

NIRB File No.: 15EN024

AANDC File No.: N2015C0020 NWB File No.: 2BE-MDP----KIA File No.: KTL315C011

May 27, 2015

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development 10 Wellington, 21st Floor Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Sent via email: minister@aandc.gc.ca, bernard.valcourt@parl.gc.ca

Re: <u>Extension Request for NIRB Screening of APEX Geoscience's</u> "Muskox Diamond" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Bernard Valcourt:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above (N2015C0020).

On April 22, 2015 the NIRB received APEX Geoscience's (APEX) "Muskox Diamond" project proposal from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 15EN024 and commenced screening pursuant to NLCA Article 12 Part 4.

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain sufficient information for the NIRB to permit proper screening. On April 27, 2015 the NIRB requested that APEX provide additional information in support of this proposal by May 11, 2015; as of the date of this letter the requested information has not yet been submitted.

Given the need for additional information prior to commencing its assessment of this proposal, the NIRB is unable to provide a screening decision for APEX's "Muskox Diamond" project proposal within the 37¹ day time period requested by AANDC pursuant to Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA; therefore the NIRB requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed within 42 days of receiving the requested information.

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¹ AANDC referral dated April 22, 2015 requesting a decision from the NIRB by May 29, 2015.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested parties on the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Executive Director

Ryan Barry

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Robert L'Heureux, APEX Geoscience

Tara Gunson, APEX Geoscience

Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada