



May 5, 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

Dear Mr. Goodings:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) acknowledges receipt of Cumberland Resources Ltd.'s (Cumberland) letter and Supplementary Conformity Submission (Submission) via email on April 30, 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/100-onward%20\(Public%20Registry%20Documents\)/](http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/Reviews/03MN107-%20Meadowbank%20Gold%20Mine/Project%20Documents/100-onward%20(Public%20Registry%20Documents)/), responds to NIRB's letter of April 8, 2005 and addresses the following:

1. The yellow highlighted cells in the Conformity Table attached to the NIRB March 21, 2005 letter;
2. The status and development of Cumberland's "Monitoring and Follow Up Plan";
3. The effect of further feasibility studies on the project design;
4. Cumberland's commitment to a timeline for completion of Guideline 4.10.1.10 for borrow pits;
5. Cumberland's program to monitor contaminants and loading;
6. The communications strategy as in Guideline 4.24.1 for the Communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet;
7. Involvement of Hamlets outside the IIBAs.

Upon an internal Conformity Review of the material contained in this Submission, it is NIRB's decision that Cumberland's Draft EIS supported by their April 4, 2005 Conformity Submission and their April 30, 2005 Supplementary Conformity Submission ***does conform*** to NIRB's final Guidelines for the Meadowbank Gold Project, issued February 24, 2004.

As expressed in NIRB's April 8, 2005 letter, Cumberland is again reminded that it is imperative for all documentation to be made available in hardcopy and electronic copy to the Parties within a reasonable period of time before the Technical Meetings and Preliminary Hearing Conferences (PHC). As of this date (May 4, 2005) receipt of documentation by the Parties as indicated in the NIRB's April 8, 2005 letter has not been confirmed. NIRB strongly advises Cumberland to follow up on this matter, to maintain the dates of the Technical Meeting and PHC.

NIRB would like to make Cumberland aware that due to the fact that Parties have yet to receive the Conformity Submissions supporting the Draft EIS, Parties may not have had the opportunity to review the Conformity Submissions prior to the Technical Meetings and PHC. This may lead to outstanding concerns related to Conformity at the Technical Meeting and PHC.

By way of copy of this letter to Parties on the Meadowbank Distribution List, NIRB requests that Parties do their best to review the Conformity Submissions, emailed to Parties by NIRB on May 4, 2005 and available from NIRB's ftp site referenced above, and incorporate any comments on these submissions into their May 20, 2005 Technical Review comment submissions.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me (867-983-4603 or sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca) or Karlette Tunaley (ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca or 867-983-4605).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Briscoe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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
 Meadowbank Distribution List