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February 28th 2000

Rita Becker
Licencing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut XOE 1J0

Meadowbank Gold Project, NWB2MEA9899

I am responding to your letter, dated February 21st 2000, regarding a water licence renewal for the Meadowbank Gold Project owned by Cumberland Resources Limited, NWB2MEA9899.

I noted the applicant:

- Upgraded the project's fuel storage system in 1999 through the installation of bulk, double walled tanks thus reducing the need to handle and utilize the smaller diesel fuel drums. These actions are fully supported. Any empty fuel drums should be removed from the site.
- Utilizes natural depressions for grey water disposal. The applicant should be encouraged to design and construct pits to some engineering standard so they enhance the degradation of organic material and dispersion of liquids.
- Intends to return drill water to the lake if *free of cuttings*. We recommend drill water be disposed in a sump located at least 30 metres from water bodies such as lakes and drainage systems. This will help ensure compliance with Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* as well as protect general water quality in the area.

The applicant should be encouraged to continue with environmental studies which would better characterize the acid rock drainage potential of the host rock, given the percentage of sulphide in the mineralization. Information from such studies would be very helpful in supporting a possible future proposal to open pit mine the deposit.

Please call (669-4737) should you wish to discuss the comments.

Carey Ogilvie
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Northern Division