



NIRB File No.: 08EN034

AANDC File No.: N2008C0015

NWB File No.: 2BE-YAV0810

July 3, 2013

The Honourable John Duncan
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: Savant Explorations Ltd.'s "Retort Lake-Yava Property Mining Exploration" project, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On June 26, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit N2008C0015 in support of Savant Explorations Ltd.'s "Retort Lake – Yava Property Mining Exploration" project.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08EN034) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC, now AANDC) on March 28, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 28, 2008 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC indicating 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 "Retort Lake, Yava Property" project has also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 08EN034). 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 May 28, 2008 Screening Decision Report. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 08EN034 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 08EN034

Authorization	Application			NIRB Decision	
	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Type
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008C0015)	June 10, 2010	Extension	To seek adequate project financing	June 14, 2010	reissued May 28, 2008 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008C0015)	July 4, 2011	Extension	To seek adequate project financing	July 7, 2011	reissued May 28, 2008 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008C0015)	May 2, 2012	Extension	To seek adequate project financing	May 7, 2012	reissued May 28, 2008 SDR

Notes: AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; NIRB= Nunavut Impact Review Board; SDR= Screening Decision Report

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 08EN034) 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/2008/08EN034-Savant%20Explorations%20Ltd/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08EN034), the "Retort Lake-Yava Property Mining Exploration" and is located in the Kitikmeot Region, approximately 125 kilometres southwest of the outpost camp Kingoak (Bathurst Inlet). Savant proposed to conduct exploration activities from June 15 to September 5, 2008 and from June 1 to May 31, 2009.

The proposed project activities included:

- Establishing a 9 tent temporary exploration camp for 12 personnel;
- Temporary pier construction for docking of float plane;
- Diamond drilling program with 10 or more targets (2000-2500 metres total);
- Helicopter support to be used for movement of drill rig and personnel; and
- Fuel storage at camp site.

Each of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 requests by Savant involved 1 year extensions to its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2008C0015) in order to seek adequate project financing required to complete its originally proposed exploration activities.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Savant is proposing to extend its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2008C0015) in order to continue with previously proposed exploration activities, contingent upon the availability of necessary financing.

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:

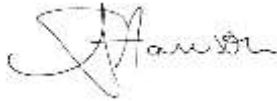
(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(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 28, 2008 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Tannis Bolt, Assistant Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4603 or tbolt@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

For:

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: John McClintock, Savant Explorations Ltd.
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08EN034 (May 28, 2008)