



August 11, 2003

Stephanie Briscoe, Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
E-mail: sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca

RE: Project Description and various regulatory applications
NIRB File #: 03MN107
Project Title: Meadowbank Project
Proponent: Cumberland Resources Ltd.

Dear Ms. Briscoe:

In response to your July 29, 2003 letter requesting comment on the screening of the Meadowbank Project, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. provides the following.

After reviewing the Meadowbank Project Description, dated March 2003, along with the related applications and communications associate with this project, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. recommends that the NIRB screening decision, according to 12.4.4 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, should be:

- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;*

Further to this NTI supports a Part 5 review, to be recommended to the Minister of INAC.

Though in several parts of the project description, multiple options are present for certain aspect of the project processes and methodologies, we believe that this does not constitute a proposal that is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening. We look forward to detailed discussion on these and other options in the Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Assessment that will follow.

The project has the potential to create significant positive impact on the economic growth of the Kivalliq region of Nunavut; however, the project also has the potential to affect various environmental and social-economic factors.

As such, the project must meet the environmental and socio-economic goals and requirements of the Inuit of that region and all of Nunavut.

It is important to have effective engagement in the process, assuring that Inuit have a say in the review of the project. This can best be done through; a Part 5 review by the NIRB; and the review process of the Nunavut Water Board.

NTI looks forward to the NIRB guidelines to the proponent, and to the review of the proponents Environmental Impact Assessment for the project, under a Part 5 review.

NTI promoted the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nunavut regulatory regime and will continue to be engaged in the process.

Sincerely

Stefan Lopatka
Senior Advisor; Environmental, Water and Marine Management
Lands & Resources Department
NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.