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NUNAVUT KAVAMAT, ATANITA UVALU KAVAMALIKINIKUT MUNAKHIJUTHAVAKVIAT

Government of Nunavut, Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs

Gouvernement du Nunavut, Ministère de L'Exécutif et des Affaires Intergouvernementales

July 19, 2006

Karlette Tunaley
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Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O Box 1360
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RE: Answers to Meadowbank Written Hearing: NIRB's Final Questions to Parties and Cumberland Resources Ltd. July 17 2006

Dear Ms Tunaley

As requested by NIRB in the letter dated July 17, 2006, the Government of Nunavut (GN) is happy to provide a response to the specific questions directed to us for the continuance of the Meadowbank final hearing; these responses are as follows:

Answer to Question #8

.....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?

The GN has contacted Cumberland Resources Ltd. and discussed the possibility of developing the details of the socio-economic monitoring plan before construction of the project begins. The Government of Nunavut, with other interested parties, will work to put in place a regional monitoring and mitigation committee to support Cumberland in the development of the socio-economic monitoring plan.

While it is not possible to respond with certainty to this question when the date for construction startup is unknown, given the amount of work on socioeconomic monitoring already undertaken by the government (and the proponent) to date, and the progress made in the development of a socio-economic monitoring regime in the Kitikmeot

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Given Cumberland's willingness to work with the government on the regional monitoring and mitigation committee, and their commitment to work on the development of the details of a socioeconomic monitoring plan, if NIRB chooses to issue a project certificate it can be confident that these objectives will be attained, and that socioeconomic monitoring will take place from the project's beginnings.

a. ...to what extent and to what level of certainty will Cumberland be able to establish the range of natural variability in its March 2007 summary report?

The 2007 Summary Report will provide specific data analyses comparing natural (before impact) to mine-related (after impact) disturbances, and there are a few examples of how these analyses have been conducted (e.g., Boulanger et al 2004, Johnson et al 2005) . We are assured that Cumberland has retained the services of a qualified biostatistician (John Boulanger) who has conducted identical analyses using very similar data sets (e.g., Boulanger et al 2004). In Cumberland's written response (Cumberland Resources response to the NIRB's April 24th 2006 letter) a number of analyses are identified that will be used to determine natural variability from mine-related variability. Further to this, Mr. Boulanger's services have also been retained by the GN Department of Environment (GN-DOE) to conduct similar region-wide analysis of caribou distribution based on regional monitoring efforts (unrelated to FEIS). The combined data available to Mr. Boulanger will provide Cumberland and the GN with the best available data with which to conduct analyses in determining population-level effects of mine-related disturbances on local caribou populations.

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