



April 8, 2005

File No. 03MN107

Mr. Craig Goodings
Environmental Manager
Cumberland Resources
#950 One Bentall Centre
Box 72, 505 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V7X 1M4

Via email: cgoodings@cumberlandresources.com

Re: Meadowbank Gold Project Conformity Submission, Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference

Dear Mr. Goodings:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) acknowledges receipt of Cumberland Resource Ltd.'s (Cumberland) Conformity Submission (Submission) on April 4, 2005 in response to the NIRB's Conformity Review Decision issued March 21, 2005. The Submission, a copy of which has been posted on the NIRB 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)/) includes:

1. Cumberland's responses to the red highlighted sections that indicated a "no" in NIRB's Conformity Review Decision Table;
2. A map of the Tehek Lake Access Road;
3. Typical Sections of the Tehek Lake Access Road;
4. Road Impact Matricies for the Permafrost, Air Quality, Noise, Surface Water Quality, Water Quality, Vegetation Cover, Ungulates, Predatory Mammals, Small Mammals, Raptors, Waterfowl, Other Breeding Birds, Fish, and Fish Habitat;
5. Public Involvement Plan; and
6. Human Resources Plan.

In response to Cumberland's Submission, requesting that NIRB rule whether the DEIS conforms to the Guidelines or not, NIRB has conducted an internal Conformity Review of the material and decided that the Draft EIS supplemented by this Submission *does* conform to the Guidelines *subject to the following conditions being addressed before April 30, 2005:*

1. Cumberland responds to the yellow highlighted sections in NIRBs Conformity Review Decision Table.
2. Cumberland clarifies the status and development of a "monitoring and follow up plan to integrate the monitoring results into a coherent program of action and to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures during operation and final closure." as requested in NIRB's Meadowbank Gold Project Guidelines, February 2004, (Guidelines), Guideline 4.26.
3. Cumberland indicates whether further Feasibility Studies could affect the Project Design, and if so, that Cumberland notifies the NIRB as soon as possible.

4. Cumberland commits to a timeline for satisfying the requirements in Guideline 4.10.1.10 for Borrow Pits such as providing a map of selected pits and/or quarries, quantities to be extracted from each pit/quarry, access to sites, and management plans, once field investigations are completed.
5. Cumberland indicates what permits and/or licenses will be required to implement its program to monitor contaminants and Cumberland commits to a timeline for submitting the follow up studies to predict contaminant loading.
6. Cumberland provides a Communications Strategy as requested in Guideline 4.24.1 involving the communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet as well as Baker Lake.
7. Cumberland specifically indicates its involvement with the Hamlets in negotiations outside of the IIBAs.

Failure to provide this information by the April 30, 2005 deadline may result in a delay to the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC).

Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC)

As mentioned in NIRB’s letter to the Distribution List dated March 24, 2005, the original dates of the Technical Meeting (May 5,6, 2005) and PHC (May 9-13, 2005) conflict with the community of Baker Lake celebration of Hamlet Days. Due to this conflict in scheduling and the submissions expected by Cumberland before the end of April, 2005, NIRB is rescheduling the Technical Meetings and PHC as follows:

June 2 nd , 3 rd , 2005	Technical Meeting	Baker Lake
June 6 th , 7 th , 2005	Pre-Hearing Conference	Baker Lake
June 8 th , 2005	Pre-Hearing Conference	Chesterfield Inlet
June 9 th , 2005	Pre-Hearing Conference	Rankin Inlet

NIRB will chair both the Technical Meeting and the PHC. The scope of the Technical Meeting will include discussions on the technical content of the Draft EIS and supplementary reports to attempt to resolve technical issues prior to the PHC. The scope of the PHC will include timelines for submissions, meetings, possible interventions, evidence, document exchange and any other matters related to the logistics of the Public Hearing. These proceedings will be concluded by the issuance of a Pre-Hearing Decision provided to Cumberland within 30 days following the PHC to guide Cumberland in the development of their Final EIS. Agendas confirming the particulars of the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing will be circulated to all Parties in due time.

Parties who need special audio visual equipment at the Pre-Hearings are requested to inform the NIRB of specific needs as soon as possible to allow NIRB to make arrangements.

Technical Comment Submission and Deadline

Due to the above mentioned scheduling conflict, NIRB is moving the deadline for the submission of technical comments from May 2, 2005 to **May 20, 2005**. Parties shall provide the following in the format indicated:

- An executive summary of their technical comments and PHC interventions.
- A detailed list of comments organized by headings indicating the *DEIS document, Section No., Page No., Paragraph No.; and the corresponding NIRB Guideline Number* where appropriate.

Comments shall be submitted in a written, digital format and sent preferably by email to NIRBs Manager of Environmental Administration gjoudrey@nirb.nunavut.ca and to NIRBs Technical Advisor at ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca by **May 20, 2005** for posting on NIRB’s ftp site.

Language and Translation Submission and Deadline

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

The Technical Meeting and PHC will be conducted in Inuktitut and English with simultaneous translation.

Cumberland's Submission

Cumberland is reminded that the dates of the Technical Meeting and PHC are contingent upon Cumberland submitting its documents as indicated in the Table below by **April 30, 2005** so that the documentation can be made available to the public within a reasonable period of time before the Technical Meetings and PHC. Failure to comply with the submission as indicated in this Table may jeopardize the dates of the Technical Meetings and PHC.

LOCATION	SUBMISSION
NIRB Office, Cambridge Bay, attention Manager of Administration Gladys Joudrey	Three (3) hard copies and two (2) electronic copies of Cumberland's April 4 th Submission and Cumberland's submission addressing the previously mentioned seven (7) items
Parties on the Meadowbank Gold Project Distribution List	Cumberland shall contact the Parties to determine the number of hardcopies and the number of electronic copies required by each Party.
Hamlet of Baker Lake, Hamlet Office Public Registry	One (1) hardcopy and one (1) electronic copy of Cumberland's April 4 th Submission and Cumberland's submission addressing the previously mentioned seven (7) items
Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet, Hamlet Office Public Registry	One (1) hardcopy and one (1) electronic copy of Cumberland's April 4 th Submission and Cumberland's submission addressing the previously mentioned seven (7) items
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, Hamlet Office Public Registry	One (1) hardcopy and one (1) electronic copy of Cumberland's April 4 th Submission and Cumberland's submission addressing the previously mentioned seven (7) items

Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)

NIRB is copying the NPC with this letter to keep them informed of NIRB's review process while the NPC determines whether the changes to the Project Proposal affect the NPC Conformity Determination. Should the NPC decide to call up this project for reasons related to the all-weather road or otherwise, NIRB reserves the right to suspend its process including the PHC until the NPC has reached a Conformity Determination.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca or at (867)-983-4603.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Briscoe, Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Mr. Luke Coady, Executive Director, Nunavut Planning Commission
Distribution List