NIRB File No. 08EN037
INAC File No. N2008C0009
KIA File No. KVL106B208
NWB File No. 2BE-GAR0710

October 8, 2008

To: The Garry Lake Distribution List

Re: **Commencement of the NIRB's Part 5 Review of Uravan Minerals Inc.'s Garry Lake Project**

Dear Parties:

On March 14, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a land use application from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) for Uravan Minerals Inc.'s (Uravan; the Proponent) Garry Lake uranium exploration project proposal. On April 1, 2008 NIRB received a positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this project. Uravan's project proposal also includes applications for a water license with the Nunavut Water Board and a land use permit with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The NIRB screened the Garry Lake project proposal (the Project) in accordance with Part 4 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), and on June 27, 2008 issued a screening decision report to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (the Minister), recommending a review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the NLCA. Pursuant to Section 12.4.7 of the NLCA, on September 25, 2008 the NIRB received correspondence from the Minister, referring the Project to the NIRB for a review of the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts under Part 5 of Article 12 of the NLCA.

Pursuant to Section 12.5.4 of the NLCA, the Minister asked that "*the Board structure the review in a manner that will facilitate a thorough, yet expeditious review of the project*". Additionally, the Minister stated his support for focusing the scope of the review on the Project's impacts and cumulative impacts on wildlife habitat and Inuit wildlife harvesting. Specifically, the issues that warrant further review include:

- *Impacts of the project activities to caribou, with particular emphasis on calving activities;*
- *Potential impacts to wildlife habitat, particularly the caribou calving grounds of the Beverly herd;*

- *Potential cumulative impacts of this project, in relation to other similar projects in the region, to caribou, caribou calving grounds, and across caribou ranges.*
- *Other impacts to wildlife including raptor nesting areas, potential human-carnivore conflicts and aircraft disturbances.*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PLEASE NOTE: all information pertaining to the Garry Lake project proposal can be accessed on the NIRB's ftp site using the following link:
http://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT_REVIEWS/08EN037-URAVAN_GARRY_LAKE/

The proposed project is located in the Garry Lake area of the Kivalliq Region. The nearest community is Baker Lake, approximately 235 km to the Southeast. The project is located approximately 65 km East-northeast of the Thelon Game Sanctuary, within the Caribou Protection Area (as designated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) and the traditional caribou calving area of the Beverly caribou herd.

Uravan intends to conduct exploration activities for uranium on both Inuit Owned Lands and Crown Lands, including: constructing and operating permanent and temporary camps; diamond drilling; prospecting; mapping; and ground geochemical sampling. The Garry Lake exploration camp would be a permanent camp used during the summer-fall field seasons and late winter (mid March to mid June), then temporarily shut down. Uravan also proposes to use a mobile camp to accommodate winter drilling. The mobile camp would be brought to drilling areas using a wide track Sno-Cat type vehicle.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The following presents a summary of the major activities and components comprising the Garry Lake project:

- **Exploration for uranium mineralization,** including; airborne geophysical surveys geological prospecting; ground geochemical sampling; mapping; and diamond drilling;
- **Construction and operation of camp sites**, including: permanent exploration camp and mobile temporary camp;
- **Ground transportation**, including: Sno-Cat type vehicle (mobile camp and equipment transport for winter drilling); and snow machines and all terrain vehicles (use around camp, maintenance of landing area);
- **Airborne transportation**, including: fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters;
- **Transport and storage of fuel**, including: diesel; gasoline; aviation fuel; and propane;
- **Water usage**, including: drill activities; and camp usage;

- **Disposal of wastes**, including: sewage; greywater; combustible wastes; and non-combustible wastes.

To facilitate the environmental review of the Project, the Proponent will be expected to fulfil the requirements of those agencies with jurisdictional authority over the Project. These include, but may not be limited to: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA), and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The Proponent is encouraged to conduct where necessary, further research to discover any additional authorizing agencies with a mandated responsibility regarding the approvals required for the Project.

SCOPING AND EIS GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT

Scoping

The first step in the NIRB's Part 5 review process is to **scope** the project proposal and the potential impacts associated with developing the Project. Scoping is a process that pinpoints significant issues requiring study and analysis. This process aims to identify those components of the biophysical and/or socio-economic environment that may be impacted by the project and for which there is public concern. The NIRB will solicit input from the Proponent and interested Parties, including Territorial and Federal Government departments, Regional Inuit Associations, and members of the public, in order to determine:

- Which components of the project to include in the review;
- The temporal and spatial boundaries of the project;
- The issues and concerns to be considered in the review (e.g. different impacts; accidents and malfunctions, etc); and
- Any other requirements for the assessment of the project proposal.

The NIRB has drafted a preliminary Scope of the Garry Lake project, and requests a discussion of the items contained therein (see **Appendix A**). The NIRB invites all parties to review the appended *Draft* Scope and to provide comments based on their area of expertise and/or mandate, on or before **Wednesday, October 29, 2008**.

The NIRB scoping process requires the development of a public participation and awareness program intended to engage the public during the early stages of the review process in order to facilitate meaningful consultation with those communities potentially affected by the Garry Lake Project. The NIRB will consult with the public and interested parties to identify Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs) that should be addressed by the Proponent's *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement.

EIS Guideline Development

Section 12.5.2 of the NLCA directs the NIRB to issue project specific guidelines to the Proponent for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS is a detailed document prepared by the Proponent in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NIRB which identifies, predicts, evaluates, and communicates information about the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of a project proposal. An EIS also provides for the identification and

development of mitigation measures – measures designed to control, reduce, or eliminate potentially adverse impacts of an activity or project.

The NIRB will draw on information obtained during scoping and the development of EIS guidelines, and will circulate draft guidelines to interested Parties, offering an opportunity for comment. The NIRB will then integrate those recommendations it considers appropriate, finalize the guidelines, and issue them to the Proponent for the preparation of a *Draft* EIS.

Section 12.5.2 of the NLCA contains a list of information to be included, where appropriate, in an EIS (NIRB's 10 Minimum EIS Requirements) and grants NIRB the authority to add, "*any other matters that NIRB considers relevant*." For more information on the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements and a list of requirements that Proponents must comply with, please see the NIRB's *Guide 7 – The Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements* (available at http://ftp.nirb.ca/GUIDES/).

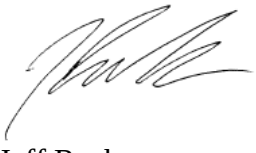
The Board has scheduled a public Scoping and Guideline Development Workshop in the community of Baker Lake, **November 5 – 7, 2008** for the Part 5 Review of the Uravan Garry Lake project.

The NIRB would like to encourage the participation of all agencies with jurisdictional authority over the Project and/or with technical expertise to offer regarding the assessment and management of caribou and caribou calving grounds in the Project area. Parties wishing to make a formal presentation during the workshop are asked to advise the NIRB as soon as possible to permit scheduling.

Again, the NIRB requests comments on the *Draft* Scope for the Garry Lake Project by **Wednesday, October 29, 2008**. Please forward all comments to the NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration, Leslie Payette, at lpayette@nirb.ca, or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the NIRB's Part 5 Review of the Uravan Garry Lake Project, please contact the NIRB's technical advisor, Ryan Barry, at rbarry@nirb.ca or by phone (867) 983-4608.

Sincerely,



Jeff Rusk
Director, Technical Services

Attachments: Appendix A: Draft Scope of the NIRB's Review of the Uravan Garry Lake Project

APPENDIX A
Draft Scope of the NIRB's Review of the Uravan Garry Lake project

Based on the applications received and the requirements of the NLCA, the following list comprises the *Draft* Scope of the NIRB review:

1. Nunavut Land Claims Agreement – Section 12.5.2, (items a – j)

a) Project description, including the purpose and need for the project;
b) Anticipated ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the project;
c) Anticipated effects of the environment on the project;
d) Steps which the Proponent proposes to take including any contingency plans, to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts;
e) Steps which the Proponent proposes to take to optimize benefits of the Project, with specific consideration being given to expressed community and regional preferences as to benefits;
f) Steps which the Proponent proposes to compensate interests adversely affected by the Project;
g) The monitoring program that the Proponent proposes to establish with respect to ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts;
h) The interests in land and waters which the Proponent has secured, or seeks to secure;
i) Options for implementing the proposal; and
j) Any other matters that NIRB considers relevant.

2. Garry Lake project components

The following is a description of the physical works and undertakings that constitute the Garry Lake project proposal. These components have the potential to cause significant adverse effects on the ecosystem, wildlife, or Inuit harvesting activities, and are therefore included in the scope of the project.

- **Exploration for uranium mineralization,** including; airborne geophysical surveys geological prospecting; ground geochemical sampling; mapping; and diamond drilling;

- **Construction and operation of camp sites**, including: permanent exploration camp and mobile temporary camp;

- **Ground transportation**, including: Sno-Cat type vehicle (mobile camp and equipment transport for winter drilling); and snow machines and all terrain vehicles (use around camp, maintenance of landing area);

- **Airborne transportation**, including: fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters;

- **Transport and storage of fuel**, including: diesel; gasoline; aviation fuel; and propane;

- **Water usage**, including: drill activities; and camp usage;

- **Disposal of wastes**, including: sewage; greywater; combustible wastes; and non-combustible wastes.

3. Scoping List

The scope of the environmental assessment is intended to address the potential impacts of the Project components listed in Section 2 above, (items a-f) on the environmental components, considering both a spatial and temporal scale.

As such, the scoping list and resulting analysis shall address the effects of the construction, operation, modification, decommissioning, abandonment, and reclamation of each of the Project components on the environmental factors listed below.

a) Biophysical environment, including hydrology and hydrogeology; groundwater quality; surface water and sediment quality; atmosphere (including climate change, air quality, and noise factors); landforms and soils; and vegetation;
b) Caribou, with particular emphasis on caribou calving activities;
c) Caribou habitat, particularly the caribou calving grounds of the Beverly herd;
d) Human/carnivore interactions;
e) Raptor nesting areas;
f) Cumulative effects of the project in relation to other similar projects in the region, to caribou, caribou calving grounds, and across caribou ranges;
g) Inuit harvesting;
h) Transboundary effects;
i) Traditional knowledge; and
j) Other factors