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IQA-N 5510-5-3

July 21, 2006

Stephanie Briscoe
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay,
NU, X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Briscoe,

Re: Meadowbank Gold Project – Final Closing Statements

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to participate in the continuation of the Meadowbank Gold Project final hearing through a written submission, and for providing the opportunity to review the information provided by Cumberland Resources Ltd. (CRL) throughout the entire environmental assessment process. The department has confidence in the NIRB process and looks forward to working with the Board and CRL to successfully conclude this environmental impact assessment.

All-Weather Road

CRL has adequately addressed INAC's concerns presented in its July 7, 2006 written submission. Based on the information and clarifications provided by CRL, INAC believes that there is sufficient information for the assessment of the impacts of the all-weather road. INAC is also satisfied with CRL's commitment to action the six new recommendations for the all-weather road described in the INAC July 7, 2006 submission. Should the project proceed, CRL has committed to working in cooperation with INAC and other interested parties, at the regulatory phase, to develop the all-weather road management plan that will include measures to limit non-project uses of the road.

Socio-economic Impacts

INAC views participatory monitoring as an important component of responsible resource management and sustainable economic development in Nunavut. As a key function of the regional monitoring and mitigation committee, project-specific monitoring will provide affected parties and stakeholders with a better understanding of Meadowbank's impacts at

both the hamlet and regional level. The department is satisfied with CRL's readiness to participate with regulators and administrators on the proposed Government of Nunavut-led regional monitoring and mitigation committee and looks forward to developing the details of a Meadowbank-specific socio-economic monitoring program in cooperation with CRL.

INAC is confident that CRL has fully understood and addressed the department's concerns, questions, and suggestions pertaining to anticipated cultural, social, and economic impacts. The department sees economic potential in the Meadowbank Project and are encouraged by the many positive benefits it may bring to local businesses, residents, Nunavummiut and all Canadians.

Temporary Explosives Factory

INAC is satisfied with CRL's commitment to the following: producing a site-specific emergency response plan, holding discussions on the use and storage of the mix-truck with the Hamlet of Baker Lake, and working with the appropriate regulators. The department believes this will adequately mitigate any potential environmental impacts of the mobile explosive factory.

Identification of any gaps in Cumberland's list of commitments

From INAC's perspective, there are no significant gaps in of CRL's updated July 11, 2006 list of commitments. The department supports CRL's willingness to commit to recommendations. However, INAC requests a minor correction to CRL's commitment regarding the all-weather road, which states "Should CRL maintain or operate the road beyond the current proposal, INAC suggests a subsequent environmental assessment will be required." INAC proposes that this commitment be re-worded to reflect Cumberland's involvement: "Should CRL maintain and/or operate the road beyond the current proposal, CRL commits to being supportive of any subsequent environmental assessment."

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 975-4550 or Robyn Abernethy-Gillis at (867) 975-4549.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Jim Rogers
A/Director of Operations