



April 11, 2003

Phyllis Beaulieu
A/Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

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Re: Amendment for Meadowbank Exploration Program – Cumberland Resources
NIRB:#03EA018 NWB: #NWB2MEA0204

Enclosed is the completed NIRB Screening Decision Report for the application for an amendment to water licence for exploration program at Meadowbank River Area.


NIRB has screened this application for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the proposal.

NIRB's indication to the Minister is:

The decision of the Board in this case is 12.4.4(a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;

Please contact Stephanie Briscoe, Executive Director at (867) 983-2593 if you have any questions about the Screening Report.

Yours truly,


Jørgen Komak
Environmental Technology

Jørgen Komak
Environmental Technologist
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
Tel: (867) 983-2593 Fax: (867) 983-2574

The decision of the Board in this case is 12.4.4 (a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;

Reasons for Decision:

NIRB's decision is based on specific considerations that reflect the primary objectives of the Land Claims Agreement. Our considerations in making this decision included:

- the impact of drilling activities on the ecosystem;
- disposal of drill cuttings and waste water;
- impact to water quality, aquatic habitat and wildlife and fish populations from chemicals, drill waste, drill fluids and potential fuel spills;
- storage and disposal of chemicals, fuel, garbage, sewage, and gray water, and impact of these on the ecosystem;
- the impact of noise from drilling activities and their disturbance to wildlife and traditional users of area;
- the impact of campsite and equipment on terrain;
- the impact of exploration activities on archaeological sites or cultural landmarks in the area; and
- clean up/restoration of the camp site and drilling locations upon abandonment.

Terms and Conditions:

That the terms and conditions attached to this screening report will apply.

Trenching

1. The Permittee shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of sediment, wastes or fuels associated with the project into any water body. According to the Fisheries Act, Section 36(3), the deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water is prohibited.
2. Surface runoff management techniques should be implemented (such as berming of trenches to prevent surface water from flowing into them) to minimize water accumulation in the trenches and eventual discharge to the environment
3. Any water that accumulates in the trenches should be tested prior to discharge (including for suspended solids, ammonia and metals) to ensure the freshwater aquatic life is protected.
4. The trenches and stockpiles should be located above the ordinary high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to ensure that no sediment or runoff can enter any water body frequented by fish.

Fuel Vaults

5. Given that such large quantities of fuel will be stored on site, it is recommended that a secondary system with an impervious liner, such as self supporting insta-barn, be used.
6. All fuel caches and spill basins are to be located above the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to ensure that the contents do not enter any water body.
7. An updated spill contingency plan be submitted to account for the increased amount of fuel being stored on site. This plan should outline a clear path of response in the event of a spill. All spills shall be documented and reported to the NWT Spill Response Line at (867) 920-8130.

All other terms and conditions and other recommendations issued on Screening Decision # 02ER026 on March 20, 2002 shall remain the same and apply to this amendment.

Validity of Land Claims Agreement**Section 2.12.2**

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated March 20/03 at Arviat, NU


Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson