



Environment Environnement  
Canada Canada

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Our file: 4703 001 015

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Via Email at [licensingtrainee.nwb.nunavut.ca](mailto:licensingtrainee.nwb.nunavut.ca)

**RE: NWB2MEA – Cumberland Resources Ltd. – Meadowbank Gold Exploration Project – Abandonment and Restoration Plan**

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 Ltd. has submitted a revised Abandonment and Restoration Plan (A&R Plan) for the exploration work being conducted at the Meadowbank Gold Project, located 70 km north of Baker Lake.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- Environment Canada recommends that during the period when barreled fuel will be used on site due to the fuel tanks having been decommissioned, secondary containment such as self supporting insta-berms be used to help prevent any contamination of the land from occurring.
- Environment Canada requests information regarding the procedure that will be followed to clean/rinse the fuel tanks prior to their demobilization from the site.
- The Plan seems to rely heavily on the interest of local citizens to accept infrastructure for personal use. Environment Canada recommends that Cumberland Resources Ltd. design the A&R Plan under the assumption that they will be responsible for removing/disposing of all equipment on site in the event that local citizens are not interested in the materials available.
- Section 3.5 and 3.6 of the A&R Plan make reference to seeding the trenched areas and the airstrip to promote revegetation, while other areas of the A&R Plan refer only to fertilizing to promote revegetation. Revegetation plans should be consistent throughout the A&R Plan.
- The A&R Plan currently does not address reclamation plans for roadways at the site, including the transportation route to Baker Lake. Environment Canada recommends that roadways be included in the A&R Plan.
- The A&R Plan currently does not address the potential need for the reclamation of contaminated soils at the site. Cumberland Resources Ltd. should be prepared to perform soil and/or water sampling to ensure that no hydrocarbon contamination is present on site.



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If there are any changes in 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.spagnuolo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:colette.spagnuolo@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,

***Original signed by***

Colette Spagnuolo  
Environmental Assessment / Contaminated Sites Specialist

cc: (Stephen Harbicht, Head, Assessment and Monitoring, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)