



March 14, 2006

File No. **03MN107**

Mr. Luis Manzo, Lands Director  
Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Box 340  
Rankin Inlet, NU

Via email: [lmanzo@kivalliqinuit.ca](mailto:lmanzo@kivalliqinuit.ca)

**Re: Meadowbank Gold Project – Tehek Lake Access Road Right of Way Application for Access to IOL**

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Dear Mr. Manzo:

On February 22, 2006, the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) forwarded Cumberland Resources Ltd's (Cumberland) Application for access to Inuit Owned Land proposing construction and operation of the Baker Lake to Tehek all season access road to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for screening purposes.

The legal concerns of screening the Baker Lake to Tehek Lake all season access road were discussed during the Meadowbank Gold Project Preliminary Hearing Conference held on June 6-9, 2005. NIRB's decision on whether or not to screen the all season access road as well as the reasons for the decision and the authority behind the decision was released in NIRB's Pre-Hearing Decision Concerning the Meadowbank Gold Project, July 14, 2005 and states the following:

“Subject to direction from the Minister, the all-weather road is included in this Part 5 review. To do otherwise would be inconsistent with the Board's mandate under the NLCA and would result in undesirable project splitting.”

On July 28, 2005 NIRB wrote to the Minister just to bring that aspect of the PHC decision to his attention and on September 14, 2005 the Minister responded to NIRB stating the following:

“An all weather road of this scale would be the first of its kind in Nunavut. Given the fact that the road is connected to the community of Baker Lake, it is essential that the environmental and socio-economic effects of its construction, use and eventual abandonment, be fully considered as well as possible future options for the road.”

On September 21, 2005, NIRB gave Parties an opportunity to voice their concerns over the Minister's letter and all Parties, including KivIA, were in general agreement with the Minister.

Therefore, Cumberland's application for access to Inuit Owned Land is included in the Meadowbank Gold Project Part 5 Review and therefore cannot be screened or re-screened at this time. Also, in accordance with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) Section 12.10.1 the subject right of way

agreement shall not be issued in until after the Part 5 Review has been completed and a NIRB project certificate has been issued by NIRB.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca) or by phone at 867-983-4605.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by:)*

Karlette Tunaley, Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Meadowbank Distribution List