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5510-5-3

4 November 2005

Craig Goodings
Cumberland Resources Ltd.
Suite 950-505 Burrad Street
Box 72, One Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C.
V7X 1M4

Dear Mr. Goodings,

RE: INAC's Lead RA Status under CEAA - Meadowbank Gold Project

Due to an error in our previous letter of October 24, 2005, addressed to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and to Cumberland Resources Ltd., this letter is a replacement for that letter.

We would like to provide you with an update on the status of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) role on the environmental assessment of the Meadowbank Gold Project.

On May 30, 2005 INAC received an application from Cumberland Resources Ltd. for the crown land portion of the 102 km all weather access road to the proposed Meadowbank mine site. This application was forwarded to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for land use conformity review and on July 19, 2005 it received a positive NPC decision. INAC's issuance of crown land tenure for the mine access road will trigger an environmental assessment (EA) under Section 5 c of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). It is at this time that the department would like to declare to Cumberland Resources Ltd. its role as lead responsible authority for the Meadowbank Gold Project environmental assessment under that legislation. INAC's role as the lead responsible authority has been discussed and agreed upon by all federal authorities involved with the project (Natural Resources Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Health Canada, and Environment Canada).

The department looks forward to working with the proponent, NIRB and all interested stakeholders on the assessment of this project, and will continue its endeavour to accomplish its legislated responsibilities for the project through NIRB's Part 5 review. We

Canada

are making you aware of this issue at this time so that you provide the necessary information through the NIRB process to allow Canada to meet its obligations.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself at (867) 975-4549 or Julian Lim at (867) 975-4572 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Robyn Abernethy-Gillis
Manager of Environment

cc. Clare Cattrysse, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Derrick Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Iannick Lamirande, Natural Resources Canada
Doug Soloway, Transport Canada
Colette Spagnuolo, Environment Canada
Carolyn Dunn, Health Canada
Stephanie Briscoe, Nunavut Impact Review Board