

April 21, 2021

Francis Emingak

Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360, Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
(toll free) 1-866-233-3033 (direct) 1-867-983-4616
(fax) 1-867-983-2594 (web) www.nirb.ca

**RE: Comments Response for Western Atlas Resources Inc./ 5530 Nunavut Inc.
Meadowbank Precious Metals Project, NIRB File No. 17EA020**

5530 Nunavut Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Western Atlas Resources Inc. ("Western Atlas") has reviewed the comments provided from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada ("CIRNAC"), Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization ("BLHTO"), Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment ("GN-DoE"), Hamlet of Baker Lake and members of the Community regarding the Meadowbank Precious Metal Property (the "Property" or the "Project") CIRNAC Land Use Permit ("LUP") and Nunavut Water Board ("NWB") water license amendments. Western Atlas would like to express our appreciation for the time these agencies and individuals spent reviewing the proposed amendments to the Project and providing their comments.

A summary of the comments received are:

1. Consultation and incorporation of Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities.
2. Potential for Inuit employment and training opportunities.
3. Clarification of Project timing, including start date and duration of the Orbit Garant fuel storage container.
4. Clarification of proposed camp location and capacity.
5. Clarification regarding the size, location and number of fuel containers.
6. Potential disturbance to traditional use in the Thelon River and White Hills Lake areas.
7. Clarification on caribou surveying and monitoring procedures.

A representative for Western Atlas, Denise Lockett, is currently organizing a trip to Qamani'tuaq (Baker Lake) to conduct Hamlet, HTO and public consultations in order to provide additional information on the proposed camp and exploration activities, the measures that will be taken to reduce the disturbance to land users in the area and to obtain valuable feedback to incorporate in the Project planning.

Western Atlas is committed to the wellbeing and prosperity of the community of Qamani'tuaq and contributes to it by, whenever possible, purchasing local, contracting northern/local businesses and to hiring local community members to assist in many aspects of the project such as wildlife monitors, camp management assistants and core cutting/processing to not only utilize their skilled labor, but extensive knowledge of the land and wildlife.

Northern/Local companies and individuals utilized on the Project to date include:

Baker Lake

Hamlet of Baker Lake
Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
Baker Lake Lodge
Nunamiut Lodge
Baker Lake Contracting & Supplies Ltd (BLCS)
SK Construction
Sanavik CO-OP
Northern Store
R&R Corner Store
Quickstop
Aviation Fuel Enterprises
Arctic Fuel Services
Caribou Taxi Service
John Etegooyok
Matthew Paungrat
Simon Tulugtuq
Riel Anautalik
Kirk Mautaritnaaq
Sammy Oosuaq
Danny Elytook
Elijah Jr Amarook
Patrick Perkison

Rankin Inlet

Katimavik Suites
Northern General Store

Taxi Service
Sarliaq Orbit Garant Inc.

Arviat

A&B Suluk Translation Services

Iqaluit

Michael Chandler, BA, LLB, MBA

Yellowknife

Denroche & Associates

Hay River

Hay River Home Hardware

Aircraft

Canadian North Airlines
Calm Air
Helicopter Transport Services (Canada) Inc.
Custom Helicopters

The company is also committed to operating in a way that reduces any disturbance for the community and is working to put in place current and future exploration programs that aim at gradually reducing the use of the helicopter. The current proposed schedule for the 2021 program up to 16 weeks commencing on May 15, 2021. The 2021 program will be based out of Qamani'tuaq once again as the camp is proposed to be mobilized in September, 2021 for use in the 2022 program. As per the 2020 drill program, the 2021 program will utilize the 4,000 L fuel tank located at the kilometre 58 staging area of the All Weather Access Road ("AWAR") to supply diesel for the drill. A 600 L tank will be used to store the diesel at the active drillsite(s). As per the Meadowbank Spill Contingency and Fuel Management Plan a minimum of one extra fuel storage container of equal to, or greater than, the size of the largest fuel container will be present anywhere fuel is stored. When the camp is mobilized a main fuel cache will be constructed adjacent to the camp to store drummed fuel. The amount of fuel to be stored at the proposed camp fuel cache is currently undetermined as it will be contingent on the size of the 2022 program. As soon as the amount of fuel to be stored at the camp fuel cache is determined the Meadowbank Spill Contingency and Fuel Management Plan will be updated and submitted to all regulatory bodies.

Although a 10-person temporary camp with fuel cache is currently permitted at the Project, the 2018, 2019 and 2020 programs were based out of Qamani'tuaq. The purpose of the proposed camp is to reduce the amount and length of helicopter flights required to shuttle drilling crews during shift changes. The camp materials and supplies are scheduled to be mobilized to Baker Lake by barge in September, 2021 and then be transported by

authorized contractor(s) along the AWAR to the proposed camp site near the Kilometre 58 staging area. See the attached figures for the proposed camp location.

The camp will be built for the ability to support a maximum of 40 people, but it is anticipated that the 2022 capacity will be up to 20 people. Structures for the proposed camp will include 10 sleeper tents, 1 medical tent, 1 kitchen, 1 dry (with showers), 1 office tent, core shack, generator shack, incinerator and outhouses/pacto systems. The majority of the structures will be insulated tents with plywood floors.

The Thelon River runs through the centre of Claim Block C. Western Atlas recognizes the Thelon River is culturally significant to Qamani'tuamiut and will commit to not completing any exploration or drilling activities within a 1 kilometre of the shorelines.

The White Hills Lake is outside of the Meadowbank Property, but Western Atlas recognizes the area around the lake is of extreme importance to Qamani'tuamiut for traditional land use activities, such as hunting and fishing. There are currently no plans in the near term to conduct exploration or drilling activities in Claim Block C, between the Thelon River and White Hills Lake. Prior to commencing any exploration or drilling activities in this area the community of Qamani'tuaq will be consulted. Western Atlas is committed to working with the Hamlet, HTO and Community and values the knowledge and opinions of all those who may be affected or interested in the Project activities.

Western Atlas is currently working on an updated Caribou Surveying and Monitoring Plan and has contacted Government of Nunavut's Wildlife Research section Regional Biologist for the Kivalliq Region for the most up to date caribou data and the Project Manager for Impact Assessment in the Department of Environment to acquire input and recommendations. Western Atlas will also seek input and recommendations for the Caribou Surveying and Monitoring Plan from the BLHTO. Western Atlas looks forward to once again working with the BLHTO and will once again request assistance in hiring wildlife monitors for the 2021 and future programs.





