



File No: **03MN107**

DATE: October 3, 2005

TO: Meadowbank Distribution List

RE: **Meadowbank Gold Project – Response to Minister Letter on PHC Decision**

Dear Parties:

On September 21, 2005 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) gave Cumberland Resources Limited (Cumberland) and each member of the Meadowbank Distribution List an opportunity to provide comments on the Honourable Minister Andy Scott's (Minister) letter regarding NIRB's PHC Decision. Parties were asked to submit comments by September 27, 2005 and Cumberland was granted until September 29, 2005 so as to review comments submitted by other Parties before writing to NIRB.

Comments from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) were received on September 27, 2005 and comments from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) were received late on September 29, 2005. Both Parties agree with the Minister's decision. Cumberland wrote to NIRB on September 29, 2005 in response to the Minister's Letter and KivIA's comments, suggesting that the NIRB's PHC Decision is consistent with the Minister's direction. All correspondence is available from the NIRB ftp site at the following link: http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/03MN107-MEADOWBANK_GOLD_PROJECT/02-REVIEW/07-TECH_MTG_PHC/

As requested by the Minister the Board requires the FEIS and the Final Hearing to emphasize the Minister's direction as follows:

“An all weather road of this scale would be the first of its kind in Nunavut. Given the fact that the road is connected to the community of Baker Lake, it is essential that the environmental and socio-economic effects of its construction, use and eventual abandonment, be fully considered as well as possible future options for the road.”

The Board agrees with Cumberland that the Minister's direction and the PHC Decision are consistent. The Board does note that where there is any doubt as to the interpretation of the PHC Decision and the Minister's direction, the Board expects Cumberland to take the broader view when determining the information to be included in the FEIS. For example, the PHC Decision states that the all-weather road was scoped into the project and accordingly NIRB's requirement for cumulative effects assessment (section 4.22 of the FEIS Guidelines) applies to the all-weather road, as does the Minister's requirement to fully consider the effects if the eventual abandonment as well as possible future options for the road.

Since the Minister's direction has been given to Cumberland while Cumberland is at the final stages of compiling its FEIS, NIRB requests that Cumberland indicate in writing whether it anticipates any delay in the expected date for filing of the FEIS, and if so, provide NIRB with an updated timeline for the submission of the FEIS.



If you have any questions or concerns please contact Karlette Tunaley at 867-983-4605 or email at ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca

Yours truly,

(original signed by)

Karlette Tunaley, Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board