



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

October 31, 2014

Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: **Draft Agenda for the NIRB's Technical Meeting and Agenda for the Pre-Hearing Conference for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River project proposal**

Dear Parties:

On July 31, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) provided the following information regarding the upcoming Technical Meeting and Preliminary Hearing Conference (PHC) to be held in Cambridge Bay as part of the Board's Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina or Proponent) proposed Back River project (NIRB File No. 12MN036).

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

November 17-19, 2014: Pre-hearing Conference and Community Roundtable at the Luke Novoligak Community Hall

TECHNICAL MEETING

The Technical Meeting will be held from November 13-15, 2014 at the Luke Novoligak Community Hall in Cambridge Bay, with meetings beginning on Thursday November 13th at 3:00 p.m. and thereafter, daily at 8:30 a.m. The Technical Meeting schedule also comprises evening meetings on Thursday and Friday; an evening session may also be required on Saturday November 15th, depending on the time required to address agenda items. The Technical Meeting will involve informal, face-to-face discussions of issues raised in parties' technical review comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Back River project. The objective of discussions will be to achieve further clarity and/or resolution on items within the DEIS where the methodology, analysis or conclusions presented by the Proponent are not supported by reviewers. The meeting will be facilitated by NIRB staff and involve discussion between the Proponent, responsible authorities and those interested parties that have submitted technical review comments to the NIRB. Break-out sessions facilitated by NIRB staff may be utilized to further discussions in smaller groups (i.e., may be related to engineering, wildlife, socioeconomic issues, etc.). During the Technical Meeting, the NIRB will track commitments made by the Proponent regarding resolution of technical issues as well as commitments made by

other parties in attendance. The Proponent is requested to keep a similar listing for the purposes of comparison at the conclusion of the meeting. The final listing of commitments will form a part of the meeting record and will also be carried forward to the PHC for consideration by the Board and possible incorporation into the NIRB's PHC Decision.

The NIRB has made the following arrangements for the Technical Meeting:

- Interpretation:** Simultaneous English and Inuinnaqtun interpretation will be provided to the extent practicable.
- Representatives:** Seating at the main table for each organization during the meeting will be limited, with a maximum of 2-3 seats per agency available. Additional seats will be provided for observers or upon request for representatives needing to be present during a particular session.
- Facilitator:** The meeting will be facilitated by Ryan Barry, NIRB Executive Director.
- Materials:** The NIRB will make available, a digital copy of all materials contained within the Board's public registry for the Review of the Project.
- Meeting times:** The meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. on November 13th, with sessions on November 14th and 15th starting at 8:30 a.m. Meetings will run until 5:00 p.m. daily, with an hour break for lunch and two 15 minute health breaks throughout the day. Light refreshments will be provided during health breaks; other meals will not be provided for participants. Evening sessions have been scheduled in order to ensure all agenda items are covered.

To assist with parties' preparation for the Technical Meeting, the NIRB has prepared a *draft* meeting agenda (Appendix A). Please note that the NIRB has ordered the agenda items to align where possible, with the thematic sections within Sabina's DEIS. The NIRB will structure the meeting to allow each party an opportunity to speak to outstanding technical review comments pertaining to agenda items in an ordered fashion, with time limits enforced as necessary to ensure the meeting proceeds in a timely fashion. The NIRB has endeavored to weight the agenda to allot more time for discussion of those items for which significant concerns were raised or where regulatory jurisdictions overlap. The NIRB has scheduled evening sessions on November 13th and 14th and may also extend the subsequent session into the evening on November 15th and/or facilitate breakout groups as required.

The NIRB requests that Sabina be prepared to deliver a maximum 30-45 minute presentation at the opening of the Technical Meeting which summarizes its response to parties' technical review comments, including an identification of those issues which may have been addressed within its response and those which have not yet been resolved. It is recommended that this presentation follow a similar thematic approach to that contained within Sabina's DEIS submission and the

attached *draft* meeting agenda. The Board requests that Sabina provide sufficient printed copies of its presentation for parties in attendance at the meeting (50 copies).

Following the receipt of input to the current *draft* meeting agenda, requested on or before **November 7, 2014**, the NIRB will issue a finalized agenda for the Technical Meeting by November 10, 2014.

PRELIMINARY HEARING CONFERENCE

In advance of the Preliminary Hearing Conference (PHC) scheduled to take place November 17-19, 2014 in Cambridge Bay, the NIRB has included an agenda for the information of parties (see Appendix B). The PHC is an important milestone in the NIRB's Review process, providing an opportunity for the Board to hear from intervenors, the Proponent and the public regarding issues identified during the technical review of the DEIS, including those which have been adequately addressed and those which remain outstanding. The NIRB conducts a PHC to identify and limit the issues of divergence among parties to the Review, and to promote the efficient use of time at the Final Hearing. The PHC will also serve as an opportunity to discuss the final phase of the Review process, including timing of the Final EIS submission and scheduling of a Final Hearing.

Preliminary Hearing Conference Logistics

- Interpretation:** Simultaneous English/Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun interpretation will be provided.
- Representatives:** Seating at the main table for each organization during the meeting will be limited, with a maximum of 2 seats per agency available. Additional seats will be provided for observers or upon request for representatives needing to be present during a particular session.
- Facilitator:** The meeting will be facilitated by Elizabeth Copland, NIRB Chairperson.
- Materials:** The NIRB will make available a digital copy of all materials contained within the Board's public registry for the Review of the Project.
- Meeting times:** Meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until 5:00 p.m. daily, with an hour break for lunch and two 15 minute health breaks throughout the day. Light refreshments will be provided during the meetings; other meals will not be provided for participants. An evening session has been scheduled to ensure the public have an opportunity to attend outside of regular working hours; additional evening sessions may also be scheduled as necessary.

Presentations

The NIRB requests that Sabina prepare a presentation which gives an overview of the Back River project and summarizes the conclusions contained within its DEIS as well as a description of how public comments and concerns have been addressed by Sabina and how the environmental assessment and concerns raised through this process have helped to inform the Project design. The presentation should also provide a brief summary of Sabina's response to technical review comments, identifying issues which have been addressed through commitments made from the Technical Meeting, and highlighting any outstanding or unresolved issues. Approximately two hours will be provided for this presentation, followed by questioning of the Proponent by community representatives and parties. It is recommended that where possible, the presentation follow a similar thematic approach as that set out in the DEIS.

All responsible authorities and parties planning to attend the PHC as intervenors are asked to prepare a brief presentation which provides an overview of their mandate and jurisdiction related to the project proposal, as well which briefly summarizes technical review comment submissions. Printed copies of all presentations must be available in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun for the benefit of all attendees. During the PHC, a time limit of 20 minutes for each presenting party will be enforced by the NIRB; presentations should be prepared with these limits in mind. If presenting parties seek to collaborate and combine presentations, additional time can be allocated to allow for these combined comments.

All Parties are advised that the NIRB will be soliciting comment on Day 3 of the PHC with respect to the formulation of issues for the Hearing, and that this will also include a discussion of outstanding or unresolved issues which should be addressed within the FEIS and throughout the remainder of the Review.

The NIRB requests that **all parties** provide the following materials in support of the PHC¹:

- Adequate hardcopies of all presentations for the Board, intervenors and the public (80 English, 25 Inuktitut, and 25 Inuinnaqtun); and
- Digital copy of presentation(s) in Microsoft PowerPoint format for the NIRB to display via a laptop computer and projector during the meetings (presentations should be named according to meeting and agency, e.g. Environment Canada_PHC, Sabina_Roundtable, etc.).

The PHC will be kept as informal as possible and, as with all NIRB proceedings, Elders will be permitted to speak at any time.

NEXT STEPS

The NIRB requests that parties planning to attend the upcoming Technical Meeting and PHC provide our office with details regarding the number of representatives to be in attendance at each meeting, their names, positions and respective area(s) of expertise or authority. Should

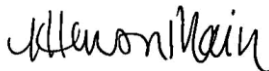
¹ Printed and electronic copies of presentation materials should be dropped off to the NIRB's attention at the Luke Novoligak Community Hall on Monday November 17, 2014 by 8:30 a.m.

parties have any significant concerns with respect to the attached *draft* Technical Meeting agenda, please provide an indication of any such concerns to our office. Any requests for specialized audio/visual equipment or specific logistical arrangements that may be required during the Technical Meeting and/or PHC should also be provided to the NIRB.

Parties are invited to provide comments regarding the attached *draft* agenda for the upcoming Technical Meeting. In addition, the NIRB requests that parties planning to attend either the Technical Meeting and/or the PHC provide our office with details regarding the number of attendees, their positions and specific area(s) of expertise, as well as any specific audio-visual needs which may be required. The NIRB respectfully requests that this information be provided to our offices via email at info@nirb.ca or by fax to (867) 983-2594 before **3:00 MST Friday November 7, 2014**.

If you have any questions or require further clarification related to the NIRB's Review of the Back River project or the upcoming Technical Meeting and PHC, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at tarko@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4611.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson Main
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.

Attachments (2): Appendix A: *Draft* Technical Meeting Agenda for the Back River project proposal
Appendix B: Preliminary Hearing Conference Agenda for the Back River project proposal



APPENDIX A DRAFT TECHNICAL MEETING AGENDA

NIRB File No.: 12MN036 – Back River Project
Proponent: Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation
Facilitator: Ryan Barry, NIRB Executive Director
Location: Luke Novoligak Community Hall, Cambridge Bay, NU
Dates & Times: November 13, 2014 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
November 14, 2014 8:30 am – 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
November 15, 2014 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (*potential 6:30 pm–9:00 pm*)

Note: All times given are approximate. The order of discussion topics and times given are subject to change at the NIRB's discretion

Thursday, November 13, 2014 – Day 1

3:00-3:30 pm NIRB welcome and opening remarks

- Objectives of technical meeting
- Introduction of participants
- Housekeeping items
- Overview of agenda

3:30-4:15 pm Sabina Presentation: Response to technical review comments

4:15-5:00 pm DEIS organization, including conclusions and methodologies

5:00–6:30 pm *Break for supper on own*

6:30-8:30 pm Alternatives assessment, including geology, geotechnical information and waste management

8:30–9:30 pm Atmospheric environment including climate, air quality, noise and vibration

Friday, November 14, 2014 – Day 2

- 8:30–9:15 am NIRB opening remarks
- Day 1 recap and overview of commitment list
- 9:15–10:00 am Aquatic environment including water management, freshwater environment, sediment quality, hydrology, hydrogeology and mine rock characterization
- 10:00–10:15 am Health break***
- 10:15 am–12:00 pm Aquatic environment including water management, freshwater environment, sediment quality, hydrology, hydrogeology and mine rock characterization – *continued*
- 12:00–1:00 pm Break for lunch on own***
- 1:00–3:00 pm Terrestrial environment including wildlife, migratory birds, species at risk, and vegetation
- 3:00–3:15 pm Health break***
- 3:15–4:45 pm Terrestrial environment including wildlife, migratory birds, species at risk, and vegetation – *continued*
- 4:45–5:00 pm Afternoon session wrap-up
- 5:00–6:30 pm Break for supper on own***
- 6:30–8:00 pm Public engagement and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles
- 8:00–9:30 pm Socio-economic environment and assessment including heritage resources

Saturday, November 15, 2014 – Day 3

- 8:30–9:15 am NIRB opening remarks
- Day 2 recap and overview of commitment list
- 9:15–10:00 am Marine environment, wildlife, and marine transportation
- 10:00–10:15 am Health break***
- 10:15–10:30 am Marine environment, wildlife, and marine transportation – *continued*

10:30 am–12:00 pm Human health and environmental risk assessment

12:00–1:00 pm Break for lunch on own

1:00–3:00 pm Cumulative and transboundary effects assessment

3:00–3:15 pm Health break

3:15–4:45 pm Accidents and malfunctions

4:45–5:00 pm Afternoon session wrap-up

6:30–9:00 pm *Potential evening session*



APPENDIX B PRELIMINARY HEARING CONFERENCE AGENDA

- NIRB File No.:** 12MN036 – Back River Project
Proponent: Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation
Moderator: Elizabeth Copland, NIRB Chairperson
Location: Luke Novoligak Community Hall, Cambridge Bay, NU
Dates: November 17-19, 2014
Times: 9:00 am–5:00 pm; *evening sessions as scheduled from 6:30pm–9:00pm and additionally as may be required*
- Note:** The order of presenters and timing of appearance on the agenda are subject to change at the Chairperson’s discretion; parties should be prepared to present either earlier or later than currently scheduled.

Monday, November 17, 2014 – Day 1 (Evening Session Scheduled)

Opening Prayer

Mayor of Cambridge Bay opening remarks – *to be confirmed*

NIRB welcome and opening remarks

- Objectives of presentations during Pre-Hearing Conference
- Overview of the NIRB process and status of Review
- Introduction of participants
- Overview of agenda for Pre-Hearing Conference and Community Roundtable portion
- Overview of commitment list from Technical Meeting
- Housekeeping items

Health break

Sabina Presentation – Overview of impact assessment conclusions and engagement in NIRB process, provide general discussion of technical review comments, commitments, outstanding issues and how these will be addressed moving forward

Questions from Community Roundtable representatives and public

12:00–1:00 pm ***Break for lunch on own***

Questions from Community Roundtable representatives and public – *continued*

Health break

Questions from Community Roundtable representatives and public – *continued*

Break for supper on own

Questions from Community Roundtable representatives and public – *continued*

NIRB Remarks: Day 1 Wrap-up

Tuesday, November 18, 2014 – Day 2

Opening Prayer

NIRB opening remarks

- Housekeeping items
- Recap of previous day
- Overview of agenda
- Overview of commitment list from Technical Meeting
- Introduction of participants

Presentations by Parties – Parties to present on technical review comment submissions, identification of issues addressed through Proponent commitments, with focus on outstanding issues which have yet to be addressed or resolved (*20 minutes per agency*) – note that time for questions from Community Roundtable representatives and the public will be provided following each presentation or grouping of presentations:

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association/Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Government of Nunavut

Health break

Presentations by Parties – *continued*

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Environment Canada

12:00–1:00 pm Break for lunch on own

Presentations by Parties – *continued*

- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada
- Government of Northwest Territories
- Additional intervenors

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 – Day 3

Opening Prayer

NIRB opening remarks

- Housekeeping items
- Recap of previous day

Facilitation of the Hearing Process / Procedural Matters – parties and intervenors at the table will be given an opportunity to comment on the following:

- Anticipated date for submission of Final EIS
- Date, time and location of Final Hearing
- Timetable for the exchange of documents and information requests prior to the Hearing
- Formulation of issues for the Hearing
- Procedures to be followed in the Hearing
- Equipment, language, interpretation, translation and transcript requirements
- Other matters that may aid in the simplification of the Hearing

12:00 – 1:00 pm Break for lunch on own

Community Roundtable closing remarks

Health break

Interested party and intervenor closing remarks

Closing Prayer