

NIRB File No. 11EN018 INAC File No. 5510-5-1 CIDM # 461857

May 11, 2011

Rosanne D'Orazio Environmental Assessment Coordinator Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Nunavut Regional Office Iqaluit, NU

Sent via email: rosanne.dorazio@inac.gc.ca

Re: Receipt of INAC Comments for NIRB's Screening for Uranium North Resources
Corp's "Aura" Project Proposal

Dear Rosanne D'Orazio:

On April 28, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) invited parties to comment on Uranium North Resources Corp's "Aura" Project Proposal that the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) forwarded to NIRB. In the enclosed comment submission to the NIRB, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) noted that on April 28, 2011 INAC's Lands Administration division forwarded a Class A Land Use Permit application (N2011C0012) associated with this project proposal to NIRB for screening. INAC further noted that best practice would suggest that the applications associated with project activities on Inuit Owned Lands submitted by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) and project activities on Crown Land submitted by INAC be screened by NIRB as one project. The NIRB can confirm that all project activities associated with this project proposal, including those associated with the KivIA, INAC and the Nunavut Water Board applications, are being considered within the scope of the assessment for this screening.

The NIRB recognizes it may be useful to INAC and others for the Board to clarify its administrative intake procedures in this particular instance, for future reference. For project proposals in areas with approved land use plans, the NIRB's screening process (and 45 day or less screening timeline) is triggered upon receipt of a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) pursuant to Section 12.3.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). As the Nunavut Planning Commission regularly issues conformity determinations on an application by application basis, the NIRB's screening process is frequently triggered upon receipt of the first application ¹ referred to it, rather than upon receipt of a project proposal consisting of all applications required to carry out the project.

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¹ That is, applications for projects which are not exempt from Screening pursuant to NLCA Schedule 12(1)

Upon receipt of an application requiring screening, the NIRB's administrative procedures require a preliminary completeness check to be conducted by the Board's Technical Services department. It is through this process that the NIRB determines whether its minimum information requirements have been satisfied², and verifies the status of the land tenure³ and the authorizations required for the project proposal in question. While it is essential that the NIRB determine which authorizing agencies it will be required to ultimately report its screening recommendations to, if the Board is not in receipt of all permit/licence applications associated with required authorizations it does not necessarily delay screening the project proposal. At all times the NIRB's minimum information requirements include a positive conformity determination from NPC (if required), a formal indication from an authorizing agency that the application is being considered (i.e. a referral for screening), and completed NIRB Forms or equivalent.

For the INAC application (N2011C0012) associated with this particular screening, the NIRB was aware that an authorization from INAC would be required as this had been identified by the Proponent in its completed NIRB Part 1 Form and verified by NIRB technical staff through the process outlined above. Upon distributing notice of screening to the public, it is NIRB's practice to carbon-copy the potential authorizing agencies in the "cc" line at the bottom of the letter, which was also done for this screening. Once the Board has reached a decision for this file it will report its recommendations to all of the authorizing agencies that have been identified, including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The NIRB appreciates the continued participation of INAC's Environment division in the Board's assessment processes. If you have any questions or require additional clarification regarding the NIRB's procedures or best practices, please contact the undersigned directly.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Ryan Barry

Director, Technical Services Nunavut Impact Review Board (867) 983-4608; rbarry@nirb.ca

cc: Margaux Brisco, INAC
Jeff Mercer, INAC
Luis Manzo, KivIA
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB
Brian Aglukark, NPC

Enclosed: INAC Comment Submission to NIRB Re 11EN018 (May 6, 2011)

² Generally this includes submission of completed NIRB forms and associated translated materials

³ Internal GIS assessment and NIRB Project Location Report completed by Manager, Information Services