

Carolyn Bennett
Minister, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

AREVA Canada Inc.'s Proposed Kiggavik Uranium Mine

Dear Ms. Bennett,

In the coming weeks, your government will make a decision that will have major repercussions for the future of Nunavut.

In May 2015, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) released its final hearing report, recommending the Kiggavik uranium mine not be approved at this time. AREVA Resources Canada Inc. (AREVA) then wrote to your predecessor, requesting the Minister reject the NIRB recommendation. This was followed by a series of letters – from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Aqiggiq HTO, Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, and Mining Watch Canada – requesting the Minister uphold the NIRB recommendation and reject the Kiggavik proposal.

I hope you will carefully consider the facts and arguments presented in the NIRB final hearing report and subsequent correspondence. Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit believes that the public record demonstrates that AREVA's proposal should not be approved at this time, and that AREVA's request to overturn the NIRB decision was unfounded and inappropriate.

Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit also welcomed the statements made by the Hon. Hunter Tootoo during the election campaign. In an interview with Nunatsiaq News, Mr. Tootoo promised that, under the Liberal Party, it would be “the government that grants the licences, but the communities that grant permission.” The NIRB report and submissions to your predecessor clearly show that the most affected communities have not granted permission for this project to go ahead. Mr. Tootoo also told CBC News that the “Liberal party will go along with decisions made by a regulatory body without political interference.”

Many Inuit from Nunavut heard these promises and elected Mr. Tootoo. I urge you to keep the promises made during the recent campaign, and reject AREVA's proposed Kiggavik uranium mine.

Eric Ukpatiku
Nunavummiut Makitagunarningit

c.c.: Hunter Tootoo, Member of Parliament for Nunavut
Elizabeth Copeland, Chair, Nunavut Impact Review Board