

March 8th, 2005

Ms. Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
X0B 0C0

BY FAX and e-Mail

Dear Ms. Briscoe:

RE: NIRB Letter of March 8th to Cumberland Resources Ltd.

We are in receipt of your captioned letter and Cumberland intends to prepare the detailed reply you have requested as quickly as possible. Mr. Goodings and other members of Cumberland's senior management are, however, en route to Baker Lake in order to conduct two workshops and a public meeting in the community over the next several days. I am informed that NIRB staff will also be attending. These members of the Cumberland management team will not be available to address the substance of your letter until early next week since they do not return to Vancouver until Saturday.

As you are aware, Cumberland corresponded with NIRB earlier today addressing some but not all of the concerns raised in your March 8th letter. It is our intention to provide the additional detail that you have requested in another, supplementary letter. We also intend to include the Human Resources report with that letter. It is currently undergoing final editing with our technical editor and should be ready to go next week as well.

Unfortunately, given the unavailability of Cumberland staff it will not be possible to meet the March 14th deadline set out in your letter. We hereby request an extension of that deadline to the end of the business day March 18th, 2005.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Original signed by:

John Donihee
Counsel to Cumberland Resources Ltd.

* Practising law through the John Donihee Professional Corporation.