



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

August 14, 2014

Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Confirmation of the upcoming NIRB Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference related to the NIRB's Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River Project

Dear Parties:

On February 11, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) initiated the public technical review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) submitted by Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. (Sabina or Proponent) for the Back River project (NIRB File No. 12MN036). The NIRB invited interested parties to submit Information Requests to the Board for consideration by March 13, 2014 in order to facilitate parties' technical review of the DEIS. The NIRB received submissions on or before March 24, 2014 and, after confirming the submissions as Information Requests, on April 7, 2014 requested that the Proponent review the submissions and supply the Board with an indication of an anticipated date for submission of an IR Response Package by Tuesday April 22, 2014. The NIRB received response packages to IRs from Sabina and all other parties from whom a response was requested, on or before July 23, 2014.

On July 31, 2014 the NIRB notified parties of the commencement of the 60 day technical review period and announced tentative dates for a Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) for the Review of the Back River project. The NIRB is confirming the following dates and facility locations for the Technical Meeting and PHC, both to be held in Cambridge Bay:

November 13-15, 2014: Technical Meeting at the Luke Novoligak Community Hall

November 17-19, 2014: PHC, including a Community Roundtable at the Luke Novoligak Community Hall

Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference

The NIRB intends to hold a technical meeting in order to facilitate informal face-to-face discussions between the Proponent and interested parties on technical matters related to the DEIS. The technical meeting will be kept as informal as possible in an effort to resolve technical

issues prior to the PHC. As such, this meeting will be facilitated by the NIRB staff, with participation by the Proponent, responsible authorities and interested parties. Break-out sessions may be used with discussions in each break-out group also facilitated by a NIRB staff member. During the technical meeting, the NIRB staff will compile a list of commitments made by the Proponent regarding revisions and updates to its pending Final Environmental Impact Statement submission. The list of commitments will then be carried forward to the PHC for consideration by the Board and incorporation into its PHC Report.

Following the technical meeting, the NIRB will hold a PHC to discuss such matters as: timelines for submissions, future meetings, evidence, document exchange, Final Hearing venue(s) and timing, Final Hearing format and any other matters related to the logistics of the Final Hearing. The PHC is meant to provide parties with an opportunity to present to the Board those issues that were resolved during the technical meeting, and those issues which remain outstanding. While the technical meeting is a structured but largely informal opportunity for technical experts to resolve outstanding issues, parties should note that participation in the PHC is somewhat more formalized.

The NIRB will facilitate the Community Roundtable session in conjunction with the PHC which will involve representation from communities identified as potentially impacted by the proposed Project in order to provide an opportunity for meaningful participation in the Board's Review. Following the PHC, the Board will issue a PHC decision which will provide direction to the Proponent for its preparation of a Final EIS and which outlines the procedures for the review of the Final EIS and the Final Hearing.

Further details on the arrangements to be made for the Technical Meeting along with a draft agenda will be circulated by the NIRB once technical comments have been received from parties. Parties will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the ordering of discussion items prior to finalizing the agenda. Information regarding the Community Roundtable session including selection of community representation will be provided in the coming weeks.

Hotel Accommodations

A block of hotel accommodations are currently being held by the NIRB in Cambridge Bay to facilitate participation by responsible authorities, agencies, and organizations which will be in attendance at the Technical Meeting and PHC. A limited number of hotel reservations are currently held by the NIRB and are now being made available to meeting participants upon request. Please be aware that agencies may be limited in the number of beds available in order to ensure that representation from all authorizing agencies, and parties to the Review, is possible.

Parties are hereby requested to notify the NIRB regarding their interest in securing these hotel beds as soon as possible. Requests should be forwarded to Tara Arko via tarko@nirb.ca. Reservations for individual hotel beds will be transferred from the NIRB to the planned attendee, who will be responsible for confirming the reservation and providing payment for any and all associated costs. The NIRB will release any remaining unrequested hotel beds from our group reservation by **5:00 pm Friday, November 7, 2014** or sooner depending on responses.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the next steps in the NIRB's Review of the Back River project, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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