



Environment Environnement  
Canada Canada

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Our file: 4703 001 015

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**RE: NIRB 03EA018 – Cumberland Resources Ltd. – Amendment to the Meadowbank Exploration Program**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Cumberland Resources Inc. is proposing to expand their current exploratory program located at the Meadowbank Gold project, located 70 km north of Baker Lake, to include exploratory trenching and the installation of additional fuel vaults. The main component of the exploratory trenching program is being proposed for the Vault Deposit, during which six (6) trenches will be constructed, disturbing 0.30 ha of land. A smaller trenching program is also being proposed for the Third Portage deposit, where one (1) trench would be constructed, which would require approximately 0.26 ha of land. The proponent indicates that there are no concerns with metal leaching of rock. The proposed fuel vault will hold four (4) 75,000 L double walled fuel vaults in the north camp, adjacent to those previously installed.

The following comments recommendations should be applied throughout all phases of the project:

**Exploratory Trenching**

- The proponent 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 deposition of 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.
- Surface runoff management techniques should be implemented (such as the berming of trenches to prevent surface water from flowing into them) to minimize water accumulation in the trenches and eventual discharge to the environment.
- 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.
- 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**

- Given that such large quantities of fuel will be stored on site, EC recommends that a secondary containment system with an impervious liner, such as self-supporting instalberms, be used
- All fuel caches and spill basins are to be located above the highwater mark of any water body and in such a manner as to ensure that the contents do not enter any water body.
- Environment Canada requests that 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.

If there are any changes to the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or by email at [colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca](mailto:colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,

Colette Meloche  
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Mike Fournier, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)