



Date: July 17, 2006

To: Meadowbank Distribution List

Re: Meadowbank Written Hearing: NIRB's Final Questions to Parties and Cumberland Resources Ltd.

In accordance with the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) letter dated July 12, 2006 to the Meadowbank Distribution list regarding procedures for the continuance of the Meadowbank Final Hearing, NIRB is forwarding its final questions to Parties and Cumberland. While questions are specifically directed, Cumberland or any Party may comment if they wish to do so.

Question #1 to Cumberland:

Issue: Chesterfield Inlet Marine Mammal Monitors

In Cumberland's July 11, 2006 response to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans's (DFO) request for clarification regarding what vessels marine mammal monitors would have the opportunity to board, Cumberland clarified that monitors would be placed on all barges that are carrying fuel for the Meadowbank project. NIRB would like to know what proportion of vessels would be carrying fuel and NIRB would like justification for why Chesterfield Inlet marine monitors would not be allowed to board vessels not carrying fuel.

Question #2 to Cumberland:

Issue: Marine Shipping and Safety

Environment Canada (EC) has recommended that a complete Spill Contingency Plan (Plan) be revised in preparation for the regulatory phase in order to address the key elements of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, based on the information provided by EC in the submission to the NIRB for the final public hearing for the project. Cumberland has agreed to this recommendation. NIRB would like to know when this Plan will be made available for review and whether or not Cumberland will be able to impose the commitments of the approved Plan on its shipping contractor.

Question #3 to Cumberland

Issue: All Weather Road – Monitoring of Wildlife Harvested

NIRB requests that Cumberland provide a response to the recommendation from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) to NIRB on July 13, 2006 (attached).

Question #4 to Cumberland

Issue: All Weather Road – Gates

NIRB requests clarification from Cumberland regarding which of the four bridges will be gated along the all-weather road. Figure 1 of Part 2 of Cumberland's Response to the NIRB's April 24th Letter shows Bridges 1 and 4 will be gated, while Bridges 2 and 3 will not be gated. The third paragraph of Pg 5, Part 1 of this report states that Cumberland will install locked gates at each of the major bridges. Finally, issue

2.1 of INAC's July 7, 2006, submission, states that Cumberland will gate the road at four strategic bridge crossings.

Question #5 to Cumberland

Issue: Non-Project uses of the all weather road and their potential impact

Cumberland has agreed to INAC's issue 2.3 recommendation, to collect and maintain information on road-use to facilitate monitoring of the non-project uses of the road. NIRB would like to know how this information will be collected, maintained and used to assess actual effects versus predicted effects (for example, through what monitoring program). And finally, NIRB would like to know how unanticipated impacts will be mitigated.

Question #6 to Cumberland

Issue: Timing of revised TEMP

Cumberland has stated that the TEMP will be updated as more information on mitigation success rates and alternate mitigation strategies are considered and discussed with regulatory agencies. NIRB would like to know Cumberland's best estimate for the timing of availability of the revised TEMP.

Question #7 to Cumberland

Issue: List of Commitments

NIRB requests that Cumberland submit an updated List of Commitments (exhibit #68)

Question #8 to Cumberland and the Government of Nunavut (GN)

Issue: Timing of Cumberland's detailed Socio-Economic Monitoring Plan

Is it possible for Cumberland in consultation with the RMMC to develop the details of Cumberland's socio-economic monitoring plan (including defining issues, indicators, methodologies for data collection and analysis, roles and responsibilities, schedules and budgets) before construction of the project begins?

Question #9 to the Government of Nunavut (GN)

Issue: Assessment of Natural Variability of Terrestrial VECs

Based on the GN's comments, the ability for Cumberland to adequately assess the natural variability of terrestrial VECs seems to be determined by, among other things, the size of the Regional Study Area (RSA), the amount of suitable analyses of baseline data, and the cooperative agreement between DOE and CRL on collecting caribou population delineation information specific to the project area. In the GN's opinion, to what extent and to what level of certainty will Cumberland be able to establish the range of natural variability in its March 2007 Wildlife Monitoring Summary Report and what effect would any inadequacy in this data have on the quality of impact predictions monitoring?

Question #10 to the Government of Nunavut (GN)

Issue: Distinguishing cow/calf caribou groups from other groups

In the GN's opinion, to what extent will Cumberland be able to distinguish cow/calf caribou groups from other groups in its March 2007 Wildlife Monitoring Summary report and what effect would any inadequacy in this data collection have on follow-up monitoring?

Question #11 to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

Issue: Community marine spill kits

Cumberland has agreed to Transport Canada's recommendation to engage in discussions with representatives of the Canadian Coast Guard to reassess where response/ spill kits are presently located within Nunavut. NIRB would like confirmation from DFO that the Canadian Coast Guard is the responsible agency for placing spill kits in the communities and under what conditions the Canadian Coast Guard would consider placing community spill kits in Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake.

Parties and Cumberland are reminded that responses to the above questions should be submitted to Karlette Tunaley at ktunaley@nirb.nunavut.ca by **Wednesday July 19, 2006 at 3:00pm MST**.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address above or by telephone at 867-983-4605.

Sincerely,

(original signed by:)

Karlette Tunaley
Technical Advisor