



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

August 20, 2012

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Executive Offices
10 Wellington St.
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Via email: duncan.j@parl.gc.ca and minister@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s "Back River" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Duncan:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above (12MN036).

On July 12, 2012 the NIRB received Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina) "Back River" project proposal from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 12MN036 and commenced screening pursuant to NLCA Article 12 Part 4 as the project occurs in an area without an approved land use plan.

As you may be aware, the NIRB facilitated the Final Hearings for its Review of Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation's "Mary River Project" from July 16th to July 28th, 2012. During that time, the Board was required to temporarily suspend its consideration of other files, including the Screening for the Back River project proposal.

On August 1, 2012 the NIRB distributed the Back River proposal for a period of public comment, with a request for comment submissions to be provided on or before August 22, 2012. On August 17, 2012 the NIRB received a request from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) to extend the public comment period to allow for the KIA additional time to prepare its submission. The NIRB has accepted the KIA's request and subsequently extended the comment deadline to September 5, 2012.

The NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision for Sabina's "Back River" project proposal within the 45 day time period as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed by September 17, 2012.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested parties on the extension.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
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
Paula Smith, Environment Canada
Allison Dunn, Environment Canada