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Your file - Votre référence

May 02, 2005

Our file - Notre référence
IQA-N 5510-5-3 UNC

Stephanie Briscoe
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Briscoe,

RE: Cumberland Resources Ltd. 2005 Work plan and Airstrip

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) proposed screening procedure for Cumberland Resources Ltd. 2005 work plan and proposed construction of an airstrip. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is in support of NIRB, should the Board decide to exercise 12.4.3 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, to permit Cumberland Resources Ltd. to construct an airstrip.

The department's support for NIRB's proposal to not re-screen the project is contingent upon the Kivalliq Inuit Association's (KivIA) evaluation that Cumberland Resources Ltd.'s 2005 work plans do not include any new activities not previously screened by NIRB. The department understands that the need for construction of the airstrip is only to support exploration activities. Should Cumberland Resources Ltd. decide to use the airstrip for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a gold mine, Cumberland Resources Ltd. must address and analyze the impacts of the airstrip and its related physical works and activities in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robyn Abernethy-Gillis at (867) 975-4552, via email abernethygillisr@inac-ainc.gc.ca or myself at (867) 975-4549, via email stephensg@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Glen Stephens
Manager, Environment

Canada 