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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

NWB File No: NWB2MEA0002

February 27, 2001

Brian Alexander
Cumberland Resources Ltd.
906-595 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2T5

Re: Short-Interim Approval

Dear Mr. Alexander:

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB) acknowledges receipt on February 26, 2001 of your fax of the same day and your letter of February 23, 2001 with your request for short interim approval to mobilize field personnel.

Permit NWB2MEA0002 was issued on May 2, 2000 and doesn't expire till May 2, 2002. Part B Item 2 of the permit requests that NWB be notified of any changes in operating plans and conditions. Your fax serves as notification that field personnel will be mobilized on March 22nd, 2001, with drilling starting approximately the first week of April.

Your fax mentions Item 13.5.5 of the NCLA with regards to your request for interim approval prior to the completion of KIA review. Item 13.5.5 can only be used by the NWB when a water application is undergoing development impact review or screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). Cumberland already has approval under permit NWB2MEA0002 and has complied with NWB requirements of notification.

However, KIA approval is still necessary prior to any land use. Part A, Item 1 of the permit indicates that even if the requirements of the NWB are met, this "does not absolve the Permittee from responsibility for compliance with all applicable legislation, guidelines, or directives."

If you have any questions with regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rita" and last name "Becker" clearly distinguishable.

Rita Becker
Licensing Administrator

cc. KIA Lands Manager
Philippe Lavalley, DIAND Inspector
Greg Cook, DIAND-YK
Paul Smith, DIAND-Iqaluit
Paula Pacholek, EC
Chris Nichols, DSD
Gladys Joudrey, NIRB