



NIRB File No.: 10EN013
AANDC File No.: N2010C0003
NWB File No.: 2BE-NAD0813

February 26, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer, Manager, Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca; landsmining@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 February 16, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to Land Use Permit No. N2010C0003 for Commander Resources Ltd.'s (Commander Resources, the Proponent) "Storm" project proposal. The NIRB notes that the Nunavut Planning Commission issued a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) associated with this project on February 22, 2010.

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 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 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 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (the Minister) which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On June 21, 2012 the NIRB received an application from AANDC for an extension to the Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0003) for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision prepared to the Minister on July 6, 2012.

On January 18, 2013 the NIRB received an application from AANDC for an amendment to the Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0003) for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the amendment request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report to the Minister on January 22, 2013.

On May 14, 2013 the NIRB received an application from AANDC for an extension to the Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0003) for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the one year extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report to the Minister on June 7, 2013.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No.: 10EN013) 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/2010/10EN013-Commander%20Resources%20Ltd/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No.: 10EN013), the "Storm" project was located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 112 kilometres (km) south of the community of Resolute. The Proponent intended to conduct a preliminary exploration drilling program from August 2010 and July 2012, to potentially be followed by a diamond drilling program.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Setup and operation of a 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.

The activities and components associated with the previous January 18, 2013 amendment to the AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0003) included:

- One additional drill area located around the Seal lead-zinc deposit, proposed 20 drill holes with depths ranging from 100 to 600 metres at this location;
- Use of a heli-portable diamond drill rig at the exploration site instead of previous approved heli-portable reverse circulation drill rig; and
- Drill program to take place during the summer of 2013 and 2014 for 8 to 12 weeks. Further exploration work was dependent upon the results of this drilling work.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Commander Resources is proposing to extend its Land Use Permit for an additional year to continue previously-approved exploration activities at the “Storm” project site. The NIRB notes that the current application represents the third consecutive one-year term extension to the original Land Use Permit issued 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 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 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 May 13, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Steve Potts, Commander Resources Ltd.
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

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