provide direction to the Proponent for its preparation of a Final EIS and which outlines the procedures for the review of the Final EIS and the Final Hearing.

Deadline for submission of technical review comments

Once again, the Board requests that all interested parties submit Technical Review Comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or by fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **12:00 pm MST, April 8, 2013**.

If you have any questions or require further clarification related to the NIRB's Review process, please do not hesitate to contact Sophia Granchinho, Senior Technical Advisor, at (867) 793-4633 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Hanson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Tammy Van Lambalgen, AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
Diane Martens, AREVA Resources Canada Inc.

Enclosure: NIRB's Review Process Map and Anticipated Timeline for the NIRB's Review of the Kiggavik Project (*February 6, 2013*)