



Indian and Northern
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Affaires indiennes
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May 26, 2005

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

Via Fax 867-983-2594

N2005X0010

Nunavut Impact Review Board
Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Attention : Stephanie Briscoe, Executive Director

Dear Ms. Briscoe:

**Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) Decision
Land Use Permit application no. N2005X0010
Geotechnical Investigations
Cumberland Resources Ltd.**

On April 25, 2005, NIRB issued a letter to Cumberland Resources Ltd. granting an exception under 12.10.2 (b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) for the geotechnical investigation activities outlined in land use permit application no. N2005X0010. In light of the exception NIRB has confirmed via e-mail that they will not conduct a screening as per Section 12.10.1 of NLCA. Therefore no screening decision will be provided to INAC for the Class A land use application submitted to NIRB April 20, 2005 for screening. We are expecting a formal letter summarizing NIRB's position on this issue, but to date no letter has been received.

In our opinion the activity being proposed in this application does not fall within Schedule 12.1 of the NLCA and therefore requires an Environmental Screening be conducted by NIRB. Can you confirm via return letter that NIRB agrees that INAC can proceed in processing land use permit application N2005X0010 without receiving a screening decision from NIRB. This confirmation via return letter is requested as soon as possible as INAC will have to conduct our own screening to determine terms and conditions of this land use activity to ensure any environmental impacts are mitigable before we issue this permit.

Your prompt reply is appreciated. If you need further information or wish to discuss please contact me at 867-975-4280 or by email at mcleanc@inac.gc.ca. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Carl McLean
Manager, Land Administration

cc. Manager, Environment
INAC, Nunavut

Cumberland Resources Ltd.
Canada