



May 20, 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 for Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) for Meadowbank Gold Project

Dear Mr. Donihee:

Thank you for your letter dated May 19, 2005 requesting clarification of the Meadowbank Gold Project Technical Meeting and PHC process outlined in NIRB's letter dated May 5, 2005. The issues in your letter have been addressed under the headings below.

May 20th Submission

Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland) *is not* expected to submit technical comments on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 20th, 2005. However, Cumberland *is* expected to submit a summary of comments on the nine (9) points related to the PHC on May 20th, 2005 as were listed in NIRB's letter addressed to you on May 5, 2005 and are listed again here for your convenience.

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).

Both Technical Review comments and PHC related comments submitted to NIRB by Parties on May 20th, 2005 will be made available to the Public including Cumberland by posting them on NIRB's 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)/). NIRB encourages Cumberland to review the May 20th, 2005 submissions and to prepare to reply to the issues presented in those submissions at the Technical Meeting and PHC. A reply from Cumberland to the May 20th submissions prior to the Meetings is not expected by NIRB.

Expert Technical Team

As mentioned above, NIRB encourages Cumberland to review the Parties' May 20th Technical Review submissions to ensure that Cumberland's expert technical team attending the Meetings can respond and attempt to resolve the Parties' concerns as detailed in their submissions.

Technical Meeting Agenda

Cumberland's offer to present a brief general overview of the project as outlined in the Technical Meeting Agenda item #2 followed by presentations to introduce the topics of discussion set out in Agenda item #4 is accepted. However, asking other Parties to formally present their concerns at the Technical Meeting is outside the informal open discussion nature of the Technical Meeting.

Following each presentation by Cumberland, NIRB shall facilitate a discussion that provides all present Parties with an opportunity to raise their concerns and exchange technical information such that all the issues presented by Parties in their May 20th submissions are addressed.

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

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