



File No. **03MN107**

April 25, 2005

Brad Thiele  
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Via email: bthiele@cumberlandresources.com

Re: **Meadowbank Gold Project – Proposed Field Investigations along Access Road**

Dear Mr. Theil:

On March 23, 2005, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Cumberland Resources Ltd.'s (Cumberland) Land Use application from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) proposing field investigation work for the Baker Lake to Tehek Lake all season access route. NIRB also received Cumberland's Land Use Permit Application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for the same proposed project on April 20, 2005.

Since the proposed field investigation work is a component of the Meadowbank Gold Project, currently under a Part 5 Review, and therefore subject to 12.10.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), NIRB asked Parties to comment on a potential exemption under 12.10.2 (b) of the NLCA.

NIRB has now received comments from the Parties including INAC, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, and Transport Canada. All Parties supported NIRB's proposed exemption. Therefore NIRB will invoke section 12.10.2 (b) such that the work related to the above mentioned field investigations can proceed.

NIRB makes this decision ie, that the field investigation work related to the Baker Lake to Tehek Lake all season access route can proceed without a review, but makes this decision on the understanding that the following conditions or restrictions will be met:

1. NIRB's terms and conditions attached to any active approvals related to Cumberland's Meadowbank Project.
2. The Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment Standard Recommendations for Land Use Applications attached with this letter.

Furthermore, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) stated in its April 13, 2005 letter to NIRB and copied to Cumberland that no conformity review for the all weather road is required *yet*, because the applications filed to date concern exploratory investigations only, which are not relevant to plan requirements.

Sincerely,

*(Original Signed by:)*

Karlette Tunaley, Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachment

cc      Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
         Distribution List