

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

July 4, 2011

Mr. Larry Lahusen  
Chief Executive Officer  
UraVan Minerals Inc.  
2526 Battleford Avenue SW, Suite 204  
Calgary, AB T3E 7J4

Via email: [llahusen@uravanminerals.com](mailto:llahusen@uravanminerals.com)

**Re: Uravan Minerals Inc.'s request for guidance concerning the EIS Guidelines for the Garry Lake Project**

Dear Mr. Lahusen,

On March 7, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) requested a written indication of UraVan Minerals Inc.'s (UraVan) intention for re-engaging the review process [i.e., the anticipated date for submission of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)] for the "Garry Lake" project (NIRB File No. 08EN037). On March 28, 2011 UraVan responded indicating that it is still unclear on how to proceed based on information previously presented to the NIRB on February 17, 2010.

On September 25, 2008 the Honourable Chuck Strahl, then-Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (the Minister) referred Uraivan's "Garry Lake" project to the Board for review under Part 5, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). As indicated to Uraivan in previous correspondence, once referred for review, the NIRB has no jurisdiction or process to reconsider its screening determination or to request that the Minister revisit his decision that the project proposal requires review. The submission of an EIS is explicitly required to facilitate the NIRB's review process, pursuant to NLCA Section 12.5.2; to be clear, as EIS or equivalent is required for every review the NIRB conducts and this requirement cannot be waived.

Once the Minister has directed that a review is required, if a proponent chooses to withdraw and resubmit its applications, that action would simply take the proponent back to the start of the regulatory process. It is not reasonable to expect that a subsequent screening would yield a different outcome unless the resubmitted project proposal differs significantly from the original submission.

With respect to Uravan's stated concerns regarding critical information gaps making it cost prohibitive to comply with the required development of an EIS, the NIRB is willing to work, within the jurisdiction provided by the NLCA (and as outlined in the NIRB's previous correspondence dated March 5, 2010), to clarify the Board's expectations when "a lack of quality of the existing data and information" may limit Uravan's ability to support conclusions in its EIS or meet the information requirements set out in the *Final Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Uravan Minerals Inc.'s Garry Lake Project* (the Guidelines) released February 20, 2009. The Guidelines are premised on the expectation that existing information will be relied upon heavily in the development of the EIS (see Section 2.7: Use of Existing Information), but where that is not possible, the onus is on Uravan to identify this situation to the NIRB.

To that end, Uravan is encouraged to identify, as soon as possible, the specific sections/areas of the Guidelines where it believes critical data gaps may exist, and to seek direction from the NIRB and regulatory authorities as to how its EIS should address these gaps. Upon receiving a specific request from Uravan, the NIRB, in consultation with interested parties, may provide direction regarding deviations from the Guidelines that may be acceptable while ensuring that the EIS produced still enables the Board and interested parties to understand and assess the potential for related environmental and socio-economic effects as required by the NLCA. To date, Uravan's general concerns are not sufficient for the NIRB and interested parties to provide advice and direction on how best to address these perceived information gaps.

In any event, as outlined above and in the NIRB's previous correspondence, the NIRB requires the completion of an EIS in accordance with the issued Guidelines to move forward with this review. If Uravan chooses not to prepare and submit an EIS for the Board's review, the Board may need to seek direction from the Minister regarding further suspending the review for a specified time period to allow the EIS to be prepared, or terminating the review altogether.

If you have any additional questions on the process moving forward, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
Director, Technical Services

cc: Garry Lake Distribution List  
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association