



May 5, 2005

File No. **03MN107**

Mr. Roger March
Senior Project Geologist
Cumberland Resources Ltd.
#950-505 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
V7X 1M4

Via email: rmarch@cumberlandresources.com

Re: Proposed Airstrip Construction for the Meadowbank Project

Dear Mr. March:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has completed its screening of Cumberland Resources Ltd.'s (Cumberland) proposed airstrip construction as described in Cumberland's Workplan for the 2005 Calendar year (Workplan). The Workplan was received by NIRB on April 19, 2005.

On April 25, 2005, the NIRB issued a letter and distributed Cumberland's Workplan to persons interested in the Meadowbank Gold Project. In its letter, the NIRB asked Parties to provide comments on a proposed screening procedure suggesting that Cumberland proceed with construction of the airstrip subject to the terms and conditions attached to the NIRB's August 8, 2002 decision regarding Cumberland's original 2002 proposal, filed under NIRB 02EA110. The rationale supporting the recommendation being that Cumberland's 2005 Workplan proposes to construct the airstrip as per the original 2002 proposal.

The NIRB's deadline for comments on the proposed screening method was set at May 2, 2005, and by that time the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and the Government of Nunavut (GN) had provided the Board with comments. All Parties supported the NIRB's proposed screening procedure.

In making its decision, the Board reminds Parties of Section 12.4.3 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) which states the following:

"An application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

- a) such component or activity was not part of the original proposal; or
- b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project."

The Board bases its decision on the following key assumptions:

1. Cumberland complies with the terms and conditions attached to NIRB's August 8, 2002 screening decision for file 02EA110 (enclosed);
2. Written confirmation from the KivIA that Cumberland's 2005 Workplan does not include any new activities not previously screened by NIRB shall be forthcoming; and

3. Construction of the airstrip is only to support exploration activities, not for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a gold mine.

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

Sincerely,



Karlette Tunaley, Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments

NIRB screening decision report and terms and conditions for airstrip construction 02EA110

cc Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Steve Hartman, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Meadowbank Distribution List