



Via email: Stephane.Robert@agnico-eagle.com

Re: Application Acknowledgement and Additional Information Required for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion" Project Proposal

Dear Stéphane Robert:

On February 4, 2010 the NIRB received Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion" project proposal from AEM. On February 10, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed correspondence which requested that the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) provide a conformity determination for the proposed activity, and also that agencies responsible for authorizing the project activities advise the NIRB of any such requirements.

On March 2, 2010 the NIRB received notification from the Nunavut Planning Commission that no conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) would be required for the “Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion” project proposal. On April 15, 2010 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) advised the NIRB that AEM’s application to expand the Meadowbank airstrip would require an amendment to the original NWB water license (2AM-MEA0815). Further, on April 18, 2010 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) advised the NIRB that the proposed expansion of the Meadowbank airstrip would require authorization by DFO.

As you are aware, the original Meadowbank Gold Mine project (NIRB File No. 03MN107) was screened by the NIRB in 2003 and underwent an environmental Review pursuant to Part 5, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). The NIRB held a technical meeting, pre-hearing conference, and final hearing to facilitate its assessment of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project. On December 30, 2006 the Board issued the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate (No. 004), allowing the project to proceed subject to terms and conditions contained therein.

Upon review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and other materials relevant to the original NIRB file (03MN107), the Board has determined that the proposed expansion of the Meadowbank airstrip into Third Portage Lake was not assessed as part of the original Meadowbank Gold Mine project and therefore, the proposed Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion requires screening in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the NLCA (please see Appendix A: Supporting Documents).

The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **10XN039** – please reference this number in all future related correspondence. All documents received and pertaining to this specific project proposal include:

- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in Inuktitut*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *AEM Letter to KIA Re Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion*
- *AEM Letter to NIRB Re Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion*
- *AEM Letter to NPC Re Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion*
- *AEM Letter to NWB Re Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion*
- *Fisheries and Oceans Canada Application Form in English*
- *Detailed Project Proposal in English*

The NIRB has undertaken a preliminary completeness check and finds that your project proposal does **not** contain sufficient information for the NIRB to permit proper screening. Specifically, the NIRB is requesting that AEM submit the following information by **May 21, 2010**:

- *NIRB Project Specific Information Requirements Part 2 Form*
- *Documentation explaining how AEM intends to address commitments previously made by Cumberland Resources Ltd. in the FEIS, other project related documents and during the Final Hearing; how the proposed airstrip expansion will affect impact predictions made in the initial project application; and a preliminary prediction of impacts the proposed expansion may have on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environments*

Please forward all forthcoming submissions to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (867) 983-4615 or via email at ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Dave Balint, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Appendices: Appendix A: Supporting Documents

APPENDIX A: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. *Excerpt from Cumberland Resources Ltd.'s Project Alternatives Report for the Meadowbank Gold Project*, submitted October 2005. Pp 3-31. Full document available at ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/PREVIOUS_REVIEWS/03MN107-MEADOWBANK/02-REVIEW/08-FINAL_EIS/174_051108-CRL-FEIS-MB-ITAE/SUPPORTING_DOCS/004project%20alternative/.
2. *Excerpt from Cumberland Resources Ltd.'s FEIS Appendix F: Conformity Submission Letters to NIRB (April 30th 2005 – Conformity Letter Submission #2 F.2)*, submitted October 2005. Pp 23-24. Full document available at ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/PREVIOUS_REVIEWS/03MN107-MEADOWBANK/02-REVIEW/08-FINAL_EIS/174_051108-CRL-FEIS-MB-ITAE/FEIS%20Part2%20Appendices/Appendices/.
3. Cumberland Resources Ltd. letter to Derrick Moggy, DFO, submitted March 9, 2006. Document available at ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/PREVIOUS_REVIEWS/03MN107-MEADOWBANK/02-REVIEW/08-FINAL_EIS/ADDITIONAL_INFORMATION/250_060309-CRL-Ltr-MB-DFO_AirstripExtension-ITAE.pdf.
4. Environment Canada Memorandum to NIRB Re *Summary of Water Quality Discussions between Environment Canada and Cumberland Resources Ltd.*, submitted March 7, 2006. Document available at ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/PREVIOUS_REVIEWS/03MN107-MEADOWBANK/02-REVIEW/08-FINAL_EIS/ADDITIONAL_INFORMATION/246_060309-EC-Memo-EC_Additional_Information-ITAE.pdf.