

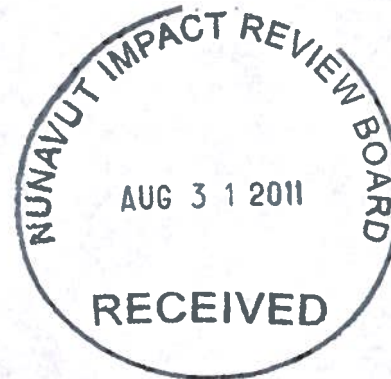
Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

AUG 23 2011



Mr. Joe Kaludjak
President
Kivalliq Inuit Association
PO Box 340
RANKIN INLET NU X0C 0G0

Dear Mr. Kaludjak:

Thank you for your letter of July 14, 2011, outlining concerns with the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Screening Decision Reports for Agnico-Eagle Mines All-Weather Road and Meliadine Gold Mine (NIRB File No. 11MN034).

In regard to the All-Weather Road project proposal, my decision must be taken in accordance with Section 12.4.8 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement which directs me to return the proposal to the proponent for clarification and resubmission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board. As for the Meliadine Gold Mine project proposal, I want to assure you that the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Screening Decision Report is currently undergoing a thorough review by the Department in concert with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada.

You have expressed concern that the advanced exploration activities that are to be supported by the proposed road have already been screened. However, the Screening Decision Report received from the Nunavut Impact Review Board clearly indicates that the previously approved proposal included only the use of a winter road. Further to this, it is my understanding that the Nunavut Impact Review Board's report on this proposal stated that should an all-weather road be proposed in the future, further screening would be required.

I would like to take the opportunity to provide clarification on your observations for the Meadowbank Gold Project (NIRB 03MN107). In particular, the all-weather road for this project was incorporated into the Part 5 review and was not permitted before the review of the mine was completed.

.../2

Again, I thank you for your letter and I recognize the importance of growth in exploration and development in Nunavut. I can assure you that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is committed to developing Canada's resources in order to bring economic well-being and prosperity to Northerners.

Sincerely

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
SIGNÉ PAR

John Duncan, PC, MP

c.c.: Senator the Honourable Dennis Glen Patterson, PC
The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, PC, MP
The Honourable Lorne Kusugak, MLA
The Honourable Peter Taptuna, MLA
Mr. Lucassie Arragutainaq
His Worship Pujjuut Kusugak
Mr. Dennis Gourde



ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ
Kivalliq Inuit Association

ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ/P.O. Box 340, ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ Rankin Inlet, Nunavut X0C 0G0

ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ/Tel: (867) 645- 5725 ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ/Fax: (867) 645-2348 Toll free: 1-800-220-6581

In my opinion, you as Minister with responsibility for NIRB, can make a determination to allow this road to be constructed ahead of the full mine-mill development project approval. We point to the fact that permission was given previously by Canada for the Meadowbank Gold Project to allow road construction to proceed without a part 5 review. Without that step the Meadowbank Project would have been delayed three years, the time it took NIRB to complete the environmental review.

It is important to note that this proposed road will create significant job and skills training opportunities in our region for Inuit. Delay will not help the local community and region where chronic unemployment is a significant issue.

During the Meadowbank review the minister allowed early construction of a 115 Km road to access the exploration camp. The Kivalliq Inuit Association built on this experience and we are very confident that all the issues will be addressed on time for 27.4 Km long road, which is significant shorter than Meadowbank all weather road.

In conclusion, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, as the designated Inuit organization is responsible for the management of Inuit Own Lands on which this Project is located, urge you to allow for the early construction of this access road as part of the advanced exploration phase. We are convinced that this project will provide significant social and economic benefits to our people and to our community, based on the commitments negotiated by the KIA with AEM. We are convinced that this access road will not cause any significant adverse environmental impacts. We are convinced that early construction of this access road is fully supported by our people, our community and by the local business community. If exploration proves that this project cannot be feasibly converted into a mine then the road can be decommissioned, although in our understanding this is highly unlikely. We point out that the subsequent use of this road to support construction and operation of a mine can still be included as part of the future NIRB assessment of the Mine-Mill Project. However that does not mean that the decision to build the road now should be delayed.

Yours sincerely,

KIVALLIQ INUIT ASSOCIATION

Per:



Joe Kaludjak
President



ᐱᐱᖃᐅᐱᖅ ᐃᐅᐃᖅ ᐅᐱᐱᖃᐅᐱᖅ
Kivalliq Inuit Association

ᐱᐱᖃᐅᐱᖅ/P.O. Box 340, ᐅᐱᐱᖃᐅᐱᖅ/Rankin Inlet, Nunavut X0C 0G0
 ᐅᖅᐅᐱᐱᖅ/Tel: (867) 645- 5725 ᐱᐅᐱᐱᖅ/Fax: (867) 645-2348 Toll free: 1-800-220-6581

- c.c: Nunavut Impact Review Board
- c.c: Honorable, Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.
- c.c: Honorable, Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community Development and Government services.
- c.c: Honorable, Leona Aglukkaq, Member of Parliament, Minister of Health of Canada.
- c.c: Honorable, Dennis Paterson Member of the Senate.
- c.c: Dennis Gourde, General Manager Nunavut, AEM
- c.c: Mayor Pujjuut Kusugak, Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, Rankin Inlet, NU