

# CUMBERLAND RESOURCES LTD.

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February 9, 2006

## **BY FAX (867 983-2594) and e-Mail**

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

Dear Ms. Briscoe:

**Re: Discussions between Cumberland (Gebauer & Associates Ltd.) and Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (Mike Setterington) Regarding Wildlife Issues Related to Meadowbank Gold Project**

As requested in your January 23, 2006 letter to Cumberland Resources Limited ('Meadowbank Gold Project FEIS Information Requests'), we have provided the following letter report summarizing: 1) issues discussed with GN-DoE; 2) resolution of the issues; and 3) additional information that will be provided. The GN-DoE has reviewed this letter and is in agreement with its contents. We trust that this fulfills our obligations at this time.

### **Introduction**

Cumberland and the Government of Nunavut (GN-DoE) have been corresponding regarding various questions and issues that have arisen out of GN-DoE's ongoing review of the Meadowbank FEIS. These discussions were continued in a 25 January 2006 meeting in Winnipeg. A summary of the issues and their resolution is provided below.

### **Winnipeg Meeting – Summary**

#### ***Issue 1 – Harvest Study***

GN-DoE agreed that a harvest study would be a good way to determine changes in hunting pressure related to the proposed all weather access road. Cumberland will provide further details with respect to the methodology and timing of the Harvest Study at the final hearings. No further information on this issue is required by GN-DoE at this time.

#### ***Issue 2 - Statistical Power of Monitoring Methods***

GN-DoE expects further details on the statistical power of the monitoring methods outlined in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan. Cumberland will be hiring a biostatistician to provide further details in this regard. Details on statistical power are not expected by the Final Hearing date, although Cumberland will attempt to clarify some of these issues. No further information on this issue is required by GN-DoE at this time. The issue will be addressed within the March 2007 summary monitoring report or earlier.

***Issue 3 – Trend Analysis of Existing Baseline Data***

GN-DoE noted that baseline data provided in the FEIS does not indicate trends (i.e., natural variability) but simply baseline values. Cumberland indicated that the trend analysis would be provided (in a March 2007 summary monitoring report) once the first official year of monitoring (i.e., 2006) had been conducted, and subject to receipt of a project certificate and Cumberland continuing with the Meadowbank project. No further information on this issue is required by GN-DoE at this time. The issue will be addressed within the March 2007 summary monitoring report or earlier.

**Summary**

There are no outstanding information requests at this time. However, as GN-DoE continues to review FEIS documents, additional issues and requests for information will undoubtedly arise before the March 10<sup>th</sup> deadline for the Final Hearings written submissions. Cumberland will continue to respond to these requests as they are received.

The GN-DoE has reviewed this letter and approved its content. We trust this meets your information requirements at this time.

Yours truly,

CUMBERLAND RESOURCES LTD.

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Craig Goodings  
Manager, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

MG/CG/bg

cc: Karlette Tunaley, NIRB