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CIDMS # 1106444

October 12, 2016

Kofi Boa-Antwi
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
Via electronic mail to: info@nirb.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for North Country Gold Corp.'s "Committee Bay" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Boa-Antwi,

On September 29, 2016, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on North Country Gold Corp.'s "Committee Bay" project proposal. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures).

INAC is of the opinion that possible impacts from the proposed amendment to increase its storage permit for fuel from 73,800L to 820,000 L within its fuel cache depot are mitigable with the measures outlined in the proposed Spill Prevention Plan.

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

The Proponent states in the NIRB Non-technical summary (dated September 2, 2016) of its amendment application that they are applying to use a temporary storage area in Rankin Inlet to "store fuel and materials arriving during the summer sealift until the following spring when an ice airstrip is constructed at the Committee Bay Project and supplies can be airlifted to site". It is our understanding that fuel and material is to be sealifted in the summer of 2016. INAC notes that the project was only referred to NIRB on August 17, 2016, and the NIRB screening for this project is ongoing. INAC is therefore unsure if the proposed "period of operation" (August 2016 to September 2017) is still feasible.

The Department would like to note that reviewing a project well into the proposed project operation period would seem to defeat the purpose of the review process, no matter the breadth and scope of a project. INAC reminds the Proponent of the obligation of complying with the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA).

Should the project be approved, it is the responsibility of the Proponent to ensure it complies with all permits and authorizations required to undertake the proposed project. Likewise, it is the responsibility of the Proponent to ensure any cooperative agreements for accommodations, or otherwise, also comply with valid permits and authorizations.



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada

INAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further review phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Norman M. Scully at (867) 975-4741 or by e-mail at norman.scully@aadnc-aadnc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed by]

Charlotte Lamontagne
A/Manager, Impact Assessment