



NIRB File No.: 12MN036
NWB File No.: 2AM-BRP
AANDC File No.: N2012T0025

February 8, 2013

To: The Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Revised Draft Scope and Draft EIS Guidelines for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s "Back River" project proposal

Dear Parties:

As you are aware, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina; the Proponent) "Back River" project proposal (the Project) is currently undergoing a Review by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) under Part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

Section 12.5.2 of the NLCA states:

"...The NIRB shall, upon soliciting any advice it considers appropriate, issue guidelines to the proponent for the preparation of an impact statement. It is the responsibility of the proponent to prepare an impact statement in accordance with any guidelines established by NIRB."

The NIRB has initiated a comprehensive public process to delineate the scope of the Project and the factors to be assessed through the Board's Review, as well as to assist in the NIRB's development of guidelines for the Proponent's preparation of an environmental impact statement pursuant to the NLCA, Section 12.5.2. On December 21, 2012 the NIRB issued an initial *Draft* Scope for its Review of the Project and requested that parties provide comments for the NIRB's consideration, based upon their mandate, jurisdiction and areas of expertise or interest.

The NIRB appreciates the effort made by the following parties to submit comments on or before February 4, 2013 as requested:

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| ▪ Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. | ▪ Transport Canada |
| ▪ Kitikmeot Inuit Association | ▪ Canadian Arctic Resources Committee |
| ▪ Government of Nunavut | ▪ Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society |
| ▪ Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada | ▪ North Slave Metis Alliance |
| ▪ Environment Canada | ▪ Yellowknives Dene First Nation |
| ▪ Fisheries and Oceans Canada | |
| ▪ Natural Resources Canada | |



All submissions received regarding the *Draft* Scope of the Project are available online from the NIRB's public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN036-SABINA-BACK%20RIVER/02-REVIEW/04-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/01-SCOPING/03-COMMENTS/>.

Following a review of all comments received by the Board, the NIRB has prepared the enclosed Revised *Draft* Scope for the Project. At this time, the NIRB has also developed the enclosed *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (*Draft* EIS Guidelines) for Sabina's Back River project.

Please be advised that, while some comments received regarding the initial *Draft* Scope have not been directly incorporated into the enclosed Revised *Draft* Scope, the NIRB has taken this feedback into consideration during its preparation of the enclosed *Draft* EIS Guidelines.

At present, the Board is inviting interested parties to review both the enclosed Revised *Draft* Scope and the *Draft* EIS Guidelines for the Project, and provide comments to the NIRB based upon their mandate, jurisdiction and areas of expertise or interest.

All parties are asked to ensure that their comment submissions:

- Identify the issue(s) of concern;
- Include a clear rationale of the issue's importance to the environmental assessment for the Project;
- Identify any specific information requirements or direction which should be incorporated into the documents to address each issue of concern; and,
- Reference the page, section, paragraph and/or item numbers of the respective documents to which comments are applicable.

Parties are asked to forward submissions to the NIRB via email to info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594. The NIRB will accept comment submissions regarding the enclosed Revised *Draft* Scope and the *Draft* EIS Guidelines for the Back River project until **Monday March 11, 2013**.

In closing, the NIRB reminds all parties that a number of public scoping meetings for the Back River project have yet to occur during February, and that all are welcome to attend these meetings as follows:

February 8: Kugluktuk, NU
February 11: Kugaaruk, NU
February 12: Gjoa Haven, NU

February 13: Taloyoak, NU
February 20: Yellowknife, NT



Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the NIRB's Review of the Back River project please contact Tara Arko, NIRB Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
David Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Karen Costello, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Derrick Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada
Meighan Andrews, Transport Canada

Enclosed (2): Revised *Draft* Scope List for the NIRB's Assessment of the Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. Back River Project (*February 2013*)

Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. Back River Project (*February 2013*)