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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

August 25, 2003

By Email Only

Ms. Leslie Cousins
Nunavut Implementation Panel
Support Group
Ottawa ON

Subject: Funding Submission for Public Hearing 2003-04
Meadowbank Gold Project– NWB File # NWB1MEA

Dear Ms. Cousins,

Please find enclosed a funding submission to the Nunavut Implementation Panel (“NIP”) outlining the financial requirements of the Nunavut Water Board (“NWB”) to review an application by Cumberland Resources Ltd. (“Cumberland”) to obtain a water licence for the Meadowbank Gold Project. This funding application covers the September 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004 period.

On March 31, 2003, Cumberland submitted to the NWB a water licence application, supplementary questionnaire, and a project description report. Pursuant to section 38 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (“Act”), the NWB may not issue, amend or renew a licence if there is an applicable land use plan approved in accordance with Part 4 of Article 11 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (“Agreement”) unless the Nunavut Planning Commission (“NPC”) has determined that the application conforms to the land use plan. Additionally, pursuant to section 39 of the Act, the NWB may not issue, amend or renew a licence until the Nunavut Impact Review Board (“NIRB”) has completed the environmental screening or review of the application.

Following an initial internal review, the NWB accepted the application and forwarded it to the NPC for conformity with the Keewatin Land Use Plan. On July 18, the NPC determined that the application was in conformity with the land use plan and forwarded it to the NIRB for environmental screening. However, NIRB has not yet completed its determination but the NWB expects to hold public hearings once the environmental assessment is completed. We anticipate that these hearings will take place in the 2004-05 period. Meanwhile, the NWB has begun its technical review of the file in order to identify preliminary issues related to its jurisdiction. These activities are outlined in the enclosed budget submission.

Do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or email should you have any question.

Sincerely,

Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director

Encl. Funding Submission