

NIRB File No.: 06AN085

NRI File No.: 0300608R-M, 0301009R-M, 0301409N-A

AANDC File No.: N2009C0017 KIA File No.: KVL306C02 NWB File No.: 2BE-KIG0812

August 23, 2013

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College Government of Nunavut c/o Mosha Cote Manager, Research Liaison Nunavut Research Institute P.O. Box 1720 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

and

The Honourable Keith Ashfield Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada c/o Elizabeth Patreau Senior Fisheries Biologist Fisheries and Oceans Canada P.O. Box 358 Iqaluit, NU XOA 0H0

Sent via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca and elizabeth.patreau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: AREVA Resources Canada Inc.'s "Kiggavik-Sissons" project, Kivalliq Region

Dear Mosha Cote and Elizabeth Patreau:

On August 7, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute for an application for a Science Research Licence for AREVA Resources Canada Inc.'s "Kiggavik-Sissons" project proposal. In addition, on August 14, 2013 the NIRB received a renewal application from AREVA for a Fisheries and Oceans Canada Licence to Fish for Scientific Purposes. On December 15, 2006 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 06AN085) was received by the NIRB from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) on November 29, 2006 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On April 3, 2007 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the President of KIA and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada or AANDC) which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Additional authorization and extension requests associated with the "Kiggavik-Sissons" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 06AN085). In each instance the NIRB confirmed that the applications were exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original April 3, 2007 Screening Decision Report along with additional terms and conditions as issued on August 30, 2007 and January 9, 2009. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 06AN085 is presented in **Appendix 1**.

The current NRI and DFO applications, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 06AN085) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2007/06AN085-AREVA%20Resources%20Inc/.

## PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 06AN085), the "Kiggavik-Sissons" exploration project was located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 80 kilometres west of Baker Lake. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct uranium exploration activities from 2007 to 2009.

The activities/components associated with the original proposal included:

- Satellite remote sensing
- Aircraft remote sensing to collect airborne geophysics data
- Soil sampling supported by helicopter
- Sediment sampling
- On-land drilling supported by helicopter
- Winter overland transportation of goods
- Construction of temporary wooden camp, and expansion of existing structures
- Fuel transportation and storage
- Chemical transportation and storage
- Environmental baseline work consisting of field surveys conducted on foot and supported by helicopter
- Ground geophysical surveys conducted on foot and supported by helicopter
- Geological mapping and prospecting conducted on foot and supported by helicopter

- Possible landing of aircraft with tundra tires on eskers
- Consumption of water and generation of waste

The activities and components associated with the previous July 17, 2007 Land Use Permit (No. N2006C0037) amendment included:

- The addition of a Compact Utility Loader onto the equipment list
- Use a float plane to deliver supplies and personnel, replacing the use of an esker airstrip due to identified archaeological resources.

The activities and components associated with the previous August 14, 2007 Land Use Permit (No. N2006C0037) amendment included:

- Replace current fuel caches that store hundreds of drums (205 litre size) in arctic berms with double-walled tanks (50,000 litre size) to adequately facilitate the 2008 fuel season and future requirements
- Transportation of tanks to the Kiggavik site via an ice road during the 2007/2008 winter season
- Use of tanker trucks to fuel all the tanks, access to site via the ice road
- The addition of 2 ATV's and 2 snowmobiles to the equipment list
- Upgrade the existing diesel powered 35 kilowatt (kW) generator at the Kiggavik camp to a diesel powered 100 kW generator
- Addition of 4 sleeping quarters, with walkways and expansion of washroom facilities to accommodate growth in personnel for the 2008 field program

After a thorough assessment of the amendment request and comments received, the NIRB determined that this request would result in a change to the original scope of the project. On August 30, 2007 the NIRB re-issued the original Screening Decision Report with *additional* terms and conditions (enclosed).

For the Proponent's previous March 26, 2008 Land Use Permit extension request, the NIRB determined that the proposed extension did not significantly change the general scope of the original project activities and on March 28, 2008 re-issued the original Screening Decision Report along with the additional terms and conditions as outlined in the August 30, 2007 letter. The NIRB further recommended specifically that a one year extension to the Land Use Permit be granted (to April 9, 2009) based on the original comments received from Parties. After the expiration of the permit, the NIRB indicated that it would review any requests related to the project proposal and that renewals thereafter would be subject to any findings, direction or advice received by INAC and the KIA from the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment as a result of the Government of Nunavut/Government of Northwest Territories Population Surveys conducted regarding the Beverly and Ahiak Caribou Herds.

With respect to the Proponent's previous requests to extend the AANDC Land Use Permit and KIA Land Use Licence on November 12, 2008 and November 25, 2008, respectively, following an assessment of the requests, comments received and the original project proposal, the NIRB determined that the proposed extensions did not significantly change the general scope of the original project activities. However, comments were received which provided new information regarding the status of the Beverly caribou herd and therefore, the NIRB issued *additional* terms

and conditions on January 9, 2009 (enclosed) along with the previously issued terms and conditions from the April 3, 2007 and August 30, 2007 Screening Decision Reports.

## CURRENT APPLICATION:

AREVA has applied for a new *Scientific Research Licence* to complete the following components/activities in August 2013 or the summer of 2014:

- Collect additional aquatic data for several lakes near the Kiggavik-Sissons project including water quality, lake-bottom sediment, benthic invertebrate organisms, and smallbodied fish;
- Conduct additional aquatic habitat surveys and mapping at the proposed pipeline and diffuser locations;
- Use of helicopter to move personnel and equipment to study sites;
- Personnel to stay at the exploration camp located north of Pointer Lake; and
- Use of fuel, chemicals and hazardous materials.

The information to be collected will add to the baseline aquatics studies previously completed, will be used in the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Kiggavik Project and inform future Environmental Effects Monitoring programs.

Please note that the current application pertains to ongoing baseline programs/studies conducted at the Kiggavik-Sissons site, and while the information was requested by the Board in its Preliminary Hearing Conference Decision<sup>1</sup> for the Kiggavik Uranium Mine as proposed by AREVA (NIRB File No. 09MN003) and which is currently undergoing Review by the NIRB, it is considered to be a separate and distinct project proposal.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

"Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

- (a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or
- (b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project."

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed application does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original April 3, 2007 Screening Decision Report, as well as the *additional* terms and conditions issued August 30, 2007 and January 9, 2009 (enclosed).

<sup>1.</sup> NIRB, Preliminary Hearing Conference Decision concerning the Kiggavik Project (NIRB File No. 09MN003), Proposed by AREVA Resources Canada Inc. 2013.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Senior Technical Advisor, at (867) 793-4633 or <a href="mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.ca">sgranchinho@nirb.ca</a>.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

**Executive Director** 

Ryan Barry

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Brent Topp, Golder Associates Ltd.

Francine Audy, Golder Associates Ltd.

Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Attachment: Appendix 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 06AN085

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 06AN085 dated January 9, 2009; includes original

NIRB Screening Decision Report dated April 3, 2007 and additional Terms and Conditions

issued August 30, 2007

P.O. Box 1360 Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0 Phone: (867) 983-4600 Fax: (867) 983-2594

## APPENDIX 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 06AN085

		Applicatio	NIRE	<b>B</b> Decision	
Authorization	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Туре
NRI Research Licence	April 20, 2007	New Licence	Conduct baseline assessment of surface hydrological conditions	April 24, 2007	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR
NRI Research Licence	May 5, 2007	New Licence	Conduct an aquatic baseline program	May 23, 2007	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR
INAC Land Use Permit (N2006C0037)	July 17, 2007	Amendment	Include additional components/activities for exploration activities	July 24, 2007	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR
INAC Land Use Permit (N2006C0037)	August 14, 2007	Amendment	Include additional components/activities for exploration activities	August 30, 2007	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR + additional terms and conditions
INAC Land Use Permit (N2006C0037)	March 26, 2008	One Year extension	Continue exploration activities	March 28, 2008	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR + August 30, 2007 T&C
Water Licence (2BE- KIG0812)	April 29, 2008	Renewal	Continue exploration activities	May 7, 2008	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR + August 30, 2007 T&C
NRI Research Licence (0301007N-A	May 15, 2008	Renewal	Conduct hydrological baseline assessment of the project	May 26, 2008	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR + August 30, 2007 T&C
INAC Land Use Permit (N2006C0037)	October 17, 2008	Amendment	Use a loader at the project fuel esker site	October 29, 2008	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR + August 30, 2007 T&C
INAC Land Use Permit (N2006C0037)	November 12, 2008	One year extension	Continue exploration activities	January 9, 2009	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR + August 30,
KIA Land Use Licence (KVL306C02)	November 25, 2008	Two year extension	Continue exploration activities		2007 T&C + additional terms and conditions
NRI Research Licence (0301007N-A	April 23, 2009	Renewal	Conduct hydrological baseline assessment of the project	May 12, 2009	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR
INAC Land Use Permit (N2009C0017)	January 8, 2010	New Licence	To replace original Land Use Permit (N2006C0037)	January 15, 2010	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR + August 30,

	Application			NIRB Decision	
Authorization	Date Received	Туре	Reason for	Date	Type
	by NIRB	Туре	Application	Issued	
					2007 T&C
AANDC Land	January 9,	One year	Continue exploration	January	reissued April
Use Permit	2012	extension	activities at Kiggavik	17, 2012	3, 2007 SDR +
(N2009C0017)			and Sissons sites. To		August 30,
			conduct prospecting		2007 T&C +
			and geological		January 9,
			mapping for the		2009 T&C
			Kiggavik lease and		
			St. Tropez claim		
			areas. Geotechnical		
			investigations may be		
			carried out to gain		
			information on		
			foundation and pad		
			design and possible		
AANDC Land	March 10	0	road routes.	A	unicassad Amail
Use Permit	March 19, 2013	One year extension	Continue exploration	April 8, 2013	reissued April 3, 2007 SDR +
(N2009C0017)	2013	extension	activities at Kiggavik and Sissons sites. To	2013	3, 2007 SDR + August 30,
(N2009C0017)			conduct prospecting		2007 T&C +
			and geological		January 9,
			mapping for the		2009 T&C
			Kiggavik lease and		2007 160
			St. Tropez claim		
			areas. Ground		
			geophysical surveys		
			may be carried out to		
			identify potential		
			mineral deposits.		

Notes: AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; INAC = Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; KIA = Kivalliq Inuit Association; NIRB = Nunavut Impact Review Board; NRI = Nunavut Research Institute; SDR = Screening Decision Report; T&C = Terms and Conditions