



NIRB File No.: 09MN003

February 28, 2013

Ross Thompson
Executive Director
Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
P.O. Box 629
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

Sent via email: rossthompson@mymts.net

Re: NIRB Scheduling of Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for AREVA Resources Canada Inc.'s Kiggavik project proposal

Dear Ross Thompson:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is in receipt of Mr. Earl Evans' letter dated February 25, 2013 in which he provided suggestions and input relating to the next steps in the NIRB's Review of AREVA Resources Canada's (AREVA) Kiggavik project proposal as outlined in the NIRB's February 6, 2013 correspondence to the Kiggavik distribution list. In his letter, Mr. Evans recommended that the NIRB delay its Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC), and Community Roundtable to be held as part of the Board's Review of the Kiggavik Project, and provided suggestions regarding the agenda for the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and PHC.

As was communicated in a December 7, 2012 letter to members of the Nunavummiut Makitaganarngit, the NIRB considers requests for flexibility in its timelines and processes on a case by case basis. However, the NIRB's established general processes and timelines, which allow for appropriate levels of public engagement and issue resolution, are also the product of extensive public consultation and efforts to ensure that assessment of major development projects in Nunavut undergo similar assessment as compared with other northern jurisdictions. As a result, the NIRB is mindful of the potential effects on the efficiency, predictability and timeliness of its processes when considering requests for project-specific alterations.

The NIRB understands the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)'s concern regarding the timing of the Community Roundtable and PHC, which are now scheduled for June 4th to June 6th, 2013 in Baker Lake. As you may appreciate, automatically excluding an entire season or an undefined period when on-the-land activities may take place, from any steps

involving community participation in the NIRB's processes would impose an unreasonable limitation on the Board's ability to fulfill its mandate.

Given the importance of encouraging public participation, it is the NIRB's practice to engage affected communities prior to scheduling any community meetings in order to recognize and avoid community-specific scheduling conflicts to the extent possible. Prior to finalizing the schedule for the upcoming Technical Meeting and PHC for the Kiggavik Project, the NIRB confirmed that scheduling did not conflict with specific community festivals or events in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake. The NIRB will continue to ensure that appropriate notice is provided to encourage community participation, and that opportunities are given to community members who may be on the land on June 4th, 5th or 6th, or who are otherwise unable to attend the Community Roundtable or PHC, to have their questions and comments put before the Board throughout the NIRB's process.

As noted in correspondence from the NIRB to AREVA on September 20, 2012, the NIRB believes strongly that impact assessment processes must be both timely and predictable to be effective and that major changes to Review timelines have significant implications for all the participants in the process, not only the Proponent or the affected communities. In addition, the Board's ability to budget, plan for and coordinate the various stages in both this Review and the Board's other reviews, screenings and monitoring files are adversely affected by indeterminate timelines.

With respect to your suggestion regarding the agenda for the upcoming Technical Meeting and PHC, the NIRB appreciates this note and will take your comments under consideration. The agenda that will be compiled will be based upon the technical review comments received, and a draft agenda will be circulated to all parties approximately 2 weeks prior to the Technical Meeting. Minor adjustments may be made to the draft agenda based upon any further input received at that time.

If you have any questions or require further clarification please feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4615 or ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Diane Martens, AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
Kiggavik Distribution List