



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

March 18, 2013

To: The Back River Distribution List

Sent via Email

Re: Final Scope and Revised Draft Guidelines for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the "Back River" Project

Dear Parties:

On February 8, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) distributed a request for public comments on the Revised *Draft* Scope for the assessment of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina; the Proponent) "Back River" project (the Project), as well as for the *Draft* Guidelines for Sabina's Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project. Comment submissions were received by the NIRB on or before March 11, 2013 and have, where appropriate, been incorporated into the enclosed Final Scope and Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines documents. A table has also been enclosed and is meant to serve as an accompaniment to the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines in order to describe how and where comments received have been addressed throughout the present version of the Guidelines.

As parties are aware, the NIRB facilitated Public Scoping Meetings in Kugaaruk, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, NU as well as, Yellowknife, NWT between February 5, 2013 and February 20, 2013. The Scope has been updated where appropriate in consideration of the comments and feedback received during the NIRB's Scoping Tour, and is enclosed for the information of parties.

The Final Scope and Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines as well as all comment submissions and other materials relating to the NIRB's scoping and guideline development process for the Project are available from the NIRB's online public registry at:

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

COMMENT REQUEST – Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines

It is the NIRB's intention that the EIS Guidelines provide instruction to the Proponent for its preparation of an EIS that addresses information requirements for both the NIRB and the public in order to allow for a thorough impact assessment of the Project. The NIRB asks that interested

parties and responsible authorities review the enclosed Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines and provide comments to the Board based on their area of expertise and/or mandate on or before **Monday, April 8, 2013**.

All parties are asked to ensure that their comments identify the following:

- The issue of concern,
- A rationale of the issue's importance to the environmental assessment process,
- Identify which section(s) of the EIS Guidelines to which that concern is addressed, i.e. page number, section number, or item number, and
- Clearly identify the edits being suggested, i.e. any items that should be included, removed, or suggested changes in wording associated with the issue.

NEXT STEPS

The NIRB will consider scheduling an EIS Guidelines workshop in order to facilitate discussions regarding technical matters raised and to draw upon the expertise and advice of various parties in finalizing the EIS Guidelines. The NIRB has proposed scheduling this workshop on April 22, 2013 in the previously circulated review timeline documents, and asks that parties indicate if there is interest or value in the NIRB holding such an event. Where parties would be interested in attending an EIS Guidelines workshop, the NIRB asks that they identify areas of particular interest anticipated to be raised for discussion at such a workshop. Responses to this item should be submitted to the NIRB office on or before **March 25, 2013**. Please note that the NIRB will determine whether a workshop will be held based in part, upon responses received and upon the comment submissions received on April 8, 2013.

The NIRB has prepared an updated Anticipated Timeline for the Review process map for the Board's Review of the Back River Project, and has enclosed this map for the information of parties.

The NIRB invites interested parties to submit comments on the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594 by **April 8, 2013**.

Parties should confirm whether or not they would be interested in participating in an EIS Guidelines workshop as well as areas of interest to be addressed at a potential workshop, to info@nirb.ca by **March 25, 2013**.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Back River project, please contact me directly at tarko@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4611.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko

Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
David Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board
Karen Kharatyan, 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

Enclosures (4): 1. Final Scope List for the NIRB's Assessment of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River Project
(*March 18, 2013*)
2. Revised *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Sabina
Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River Project (*March 18, 2013*)
3. Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines Comment Table (*March 18, 2013*)
4. Anticipated Review Timeline (*March 18, 2013*)