



May 5, 2005

File No. **03MN107**

Mr. John Donihee M.E.S., LL.M.
Barrister & Solicitor
3516 Underhill Drive N.W.
Calgary, AB.,
T2N 4E8

Via email: donihee@telusplanet.net

Re: Procedures and Agendas for Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for Meadowbank Gold Project

Dear Mr. Donihee:

Thank you for your letter dated May 2, 2005 inquiring about the procedures for the Meadowbank Gold Project Technical Meetings and Pre-Hearing Conferences (PHC). Your questions have been addressed below in roughly the same format as they were presented in your letter for the benefit of Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland) and Interested Parties.

June 2nd and 3rd Technical Meeting:

The Board

The Board itself will not attend the Technical Meeting.

Meeting Format

The Technical Meeting will proceed in the format outlined in the attached Technical Meeting Agenda and it shall be mediated by NIRB staff, specifically NIRB's Legal Counsel, William Tilleman and NIRB's Technical Advisor, Karlette Tunaley.

Experts

NIRB encourages experts from both Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland), and from the Parties to attend the Technical Meeting to participate in an open, informal discussion of technical issues.

Cumberland Presentation

As detailed in the attached Technical Meeting Agenda, NIRB is happy to allocate time to Cumberland at the start of the meeting should Cumberland wish to make a presentation. NIRB requests that Cumberland inform the NIRB of how much time will be needed for that purpose.

Participation

Additionally, NIRB requests all Parties to confirm their attendance at the Technical Meeting with NIRB's Technical Advisor, Karlette Tunaley (867-983-4605 or ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca) by May 27, 2005.

June 6th-9th Preliminary Hearing Conference (PHC)

Overview Presentation

NIRB suggests that Cumberland present an overview of the Meadowbank Gold Project at each venue with an abbreviated version at Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. NIRB requests that Cumberland advise the NIRB of how much time would be needed for that purpose. The topics discussed following Cumberland's presentation will include the nine (9) issues listed below, but will also depend on the issues brought forward by Intervenor and the Public at each venue. Accordingly, NIRB will allow the introduction of new material by the Public at subsequent venues.

That being said, NIRB requests that Cumberland submit the following to NIRB's Technical Advisor, Karlette Tunaley, at the time of the Technical Meeting:

- 20 hardcopies of their PHC overview presentation for the Board and the staff;
- Enough hardcopies of their PHC overview presentation for the Public at each venue; and
- A Microsoft Power Point version of their overview presentation.

All presentations will be presented at the PHC from a laptop computer provided by NIRB.

PHC Presentation and Questioning

The PHC presentations and questioning by Cumberland, Intervenor and the Public (all Parties) following Cumberland's overview presentation shall address the following nine (9) issues:

1. The schedule for the PHC exchange of information;
2. Intervenor identification and registration;
3. The list of issues to be dealt with at the Final Public Hearing and clear statements of the issues;
4. Technical reports and other documents needed for the Final Public Hearing;
5. The schedule to be followed by the Parties for completion of reports needed *prior* to the Final Public Hearing;
6. The schedule, dates, times, and place(s) of the Final Public Hearing;
7. Special procedures, if any, to be followed at the Final Public Hearing;
8. Any motions that may be needed before the Final EIS is filed, or the Final Public Hearing commences; and
9. Any other matters that may aid in the simplification of the hearing (ie. the segregation of the hearing into different segments, technical hearing vs. non technical community meetings).

Cumberland, Intervenor and the Public will be given the opportunity to present information and question the proponent if time permits. This will be done in an orderly manner as detailed in the attached PHC Agenda. The Board, of course, shall conclude each presentation on the above nine issues with their questions. However, where necessary, the Board may ask questions during any presentation.

During the PHC, a time limit of up to 30 minutes will be enforced by the Board and Parties should prepare their presentations and questioning with these limits in mind. If Parties combine presentations, additional time will be allocated to finish their combined comments. As stated above, Cumberland will have more time to present at the beginning of each venue.

In addition, NIRB requests that Cumberland and Intervenor submit the following to NIRB's Technical Advisor, Karlette Tunaley, at the time of the Technical Meeting:

- 20 hardcopies of their PHC presentation for the Board and the staff
- Enough hardcopies of their PHC presentation for the Public at each venue; and
- A Microsoft Power Point version of their PHC presentation

All presentations will be presented at the PHC from a laptop computer provided by NIRB.

Since the burden of proof is on Cumberland, the Board will permit Cumberland to make a brief final closing statement at the end of the Rankin Inlet PHC following closing statements by all other Parties. Since the issues brought forward at each PHC may differ, Cumberland may modify their closing statement depending on venue specific issues with consideration of possible conflicting statements.

Participation

Additionally, NIRB requests all Parties to confirm their attendance at the PHC with NIRB's Technical Advisor, Karlette Tunaley (867-983-4605 or ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca) by May 27, 2005.

May 20th Submission

NIRB encourages Cumberland to view the May 20, 2005 submissions by Parties on the NIRB ftp site and to prepare to reply to the comments contained in those submissions at the Technical Meeting and PHC. However, if a response to the May 20, 2005 submissions prior to the Technical Meeting and PHC is not required by Cumberland, please advise the Board in writing by May 22, 2005.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca or 867-983-4605.

Sincerely,

(original signed by:)

Karlette Tunaley, Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments

Technical Meeting Agenda
Preliminary Hearing Conference Agenda

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

TECHNICAL MEETING AGENDA

DATES: Thursday June 2 and Friday June 3, 2005
LOCATION: Hamlet of Baker Lake, Recreation Centre
START TIME: 9:00 AM

1. Introduction of Participants
2. Presentation by Cumberland Resources Ltd.
3. General questions on the presentation from interested Parties
4. Open discussion facilitated by NIRB staff on technical issues related to the Meadowbank Gold Project DEIS including Supporting Documentation. Discussions shall proceed report by report in the following order:
 - Alternatives
 - Physical Environment (including air and noise)
 - Aquatic Environment
 - Terrestrial Environment
 - Socio-Economic Environment
 - Human Resources
 - Archaeology
 - Traditional Knowledge
 - Management Plans

NOTE:

- *Breaks and evening sessions will be called as necessary.*
- *On each day there will be a lunch break. Parties are responsible for obtaining their own lunches.*

PRELIMINARY HEARING CONFERENCE (PHC) AGENDAS

DATES: Monday June 6 and Tuesday June 7, 2005
LOCATION: Hamlet of Baker Lake, Recreation Centre
START TIME: 10:00 AM

DATES: Wednesday June 8, 2005
LOCATION: Chesterfield Inlet, Hamlet Gym
START TIME: 10:00 AM

DATES: Thursday June 9, 2005
LOCATION: Rankin Inlet, Bayshore Conference Center (next to Wild Wolf Café)
START TIME: 10:00 AM

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer;
2. Opening remarks by the Chairperson, which shall include the purpose of the PHC and the scope of the matters to be considered by the Board;
3. Introduction of the Board Members and staff;
4. Identification and introduction of the Parties;
5. Identification and introduction of any individuals or groups who have not submitted interventions but who have expressed a desire to speak at the hearing;
6. Project Overview Presentation by Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland);
7. PHC Presentation by Cumberland Resources Ltd.;
8. Questioning of Cumberland by Parties opposite in interest on the PHC Agenda;
9. PHC Presentation by Intervenors;
10. Questioning of the intervenor by Cumberland;
11. Presentation by any individuals or groups who have advised the Chairperson that they wish to speak (members of the Public);
12. Final closing statement by Parties;
13. Reply and closing statement by Cumberland;
14. Closing remarks by the Chairperson; and
15. Closing Prayer.

NOTE:

- *Elders may speak at any time during the Preliminary Hearing Conference.*
- *The Board will recess the PHC for breaks as it deems necessary.*
- *The Board reserves the right to allow written submissions on the above points if necessary.*
- *On each day there will be a lunch break of approximately one hour. Parties are responsible for obtaining their own lunches.*