

NIRB File No. 08EN037 INAC File No. N2008C0009

KIA File No. KVL106B208 NWB File No. 2BE-GAR0710

March 5, 2010

Mr. Larry Lahusen Chief Executive Officer Uravan Minerals Inc. Calgary, AB

Via email: llahusen@uravanminerals.com

Re: <u>Uravan Minerals Inc.'s request for guidance concerning the EIS Guidelines for the Garry Lake Project</u>

Dear Mr. Lahusen,

On February 17, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received correspondence from Uravan Minerals Inc. (Uravan) regarding the results of its review of the *Final Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Uravan Minerals Inc.'s Garry Lake Project* (EIS Guidelines). Uravan also provided a report it had commissioned to better understand the scope and cost for completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the EIS Guidelines issued by the Board. Guidance was requested from the NIRB by Uravan, regarding the requirement of an EIS submission in light of its review of the EIS Guidelines and associated cost estimate for the preparation of an EIS.

As you are aware, on September 25, 2008 the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (the Minister) referred the Garry Lake Project to NIRB for a Part 5 Review under Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Pursuant to Section 12.5.2 of the NLCA, 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".

The NIRB developed the EIS Guidelines for the Garry Lake Project (NIRB File No. 08EN037) based on the information contained within applications comprising the original January 2008 *Garry Lake Project Propos*al as submitted by Uravan, as well as the results of NIRB's public scoping process. The scoping period began on October 8, 2008 and continued through to the conclusion of the NIRB Public Scoping and Guideline Development Workshop in Baker Lake on November 7, 2008. During the scoping period, the NIRB reviewed with the public the *Garry* 

Lake Project Proposal prepared by Uravan and solicited and received oral and written comments from individual members of the public, government, and representatives of various groups regarding the issues to be included in the environmental review.

An EIS is an explicit requirement of the Part 5 Review process established by the NLCA; an EIS developed in accordance with the issued guidelines will serve as the basis for NIRB's review of the Project, and will enable the Board and interested parties to understand and assess the potential for related adverse and beneficial environmental and socio-economic effects. The EIS Guidelines clearly describe the expectation that Uravan will rely heavily on the use of existing information and identify knowledge gaps encountered in the existing information sources (see Section 2.7: Use of Existing Information). Additionally, although the Board expects Uravan to observe the intent of the EIS Guidelines, Section 2.6: Study Strategy and Methodology states as follows:

"It is possible that the EIS guidelines include matters that, in the judgement of the Proponent, are not relevant or significant to the Project. If such matters are omitted from the EIS, they must be clearly indicated so that the public and other interested parties have an opportunity to comment on this judgement...The Proponent is advised to consult with the NIRB on any issues within these Guidelines on which it plans significant deviation"

As the Board has indicated in previous correspondences to Uravan, the NIRB's review of the Garry Lake Project cannot proceed further until a submission which conforms to the issued EIS Guidelines is submitted by Uravan for the NIRB's consideration. Should Uravan choose to proceed with the Part 5 Review process and compile an EIS for the Garry Lake Project, you are encouraged to contact the NIRB directly regarding any specific EIS Guideline items which might require further clarification.

If you have any additional questions on the process moving forward, please feel free to contact me directly at the number below.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Director, Technical Services

(867) 983-4608

Ryan Barry

Cc: Uravan Distribution List