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Baker Lake, NU
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April 6, 2009

Ms. Leslie Payette,
Manager of Environmental Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Lpayette@nirb.ca

Dear Ms. Payette:

**Re: Request for a 12.8.2 (NLCA) Reconsideration of the Meadowbank Project
Certificate Condition 32**

On September 12, 2008, the Hamlet of Baker Lake wrote to request that the NIRB consider amending condition 32 of the Meadowbank Project Certificate to change the current restrictions against use of the Meadowbank access road by hunters. The local hunters are finding the restriction on use of this road as too restrictive. Consequently the Hamlet requested that any access control gate be relocated to the Exploration Camp (approximately km 90) thereby changing the current restriction on this road. Under this arrangement the road would be opened to local hunters to access their traditional hunting grounds. It should be noted that parts of the Meadowbank All-Weather Private Access Road (AWPAR) is constructed over top of the Hamlet's traditional ATV trail that was used to access traditional hunting grounds to the north of the community prior to the road being built and thus the "closed" restriction has resulted in interference with the communities prior access to these areas.

In the intervening months the Hamlet of Baker Lake, the Baker Lake Hunter and Trapper's Organization (HTO) and Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) have met to see if other arrangements could be made to meet the needs of the local hunters. From these discussions the Hamlet, HTO and AEM have found a solution for consideration by the NIRB.

The Hamlet of Baker Lake wants to amend his request of September 12, 2008 and replace it by the proposition summarized in the following:

1. AEM would continue to operate the road as a private access road with AEM responsible for care and maintenance;
2. AEM would continue to operate a manned gatehouse at KM 5;

3. The road would remain closed to cars and trucks owned by the public (i.e., only authorized cars and trucks would have access);
4. Residents of Baker Lake who need to access the road for traditional pursuits would obtain a pass from the Baker Lake HTO. Access would be restricted to ATV's only;
5. All ATV's accessing the road will be required to report to the gatehouse. The resident would present the pass at the AEM gatehouse and would then be given access to the road. Prior to being given access the AEM dispatch person would:
 - a. Provide a safety briefing on the road and specifically on the prevailing traffic and road conditions of the day and time;
 - b. Record who is traveling on the road, where they are heading and when they expect to return so that other traffic can be warned by radio of their presence;
 - c. Have the driver acknowledge that they are traveling on a mining road and have been informed of the risks.
6. AEM working with the HTO and Hamlet will develop a set of safety rules and procedures for all ATV's using the road including pulling off the road whenever a truck approaches. These safety rules will be published in Inuktitut and English and will be provided to all ATV's at the gatehouse. AEM and HTO and Hamlet will jointly educate the residents of Baker Lake on these safety procedures through community radio and through community training sessions;
7. AEM will make available for borrow buggy whips to be temporarily installed on any ATV using the road to improve their visibility on hills. The buggy whip would be returned to either the gatehouse or AEM Baker Lake office after its use.
8. AEM would establish a second barrier at the mine site end of the road to prevent vehicles traveling onto the active mine zone where special safety equipment and training is required under the Nunavut Mining Act. This will consist of a crossing gate constructed at the mine site airstrip terminal building (which also doubles as the site security office).
9. A no shooting zone would be established along the road so that mine workers and travellers are not inadvertently exposed to risk of accidental shooting. In other words it would be against the rules to shoot from the road or across the road.
10. Future access to the road by individuals who consistently do not respect the rules on safety, speed and the no shooting zone when using the road would be refused by AEM when warranted.

This compromise maintains the road as a closed private access road but accommodates the needs of local hunters to continue their traditional pursuits.

Regards,



David Aksawnee
Mayor

CC : HTO: 793-2034