



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

October 14, 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 Technical Review Comment Submissions for the NIRB's Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River project

Dear Matthew Pickard:

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 Corporation (Sabina or the Proponent) for the Back River project proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN036). Following the receipt of Sabina's response to initial Information Requests received from parties, on July 31, 2014 the NIRB invited interested parties to provide the Board with their technical review comments regarding the DEIS for the Back River project by 5:00 pm MT, Monday September 29, 2014. This deadline was later extended to 12:00 pm MT, October 10, 2014 at the request of Natural Resources Canada.

By the close of business on October 10, 2014 the NIRB received technical review comment submissions from the following parties:

- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Government of Canada including:
 - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
 - Environment Canada (EC)
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
 - Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

On Tuesday October 14, 2014 the NIRB received technical review comment submissions from the following parties:

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Transport Canada (TC)

All technical review comments received by the Board can be accessed via the NIRB's online public registry using the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN036-SABINA-BACK%20RIVER/02-REVIEW/07-IRS%20&%20TECHNICAL%20REVIEW/04-TECHNICAL%20REVIEW%20COMMENTS/>.

As previously indicated, the NIRB would like to offer Sabina an opportunity to provide an overview response to the technical review comments to facilitate the discussions at the upcoming Technical Meeting in Cambridge Bay (*November 13-15, 2014*) and requests that the response be provided to the NIRB by **12:00 pm MT, October 24, 2014**. Should Sabina require additional time to formulate its response to parties' comments, the NIRB requests that it advise our office of its anticipated timeline for a response as soon as practicable, keeping in mind the NIRB's previous request that any response be provided at least 10 days' prior to the commencement of the Technical Meeting.

Sabina's response should briefly outline its understanding of the main issues raised in the technical comments and its proposed plans to address and resolve these issues and related concerns through its upcoming *Final* EIS submission, including a draft list of commitments if possible. The draft list of commitments should also include an indication of Sabina's plans to satisfy any Information Requests directed to Sabina where a response was deferred to a later stage in the Review process (technical review, technical meeting), development of the *Final* EIS, or during the licensing/permitting/authorization application phase. The NIRB will consider providing time at the beginning of the Technical Meeting for Sabina to present its response to parties, which should be intended to focus the following discussion on the most appropriate items. The Board asks that Sabina be prepared to provide sufficient printed copies of any related presentation materials for parties in attendance at the meeting.

The NIRB anticipates circulating a draft agenda for the Technical Meeting on or before October 31, 2014 and will provide an opportunity for parties to comment on the ordering of discussion items prior to finalizing.

In advance of the Technical Meeting, the NIRB requests that Sabina provide a listing of its planned attendees, with an indication of their area of expertise. The NIRB requests that Sabina provide its response to technical review comments and list of planned attendees to the Board via email at info@nirb.ca or by fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **12:00 MT October 24, 2014**.

If you have any questions or require further clarification related to the NIRB's Review process, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara Arko', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tara Arko
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Back River Distribution List