



NIRB File No.: 10EN013
AANDC File No.: N2010C0003

July 6, 2012

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

Sent via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca and landsmine@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Commander Resources Ltd.'s "Storm" project, Qikiqtani Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On June 21, 2012, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to the Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0003) for Commander Resources Ltd.'s (the Proponent) "Storm" project.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 10EN013) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now AANDC) on February 15, 2010. On February 22, 2010 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file and proceeded to screen the project proposal in accordance with Article 12, Part 4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 13, 2010, the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC, which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 10EN013) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/10EN013-Commander%20Resources%20Ltd/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No.: 10EN013), the "Storm" project was a preliminary exploration drilling program, to be potentially followed by a diamond drilling program. The

project was located in the northern part of Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres (km) south of the community of Resolute in the Qikiqtani Region, Nunavut. The project activities were proposed to take place from August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2012.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Setup and operation of 12-person temporary tent camp;
- Incineration of sewage and combustible solid waste;
- Fuel storage;
- Use of helicopter and fixed wing aircraft for field pickups and drop offs, and transport of supplies;
- Percussion drilling;
- Potential diamond drilling;
- Ground and airborne geophysical survey; and
- Waster use and waste disposal.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is applying for an extension to its AANDC Land Use Permit (No.: N2010C0003) in order to continue with the same mineral exploration activities within the same project area as was originally proposed in 2010.

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, the NIRB is of the understanding that the extension application received from AANDC 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 as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original Screening Decision Report dated May 13, 2010.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Kofi Boa-Antwi, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4609 or kboa-antwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry

Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Steve Potts, Commander Resources Ltd. (spotts@commanderresources.com)
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)
Tracey McCaie, AANDC (tracey.mccaie@aandc.gc.ca)
Bernie MacIsaac, QIA (bmacisaac@qia.ca)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 10EN013 (May 13, 2010)