



April 7, 2005

File No. **03MN107**

Mr. Glen Stephens  
Manager, Environment  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Via email: stephensg@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Re: **Meadowbank Gold Project**

Dear Mr. Stephens:

Thank you for your letter of March 23, 2005 which has been posted on NIRB's ftp site at [http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/Reviews/03MN107-%20Meadowbank%20Gold%20Mine/Project%20Documents/02%20-%20onwards%20\(Public%20Registry%20Documents\)/](http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/Reviews/03MN107-%20Meadowbank%20Gold%20Mine/Project%20Documents/02%20-%20onwards%20(Public%20Registry%20Documents)/).

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board), basically agrees with your interpretation of the environmental assessment process related to the Meadowbank Gold Project with the exception of initiation of the Technical Review before the submission of a Final EIS. NIRB believes that all Parties benefit from beginning the Technical Review of the Draft EIS at the earliest stage of the review process if for no other reason to better prepare for the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conferences.

With respect to the Meadowbank environmental assessment process in light of the Nunavut Planning Commission's (NPCs) requirement to evaluate the new information, NIRB believes the review process should continue by all Parties, acknowledging however that the NPC is deciding whether the changes to the Project Proposal change the NPCs Conformity Determination. Accordingly, NIRB encourages DIAND and all other Parties to continue with the Technical Review.

With respect to the referral of an "information feed-back loop", NIRB always encourages communication between Parties during the review process, noting that any discussions or resolutions between Parties and Cumberland Resources Ltd. should be without prejudice to the Board's final decision on those issues.

With respect to timelines and translations, NIRB will provide direction once it has reviewed and commented on Cumberland's submission to NIRB's Conformity Review Decision.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 867-983-4605 or by email at ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca.

Sincerely,  
(Original Signed by)  
Karlette Tunaley, Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc      Distribution List