



NIRB File No.: 08EN015
INAC File No.: N2008C0007
NWB File No.: 2BE-QAM0813
KIA File No.: KVL307C02

February 23, 2011

Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
c/o Jeff Mercer, Manager Land Administration
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: jeff.mercer@inac-ainc.gc.ca and landsmining@inac.gc.ca

**Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA:
Cameco Corporation's "Turqavik-Aberdeen Exploration" project**

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On February 17, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for an extension to INAC Land Use Permit N2008C0007 for Cameco Corporation's (Cameco) "Turqavik – Aberdeen Exploration" project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08EN015) was received by the NIRB from INAC on February 13, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On April 4, 2008 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On November 2, 2009 the NIRB received an extension request from INAC for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from further screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on November 9, 2009.

On January 19, 2010 the NIRB received an amendment request from INAC for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the amendment request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from further screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on February 1, 2010.

The current INAC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (08EN015) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08EN015-Cameco%20Corporation%20-%20Turqavik-Aberdeen/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08EN015), the “Turqavik – Aberdeen Exploration” project was located on Crown and Inuit Owned Land in the Aberdeen Lake area of the Kivalliq region, approximately 100 kilometres (km) west of Baker Lake. The Proponent indicated that it intended to continue uranium exploration activities on its properties by diamond drilling, prospecting, mapping, as well as ground and airborne geophysical surveys. The proposed project area was located on both sides of the Thelon River, south of the traditional caribou calving grounds of the Beverly Caribou Herd, within the post-calving grounds and migratory path (including several designated caribou crossings) of the Beverly and Ahiaik Caribou Herds.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Use of existing, temporary (20 person) camp at Qamanaarjuk Lake (constructed in 2006)
- Diamond drilling:
 - 2008 – June to September to drill 10 and 20 holes (3,000 – 6,000m) max. depth 500m
 - 2009 – March to September at locations selected from results of 2008 drilling program
- Borehole cores sampling
- Geological mapping, prospecting, sampling and geophysical surveys (ground and airborne)
 - Geophysics may include gravity, resistivity, electro-magnetic and magnetic surveys
- Fuel transport and temporary storage at drill sites
 - transported overland in winter and cached in portable berms, and by aircraft in summer
- Transportation (aircraft, snowmobiles, ATV)
 - natural airstrip for tundra wheeled aircraft (some levelling required)
- Water Use
- Storage of Products, Chemicals and Hazardous Materials
- Production of Associated Waste

The activities/components associated with the 2010 amendment included:

- Amend LUP N2008C0007 from operating 1 diamond drill to operating 2 diamond drills
- Amend Nunavut Water License 2BE-QAM0813 to increase the daily water allowance of 58m³ (to support camp and 1 drill) to 111 m³ per day (to support the camp and 2 diamond drills).

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Cameco is proposing to extend its land use permit for one year to continue the following activities:

- Diamond drilling, prospecting, sampling, geological mapping, and ground geophysical surveys based out of camp on Qamanaarjuk Lake
- Drill 7,000 to 12,000 metres (m) from June to October using a helicopter-portable drill.
- Fuel, drill supplies and equipment hauled overland using snow-tracked vehicles between March and May.

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 extension 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 screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original April 4, 2008 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Arko, Assistant Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Rebecca Hunter, Cameco
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08EN015 (April 4, 2008)