



NIRB File No: 03MN107

Date: January 17, 2005

To: Distribution List

Re: Cumberland Resources Ltd., Meadowbank Gold Project

We are able to advise that the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has received the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Meadowbank Gold project from the proponent Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland). The report has been placed on the NIRB Public Registry and is available for public consultation at the NIRB office in Cambridge Bay. It has also been placed for download on the NIRB ftp site at <http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/Reviews/03MN107-%20Meadowbank%20Gold%20Mine/>. Cumberland has also confirmed that copies of the DEIS have been mailed to interested persons on the distribution list.

Cumberland has chosen not to distribute the documents supporting the DEIS (the list of which can be found in the DEIS Part 1: Figure 3-1), but has confirmed with the NIRB that they would be pleased to distribute specific reports upon request. In addition, the supporting documents will be placed for download on the NIRB ftp site as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Craig Goodings, Cumberland's Environmental Manager, by telephone (office: 604-608-2557; cell: 604-341-7042), by fax (604-608-2559), or by email (cgoodings@cumberlandresources.com) if you have not received a copy of the DEIS or would like to make a request.

Conformity Review (Jan 17/05 - Feb16/05) and Technical Review (Jan 17/05- April 18/05)

The NIRB is proposing a 30 day conformity review and a simultaneous 90 day technical review of the DEIS. The NIRB recommends that your technical review begin at the same time as your conformity review.

The intent of the conformity review is to determine if the DEIS has addressed all of the directives outlined in each section of the NIRB's final EIS guidelines issued February 2004. The conformity review is focused on the identification of subject matter that may have been omitted. The intent of the technical review is to determine the adequacy of the DEIS. The technical review is focused on a qualitative assessment of the information it contains.

To facilitate an efficient review of this project the NIRB is requesting submission of your comments in the specific format and on the specific dates provided in the following points:

1. Conformity review comments shall be entered in the attached Microsoft Excel table and submitted preferably by email attachment to ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca. This table provides for direct entry of your conformity review determination as either "Yes" or "No". If your conformity review determination is "No", then please enter your comments in the next column providing the specific guideline directive, including its page reference to which the

draft EIS in your opinion does not conform. Conformity review comments must be submitted no later than **February 16, 2005**.

2. Technical review comments shall be submitted in a text format preferably by email to ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca. Please use headings to organize your comments that indicate the *DEIS document, Section No., Page No., Paragraph No.; and the corresponding NIRB Guideline Section, Page No., Paragraph No.* on which you are commenting. Technical review comments must be submitted no later than **April 18, 2005**.

Comments, not referenced to any NIRB guideline or DEIS document, may be submitted in text format under a heading labeled *General Comments*.

Preferably, the NIRB requests that all comments be submitted by email to ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca, but will accept comments submitted by fax (867-983-2594) or mail to the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Karlette Tunaley, (P.O. Box 2379, Cambridge Bay, NU. , X0B 0C0).

Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (TBA)

After considering all representations NIRB intends to schedule a Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for the week of May 9, 2005.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karlette Tunaley, the NIRB Technical Advisor, by telephone 867-983-4605 or email ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca, or the undersigned by telephone 867-983-4603 or email sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Stephanie Briscoe,
Executive Director

Cc: Distribution List
Honourable Minister Andy Scott, DIAND