



April 23, 2010

Mr. Ron Roach, Chair
Nunavut Planning Commission

c/o Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
Cambridge Bay, NU

Sent via email: sehaloak@nunavut.ca

Re: Watersheds in the Nunavut Settlement Area

Dear Sharon:

On behalf of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), I wanted to respond to the Nunavut Planning Commission's March 10, 2010 request to the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for input on watershed management and the Nunavut Land Use Plan. In NPC's correspondence three general areas were highlighted for input, which can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Is there an appropriate distance from the water intake location, beyond which the watersheds of these two rivers [the Thelon and the Coppermine Rivers] do not need to be managed in the same way as the other community water supplies?
- 2) Is there specific land uses that should be restricted near municipal watersheds, and if so, what would appropriate setbacks for these uses?
- 3) Are there other watersheds within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) that may require special management, and if so, are there any suggestions for the management of those watersheds, including the identification of any specific land uses that should be restricted?

The NIRB notes that the NWB has responsibilities and powers over the regulation, use and management of water in the NSA, as well as a mandated role in contributing to the development of land use plans as they relate to water in the NSA. As such, with regard to the issues outlined above, the NIRB would like to respectfully defer to the expertise of the NWB on these issues.

The NIRB does note that, given the large geographic area encompassed by several watersheds in the NSA as indicated by NPC, the identification of potential cumulative impacts from development activities will be of great importance. When developing criteria to determine the

potential for cumulative impacts from a project proposal in relation to other development activities in a planning region or watershed area (and therefore whether normally exempt activities might require screening by the NIRB), the NIRB would be pleased to offer its assistance to NPC.

The NIRB looks forward to continued cooperation with the Nunavut Planning Commission's development of a Nunavut Land Use Plan. If the NIRB or its staff can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephanie Autut".

Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Lucassie Arragutainaq, NIRB Chairperson
Dionne Filiatrault, NWB