

NIRB File No. 08EN037

November 20, 2008

TO: Uravan Garry Lake Distribution List

RE: <u>Draft EIS Guidelines for the NIRB's Part 5 Review of the Garry Lake Project</u>

Dear Parties,

Pursuant to Section 12.5.2¹ of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is now soliciting public comments on the attached *Draft* set of project-specific guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by Uravan Minerals Inc. (the Proponent) for the Garry Lake project.

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. For more information on the preparation of an EIS, please see the NIRB's *Guide 7: Guide to the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements*, available for download on the NIRB's ftp site: http://ftp.nirb.ca/GUIDES/.

The attached draft guidelines have been developed following a public scoping period and Public Scoping and Guideline Development Workshop held in Baker Lake, November 5-7, 2008. A summary report from this workshop provides more background on the NIRB's scoping process, and is available for download on the NIRB's ftp site:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/REVIEWS/CURRENT_REVIEWS/08EN037-URAVAN_GARRY_LAKE/2-REVIEW/03-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/SCOPING/

The NIRB invites all parties to review the attached *Draft* EIS Guidelines and provide comments to the Board based on their area of expertise and/or mandate, on or before 12 pm MST, Friday, December 12, 2008.

¹ "When a project proposal has been referred to NIRB by the Minister for review, NIRB shall, upon soliciting any advice it considers appropriate, issue guidelines to the proponent for the preparation of an impact statement. It is the responsibility of the proponent to prepare an impact statement in accordance with any guidelines established by NIRB…" – from Section 12.5.2 of the NLCA

All parties are asked to ensure that their comments reference the page, section, paragraph and item numbers of the Draft EIS Guidelines where relevant. All Parties requiring a hardcopy of the Proponent's future EIS submission are also asked to forward their mailing address and number of required copies to the NIRB with their comment submission. Please note that a Glossary has not been included in the current draft Guidelines, but will be included in the finalized document.

Pursuant to Section 12.5.4 of the NLCA, upon referral of the Project to NIRB for review, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has asked that "the Board structure the review in a manner that will facilitate a thorough, yet expeditious review of the project". To this end, upon receipt of comments from parties on December 12, 2008 the NIRB will endeavor to consider the comments it receives from Parties, finalize the document, and issue the EIS Guidelines to the Proponent as efficiently as possible.

Please forward your comment submissions to the attention of NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration, Leslie Payette, no later than 12 pm MST, Friday, December 12, 2008.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at <u>rbarry@nirb.ca</u> or (867) 983-4608.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Technical Advisor, NIRB

Ryan Barry

Attach: 081120-08EN037-Draft EIS Guidelines