



NIRB File No.: 09EN067

November 27, 2009

Dean Besserer, VP  
Weststar Resources Corporation  
Suite 1128 – West Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6C 1H2

Via email: [dbesserer@apexgeoscience.com](mailto:dbesserer@apexgeoscience.com)

**Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Weststar's "Ellesmere Island Coal Exploration" project proposal**

Dear Dean Besserer:

On August 14, 2009 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the "Ellesmere Island Coal Exploration" project proposal directly from Weststar Resources Corporation's (Weststar; the Proponent). On August 18, 2009 the NIRB wrote to Weststar, notifying it that the proposed project appeared to be located in an area which required conformity to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). On October 9, 2009 this project proposal was referred to the NIRB for screening by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in accordance with Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On October 23, 2009 NIRB received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 09EN067.

On October 23, 2009 the NIRB invited interested parties and municipalities most affected by this project proposal to comment directly to the Board by November 9, 2009 (later extended to November 25, 2009).

On or before November 25, 2009 NIRB received comments from the following parties:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Government of Nunavut – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (GN-CLEY)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
- Transport Canada (TC)
- Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment (GN-DoE)

All comment submissions received pertaining to the screening of this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/09EN067-Weststar%20Resources%20Corporation/1-SCREENING/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/>

A summary of concerns raised by parties is as follows:

- potential for disturbance to identified and unidentified archaeological/paleontological resources (i.e. paleoeskimo sites and fossil forest sites),
- potential impacts to caribou and muskox critical habitat and calving areas,
- concerns regarding details in the fuel storage and spill contingency plans,
- concerns regarding absence of socio-economic benefits from the project,
- access to Inuit owned lands will be withheld by QIA, and
- authorizations under the *Navigable Waters Protection Program* may be required.

NIRB would like to provide the Proponent with an opportunity to address these concerns prior to the Board making its indication to the Minister. NIRB requests that a response be provided directly to the Board by **December 7, 2009**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4619 or [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard  
Technical Advisor

cc: Distribution List  
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