



File No: **03MN107**

April 26, 2005

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

**Via Email:** [stephensg@inac-ainc.ca](mailto:stephensg@inac-ainc.ca)

Dear Glen:

**Re: Meadowbank Pre-Hearing Conference**

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding the purpose of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Pre-Hearing Conferences (PHC). I am happy to explain the purpose for which NIRB conducts such preliminary hearings.

As a general rule, NIRB conducts PHCs in an attempt to: (1) identify and limit the issues of divergence among the parties to the hearing; and (2) to promote the efficient use of time at the final hearing.

Additionally, NIRB expects that areas of disagreement between Parties regarding the technical evidence are matters that should be presented to the Board at the PHC. Ultimately, these matters including gaps in technical evidence are for the Board to decide, which it will do by order, following the PHC. An additional advantage of the PHC is that the Board can hear from the public regarding logistics, timing, and other concerns.

There are specific objectives of the Meadowbank PHC including but not limited to the following:

1. Discuss and simplify any issues of law or fact;
2. Discuss and/or identify the need for experts and other witnesses;
3. Discuss disagreements regarding technical evidence;
4. Identify the technical reports and other documents which are needed for the final hearing, and the consideration of any objections to admission;
5. Address the schedule to be followed by the Parties for completion of reports and/or other documents that are needed *prior to* the final hearing;
6. Set the schedule, dates, time, and place(s) of the final hearing;
7. Decide any other matters that may expedite and aid in the disposition of the final hearing;
8. Hear the Parties in any motions that may be needed before the final EIS (FEIS) is filed, or the final hearing commences;
9. If desirable, discuss the segregation of the hearing into different segments (e.g., technical hearing versus non-technical community meetings)



I hope this helps answer some of your questions. I am sending this reply to the entire distribution list including Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland) so they may also focus on the above nine (9) points in their preparation for the Meadowbank PHC. By the way, NIRB would like written summaries filed by all Parties regarding the above nine (9) points by **May 20, 2005**.

The following list summarizes NIRB's Meadowbank Technical Meeting and PHC submission requirements as requested in this letter and in NIRB's letter sent to Cumberland Resources Ltd. on April 8, 2005.

- An executive summary of technical comments;
- A detailed list of technical comments organized by heading indicating the DEIS document, Section No, Page No., Paragraph No., and the corresponding NIRB Guideline No., where appropriate; and
- A summary of comments regarding the above nine (9) points.

Submissions shall be sent preferably by email to NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration at [gjoudrey@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:gjoudrey@nirb.nunavut.ca) and to NIRB's Technical Advisor at [ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca) or by fax at 867-983-2594 by **May 20, 2005** for posting on NIRB's ftp site.

In addition, NIRB is asking Parties to arrange for translation of their summaries into Inuktitut for submission on **May 30, 2005**.

Please note that agendas confirming the particulars (ie. times, venues) of the Technical Meeting and PHC shall be distributed as soon as possible.

Please contact me at [ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca) or at 867-983-4605 if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

*(original signed by:)*

Karlette Tunaley  
Technical Advisor, NIRB

c.c. Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Meadowbank Distribution List