

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

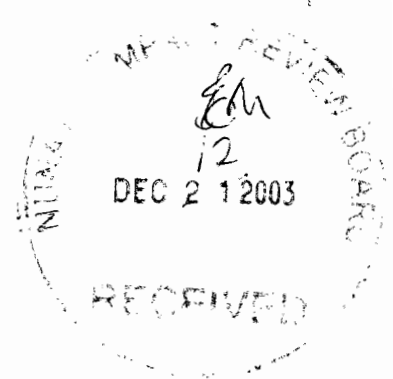


Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

DEC 5 2003

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chair
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 2379
CAMBRIDGE BAY NT X0B 0C0



Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your Screening Decision Report of September 23, 2003, indicating that the Meadowbank Gold Project (proposal) requires review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

I have reviewed the Screening Decision Report and concur with the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) decision that the proposal requires a public review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the NLCA. Pursuant to Section 12.4.7 (b), I am referring the proposal to the NIRB for a review under Part 5 of Article 12 of the NLCA. The other federal departments with jurisdictional responsibility in relation to the proposal, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Natural Resources Canada, concur that a Part 5 review is appropriate.

I appreciate the work that the NIRB has done in screening the proposal and look forward to receiving your final report upon completion of the review.

Yours sincerely,

Robert D. Nault, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, PC, MP
The Honourable Robert G. Thibault, PC, MP

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