

**FILE NO.:** 03MN107

**DATE:** January 23, 2006

**TO:** Cumberland Resources Limited and Parties

**RE:** Meadowbank Gold Project FEIS Information Requests

#### Dear Cumberland and Parties:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) acknowledges with thanks, receipt of Meadowbank Gold Project FEIS Information Requests (IR) from KivIA, INAC, EC, HC, NrCan, TC, GN-DoE, and GN-CGS on January 20, 2006 and from DFO on January 21, 2006 in accordance with the IR process described in NIRB's letter dated December 20, 2005. All IRs are available for download from NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/03MN107-MEADOWBANK GOLD PROJECT/02-REVIEW/08-FINAL EIS/IRs/.

Parties who submitted IRs, the corresponding number of IRs submitted, and the number of NIRB approved IRs is compiled in the following Table:

PARTY	NO. IRs SUBMITTED	NO. NIRB APPROVED IRs
Kivalliq Inuit Association	11	11
(KivIA)		
Indian and Northern Affairs	33	32 (IR#26 not approved)
Canada (INAC)		
Environment Canada (EC)	19	19
Health Canada (HC)	4	4
Natural Resources Canada	2	2
(NrCan)		
Transport Canada (TC)	2	Cumberland is advised to contact
_		Transport Canada directly
Government of Nunavut	4	4
Department of Environment		
(GN-DoE)		
Government of Nunavut	3	3
Community Government and		
Services (GN-CGS)		
Department of Fisheries and	18	17 (IR#13 not approved)
Oceans (DFO)		

A total of 96 IRs were received, of which NIRB has selected 92 IRs to forward to Cumberland Resources Limited (Cumberland). Cumberland is expected to submit answers to the selected IRs to both the interested Party and NIRB by **5:00 pm MST February 10, 2006.** Where specific documents have been requested, NIRB also expects Cumberland to provide the non-confidential content of those documents to



both the interested Party and NIRB. In preparing its response to these IRs, NIRB encourages Cumberland to contact the Parties for clarification where needed so that issues can be resolved as completely and as timely as possible before the final hearings.

NIRB would like to thank Parties for continuing to keep NIRB informed of their discussions with Cumberland on issues related to the assessment of the Meadowbank Gold Project. In addition, NIRB acknowledges that the GN-DoE has not submitted IRs related to wildlife at this time as they intend to meet with Cumberland's consultants in the near future. Following this meeting, NIRB requests that a joint follow-up report be prepared and submitted to NIRB by the GN-DoE and Cumberland outlining the following:

- The issue(s) discussed;
- Whether the issue(s) were resolved or not resolved;
- If resolved, an explanation of how the issue(s) are or will be resolved (ie. through the environmental assessment process or through the regulatory process); and
- What, if any, additional information will be provided and when that information will be made available.

In reviewing and approving Party IRs, only two (2) IRs were not approved by NIRB for the following reasons:

### INAC IR #26: Limited Information on Financial Assurances

The economies of the Project are ultimately at Cumberland's own risk. It has not been made clear how the additional information requested would benefit this environmental assessment and decision making process.

# DFO IR #13: Request for Draft Fish Habitat Compensation (No Net Loss) Monitoring Plan

The level of details requested is beyond the scope of this environmental assessment process. Additional monitoring requests should be addressed at the final hearing. NIRB notes however that IR #17 Request for Draft Fish Habitat Compensation (No Net Loss) Monitoring Plan specific to the Tailings Impoundment Area has been approved because of its importance to the MMER listing process.

In reviewing and approving Party IRs, two (2) IRs from Transport Canada are being forwarded to Cumberland for clarification.

# TC IR #1: Mine Site Proper

The relevance of this IR to the environmental assessment process is not clear. Cumberland is advised to contact TC for clarification and report back to NIRB.

#### TC IR#2: All Weather Road

The relevance of this IR to the environmental assessment process is not clear. Cumberland is advised to contact TC for clarification and report back to NIRB.



NIRB recommends that Cumberland review the comments and specialist advice provided by Transport Canada, in particular those concerning marine safety, and consider whether those comments are grounds for Cumberland to revise their Marine Shipping and Liability Regime applicable to the Meadowbank Project.

Please do not hesitate to contact Karlette Tunaley at <a href="https://ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca">ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca</a> or 867-983-4605 for technical issues or myself for any other matters related to the Final Hearing.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Briscoe

Executive Director, Nunavut Impact Review Board <a href="mailto:sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca">sbriscoe@nirb.nunavut.ca</a>

Attachments:

Please download Information Requests from KivIA, INAC, EC, HC, TC, NrCan, GN-DoE, GN-CGS and DFO from the NIRB ftp site at <a href="http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/03MN107-MEADOWBANK\_GOLD\_PROJECT/02-REVIEW/08-FINAL\_EIS/IRs/">http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/03MN107-MEADOWBANK\_GOLD\_PROJECT/02-REVIEW/08-FINAL\_EIS/IRs/</a>

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cc. Honourable Andy Scott, Minister Indian and Northern Affairs Canada