



**DATE:** July 12, 2006

**FILE NO.:** 03MN107

**TO:** Meadowbank Distribution List

**RE:** **Direction on the Continuance of the Meadowbank Hearing**

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Dear Parties:

As indicated in the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) letter to the Meadowbank Distribution List dated June 13, 2006, upon receipt of Cumberland Resources Ltd.'s (Cumberland) response to Parties' July 7, 2006 written submissions, NIRB would provide direction on the continuance of the Meadowbank hearing process.

The Board has met, and reached its decision to complete the hearing expeditiously by further written submissions. The following procedural steps and dates present this process:

**Friday July 14, 2006** – Cumberland submits written response to NIRB's questions regarding the temporary explosives factory.

**Monday July 17, 2006** – NIRB forwards its final questions to Parties and Cumberland and requests an updated list of commitments from Cumberland.

**Wednesday July 19, 2006** – Cumberland and Parties submit response to NIRB's final questions.

**Friday July 21, 2006** – Parties submit final closing remarks on the following five (5) issues:

1. All Weather Road
2. Socio-Economics
3. Consultation with Chesterfield Inlet
4. Temporary Explosives Factory
5. Identification of any gaps in Cumberland's list of commitments

**Wednesday July 26, 2006** – Cumberland submits final closing remarks including the five (5) issues identified in above.

**Week July 24-28** – If the Board is satisfied that sufficient information has been received to discharge its mandate and reach a decision, the record will be closed at that time. Once the record is closed the Board's decision will be reported to the Minister in 30 days.

The Board acknowledges that the schedule set out above requires submissions to be prepared by the Parties in short time frames. The Board has decided to proceed this way because closing comments on all other issues have already been received and all of the Parties have agreed that written submissions are the best way to proceed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Karlette Tunaley, NIRB's Technical Advisor at 867-983-4605 or [ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca).

Yours Sincerely,

*(original signed by:)*

Stephanie Briscoe  
Executive Director

Cc. Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister Indian and Northern Affairs Canada