

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

April 9, 2013

To: The Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: NIRB's Development of Guidelines for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the "Back River" Project

Dear Parties:

On March 18, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) invited parties to provide comments regarding the Revised *Draft* Guidelines for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina or the Proponent) Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the "Back River" Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036) by April 8, 2013.

Please be advised that on or before April 8, 2013 the NIRB received comments from the following parties:

- Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
- Government of Nunavut
- Government of Canada
  - o Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
  - o Environment Canada
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
  - Natural Resources Canada
  - Transport Canada
- Government of Northwest Territories
- North Slave Metis Alliance

All comment submissions are available from the NIRB's online public registry here:

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

After considering the responses provided by parties to the NIRB on March 25, 2013 as well as comment submissions received on April 8, 2013, the NIRB has noted that there are no significant outstanding items which would require further dialogue, and therefore the NIRB will not be holding a workshop. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association has indicated that a submission is

forthcoming; therefore the NIRB will await receipt of this submission prior to finalizing the guidelines. The submission to be posted on NIRB's public registry once received. The Board will continue to update the Revised *Draft* Guidelines based on the input received to date, and anticipates issuing the Final EIS Guidelines to the Proponent in the coming weeks.

The NIRB appreciates the efforts of all parties in providing the Board with timely and constructive comments toward the development of EIS Guidelines for the Back River Project. If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Back River Project, please contact the undersigned directly at <a href="mailto:tarko@nirb.ca">tarko@nirb.ca</a> or (867) 983-4611.

Sincerely,

Tara Arko

**Technical Advisor** 

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Sara Clife

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.

David Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board Geoff Clarke, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Karen Costello, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Elizabeth Patreau, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Georgina Williston, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada Meighan Andrews, Transport Canada