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Department of Sustainable Development

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Ministère du Développement Durable May 31, 2003

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Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU XOB 1J0

VIA: Facsimile 867 360-6369

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Dear Mr. di Pizzo:

## Re: Application for Water License – Meadowbank Gold Project NWB File # NWB1MEA

From your correspondence of May 8, 2003, it is our understanding that NWB is seeking initial comments and deficiencies in the water license application and supporting documents of the above noted project.

Our initial review supports the conclusion that additional information is needed to assess the application. We also recognize that much of this information may be available later in 2003 within the Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement.

The Government of Nunavut does not have regulatory authority over mining and associated activities in Nunavut. Our Environmental Protection Act, which prohibits the discharge of a contaminant into the environment, applies to the whole of Nunavut, however, Section 2.(2) exempts persons who are authorized under an Act of Parliament to conduct activities which may be in contravention of the EPA. Federally-issued mining licences are examples of this exemption.

Regulatory jurisdiction notwithstanding, the GN has a responsibility to monitor all activities that have the potential for affecting, both positively and negatively, our environment and Nunavut's communities. In this case, the GN acts as a "watchdog". We use existing GN legislation and associated guidelines as a basis for our review and assessment. Consideration of these legislations, particularly those related to environmental protection and heritage/archeological sites, would be an important consideration in any license application we would review. Our initial review of this

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Ministère du Développement Durable application and supporting document indicates that GN legislation have not been considered.

We welcome this opportunity to participate in the review of the license application and the additional documents to be completed this year. If you have any questions, please contact me at (867) 975-5910.

Sincerely,

9755980

Earle Baddaloo

Manager, Environmental Protection Services

C.c: Alex Campbell, Deputy Minister DSD

Brock Junkin, Regional Director, Kivalliq

 Box 1000, Stn 1195 Iqaluit, NU

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