



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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