



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

January 21, 2014

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

Sent via email: mpickard@sabinagoldsilver.com

Re: Receipt of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s "Back River" project

Dear Matthew Pickard:

On January 20, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina; the Proponent) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Back River Project. Please be advised that the DEIS submission is available from the NIRB's online public registry at:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/./02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN036-SABINA-BACK%20RIVER/02-REVIEW/05-DRAFT%20EIS%20&%20CONFORMITY%20REVIEW/02-DEIS%20JAN%202014/>.

The Board will now commence an internal review of the DEIS to determine whether the submission conforms to the NIRB's EIS Guidelines as issued to Sabina by the Board on April 30, 2013¹. Given the Proponent's request to engage in the NIRB and Nunavut Water Board's (NWB) coordinated process, the NWB will assist the NIRB in the conformity review of the Draft EIS against the information requirements contained within Appendix C of the Guidelines pertaining to the Type A Water Licence Application for the Project. The Board's conformity review is a presence or absence analysis of the required information only; it is not meant to evaluate the quality of the information presented, although it may identify significant deficiencies encountered.

¹ "Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036)" April 2013.

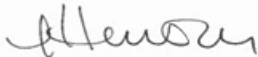
If the DEIS submission is found to conform with the NIRB's EIS Guidelines, the Board will formally accept the submission and will provide public notice regarding the commencement of a technical review period in accordance with the NIRB's Rules of Procedure.² The technical review period allows for a detailed review of the DEIS and provides interested parties with an opportunity to analyze the quality of the information presented by the Proponent. During the initial stage of the technical review period, interested parties will be invited to submit requests for additional information (i.e., Information Requests) as may be required to facilitate the development of technical review comments for the Board's consideration.

Further information regarding the subsequent steps for the NIRB's Review and the NIRB-NWB coordinated process for the Back River project will be communicated to all parties upon acceptance of the DEIS. Parties are also invited to consult the NIRB's guide to the NIRB Review Process for a general overview of the NIRB's Review timeline, available on the NIRB's online registry at the following location: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/04-GUIDES/03-NEW%20GUIDES/03-ENGLISH/>. The NIRB-NWB Detailed Coordinated Process Framework is also available from the NIRB's online registry at the following location: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/04-GUIDES/04-NIRB-NWB%20JOINT%20GUIDES/>.

At this time, the Board anticipates completing the internal conformity review and providing an indication as to the acceptability of Sabina's DEIS submission by **February 11, 2014**³.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Back River project, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at tarko@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4611. Any questions relating to the NWB's Licensing process for the Back River project may be directed to Karén Kharatyan, NWB Technical Advisor, at karen.kharatyan@nwb-oen.ca or (867) 360-6338 ext. 27.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Back River Distribution List

² NIRB Rules of Procedure, September 3, 2009. Available online via the NIRB's public registry at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/06-RULES/>.

³ The NIRB notes that this timing is longer than that contemplated in its previously issued Review process map; however as the NIRB will be sitting a Public Hearing January 27-31, 2014, additional time is required to complete its conformity review of Sabina's DEIS for the Back River Project.