



NIRB File No.: 12MN036
NWB File No.: 2AM-BRP

August 1, 2012

Matthew Pickard
Director, Environment & Community Relations
Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
930 West 1st Street
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3N4

Via email: MPickard@sabinagoldsilver.com

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s "Back River" project proposal

Dear Mr. Pickard:

On July 12, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina) "Back River" project proposal from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for screening pursuant to Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **12MN036** – please reference this file number in all related correspondence directed to the Board as pertaining to the screening of the Back River project proposal.

The project application notes that the proposed gold mine development is located in the West Kitikmeot Region approximately 150 kilometres south of the outpost camp of Bathurst Inlet. Sabina proposes to develop and operate a gold mining and milling project which would process up to 7,000 tonnes of ore per day for an approximate 10-15 year operation period (for an approximate total of 20-28 million tonnes) and consistent mill production of 300,000-400,000 ounces of gold produced annually. The proposal includes the use of open pit and underground mining techniques at seven deposits (Locale 1, Locale 2, Lone Cow, GH, Slave, Goose, and Umwelt) as well as a possible eighth deposit (Llama). Sabina anticipates that the construction phase for the proposed development would be approximately two (2) years, followed by a ten to fifteen (10-15) year mine operation phase and period of five (5) years closure.

The following is a *summary* of the main project activities and components associated with the Back River project proposal:

- Open pit and/or underground mining methods of multiple deposits:
 - Goose Property: three main deposits being targeted: Goose, Umwelt, and Llama;

- George Property: five main deposits being targeted: Locale 1, Locale 2, Lone Cow, GH, and Slave;
- New site infrastructure including:
 - Goose Property:
 - Ore stockpile;
 - Processing facilities: mill (including single tailings management facility); emulsion mixing plant and wash bay;
 - Lined bulk storage area for ammonium nitrate; explosives magazines; reagent storage;
 - Mine support: core logging facility; assay laboratory; warehousing facility; emergency facilities (fire and ambulance station); general maintenance building (site services); mine maintenance building; light vehicle maintenance workshop; heavy equipment maintenance workshop; diesel power plant; power utility buildings; brine mixing buildings; tailings storage area; waste management building; waste rock storage area;
 - Camp: 600-person camp; modular potable water treatment system; modular sewage treatment system;
 - Diesel tank farm of 40-50 million litre capacity located on property to hold bulk fuel storage of approximately 45 million litres;
 - Airstrip and associated navigation equipment: airstrips 1.9-2.5 kilometres long and 45 metres wide to accommodate Hercules C-130 aircraft and Boeing 737 Combi jet aircraft, possibly including helicopter landing facilities, including additional bulk fuel storage at airstrip of approximately 100,000 litres.
 - George Property:
 - Ore stockpile;
 - Lined bulk storage area for ammonium nitrate; emulsion mixing plant and wash bay; explosives magazines;
 - Mine support: reagent storage; core logging facility; warehousing facility; emergency facilities (fire and ambulance station); general maintenance building (site services); mine maintenance building; waste management building; waste rock storage area; light vehicle maintenance workshop; heavy equipment maintenance workshop; diesel power plant; power utility buildings; brine mixing buildings;
 - Camp: 350-person camp; modular potable water treatment system; modular sewage treatment system;
 - Diesel tank farm of 14-18 million litres capacity located on property to hold bulk fuel storage of approximately 15 million litres;
 - Airstrip and associated navigation equipment: airstrips 1.9-2.5 kilometres long and 45 metres wide to accommodate Hercules C-130 aircraft and Boeing 737 Combi jet aircraft, possibly including helicopter landing facilities, including additional bulk fuel storage at airstrip of approximately 100,000 litres.
- Construction of all-weather and/or winter roads connecting marine laydown area to mine operations on Goose and George Properties, as well as a combination of all-weather and

ice roads on and between each property to access infrastructure and to facilitate the shipment of ore from mine site to mill located at Goose property;

- Extracted ore to be trucked to Goose property for processing at mill facility;
- Marine laydown area situated in the southern portion of Bathurst Inlet:
 - Annual resupply and seasonal transport during the open-water season to bring equipment, supplies and fuel using 3-5 ships per year during operation, and 5-10 ships per year during construction;
 - In-water infrastructure may include dock, jetty, moorings and buoys;
 - On-land Infrastructure: Lined bulk storage area for ammonium nitrate; reagent storage; emergency and spill response facilities (to focus on ocean fuel spills); general maintenance building; waste management building; light vehicle maintenance workshop;
 - Diesel tank farm of 50-70 million litres capacity located on property to hold bulk fuel storage of approximately 55 million litres;
 - Camp: 100-person camp; modular potable water treatment system; modular sewage treatment system; diesel power plant;
 - Airstrip and associated navigation equipment: capable of supporting Dash 7/8 landing and take-off;
- Additional smaller (less than 100,000 litres) bulk fuel storage areas may be located at other infrastructure components;
- Fresh water to be sourced from Goose Lake, George Lake, and other suitable lakes on property, plus additional lake close to marine laydown area;
- Potential dewatering of entire lake in order to gain access to the Llama deposit;
- Possible partial dewatering of Goose Lake near proposed pit boundary;
- Removal of facilities and reclamation of disturbed areas at the end of mine life (roads, airstrips, tailings storage, and waste rock storage areas cannot be removed but would be returned to a condition acceptable to regulators and communities).

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/12MN036-Sabina-Back%20River/> including:

- *Back River Project Description which includes:*
 - *Executive/Non-technical Summaries in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun,*
 - *Project Description in English,*
 - *Maps,*
 - *NIRB Part 1 Form in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun,*
 - *NIRB Part 2 Project Specific Information Requirements (English), and*
 - *Site Photos;*
- *Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Application (English)*
- *Nunavut Water Board Application and referral for screening*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Sabina's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 22, 2012**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- 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); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Tara Arko at 867-983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosures (3): NIRB Comment Forms in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun