



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

November 12, 2014

Back River Distribution List

*Sent via email*

**Re: Revised Agenda for the NIRB's Technical Meeting for Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River project proposal**

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Dear Parties:

On October 31, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) provided information and a draft agenda for the upcoming Technical Meeting to be held in Cambridge Bay on November 13-15, 2014 as part of the Board's Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina or the Proponent) proposed Back River project (NIRB File No. 12MN036). The NIRB requested that interested parties review the draft agenda for the Technical Meeting and provide input regarding the scheduling of the agenda topics by November 7, 2014.

On or before November 7, 2014 the NIRB received input to the agenda from Fisheries and Oceans Canada<sup>1</sup>, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Sabina. The NIRB thanks parties for their efforts in reviewing the draft agenda and providing a timely response to the Board's request for input. The NIRB has attached the revised Technical Meeting agenda (Appendix A), which reflects input received as follows:

- **Day 1:** Clarification of "waste management" agenda item to include discussions on mine rock characterization (6:30-8:30 p.m.) per Sabina's request.
- **Day (1, 2 & 3):** Per Sabina's request, time will be allotted for it to deliver summary presentations aligned with thematic sections as presented within the agenda. Note that Sabina's initial introductory presentation on Day 1 has been removed from the agenda to allow for presentations at the start of each item as requested; it is expected that these summary presentations will be short in duration and no longer than 15 minutes each.
- **Day 2:** Clarification that the "terrestrial environment" section is to include a discussion of transboundary and cumulative effects to caribou, per the Government of the Northwest Territories' request.

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<sup>1</sup> The NIRB notes that comments received from Fisheries and Oceans Canada were with reference to the inclusion of Fisheries and Oceans Canada within the agency presentation section of the Pre-Hearing Conference Agenda. No change has been included to the updated Technical Meeting agenda enclosed, but the item has been addressed within the enclosed Pre-Hearing Conference Agenda, per Appendix B.

## Meeting Logistics:

Location:	Luke Novoligak Community Hall, Cambridge Bay, NU
Dates and Times:	November 13-15, 2014 8:30 am - 5:00 pm; <i>evening sessions to be held from 6:30-9:30 pm as required</i>
Meeting times:	Meetings will start at 8:30 am and run until 5:00 pm, with an hour break for lunch and two 15 minute health breaks throughout the day. Light refreshments will be provided during health breaks.

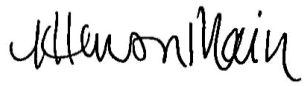
Parties should note that the agenda is a working document, and is meant to guide the discussions during the Technical Meeting. As such, it is subject to change as the meeting progresses.

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 will endeavor 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 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and may extend subsequent sessions into the evening on November 15<sup>th</sup> and/or facilitate breakout groups as required.

As previously mentioned, the meeting will be kept as informal as possible, with additional breakout sessions arranged as required; these sessions will be facilitated by NIRB staff and may be utilized to further discussions in smaller groups (i.e., may be related to engineering, wildlife, socioeconomic issues, etc.). Parties should be advised that the NIRB will track commitments made by the Proponent and other parties regarding resolution of technical issues during the Technical Meeting and that an ongoing review of these commitments by all parties will be needed in order to ensure the listing is agreeable at the conclusion of the Technical Meeting. The NIRB requests that Sabina also have its representatives tracking commitments to assist in ensuring appropriate wording and objectives are captured. It is anticipated that listings from each day will be provided either in the evenings following the meeting or at the start of the next day for review and that any comments or issues will be raised during the end of day wrap up or the following morning for discussion. This listing 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.

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](mailto: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: Revised Technical Meeting Agenda for the Back River project proposal  
Appendix B: Pre-Hearing Conference Agenda for the Back River project proposal



## APPENDIX A REVISED 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 are subject to change, and break out discussions may be utilized at any time per the NIRB's discretion.

### **Thursday, November 13, 2014 – Day 1**

3:00-3:45 pm	NIRB welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Objectives of technical meeting</li><li>▪ Introduction of participants</li><li>▪ Housekeeping items</li><li>▪ Overview of agenda</li></ul>
3:45-5:00 pm	DEIS organization, including conclusions and methodologies
<b>5:00–6:30 pm</b>	<b><i>Break for supper on own</i></b>
6:30-8:00 pm	Alternatives assessment, including geology, geotechnical information, waste management and mine rock characterization
8:00–9:30 pm	Atmospheric environment including climate, air quality, noise and vibration

### **Friday, November 14, 2014 – Day 2**

8:30–9:15 am	NIRB opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Day 1 recap and overview of commitment list</li></ul>
9:15–10:15 am	Aquatic environment including water management, freshwater environment, sediment quality, hydrology, hydrogeology
<b><i>10:15 –10:30 am</i></b>	<b><i>Health break</i></b>
10:30 am–12:00 pm	Aquatic environment including water management, freshwater environment, sediment quality, hydrology, hydrogeology – <i>continued</i>
<b><i>12:00–1:00 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Break for lunch on own</i></b>
1:00–3:00 pm	Terrestrial environment including wildlife, migratory birds, species at risk, vegetation and a discussion of transboundary and cumulative effects to caribou
<b><i>3:00–3:15 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Health break</i></b>
3:15–4:45 pm	Terrestrial environment including wildlife, migratory birds, species at risk, and vegetation and a discussion of transboundary and cumulative effects to caribou – <i>continued</i>
4:45–5:00 pm	Afternoon session wrap-up
<b><i>5:00–6:30 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Break for supper on own</i></b>
6:30–8:15 pm	Public engagement and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles
8:15–9:30 pm	Socio-economic environment and assessment including heritage resources

### **Saturday, November 15, 2014 – Day 3**

8:30–9:15 am	NIRB opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Day 2 recap and overview of commitment list</li></ul>
9:15–10:00 am	Marine environment, wildlife, and marine transportation
<b><i>10:00–10:15 am</i></b>	<b><i>Health break</i></b>
10:15–10:30 am	Marine environment, wildlife, and marine transportation – <i>continued</i>
10:30 am–12:00 pm	Human health and environmental risk assessment

<b><i>12:00–1:00 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Break for lunch on own</i></b>
1:00–3:00 pm	Cumulative and transboundary effects assessment
<b><i>3:00–3:15 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Health break</i></b>
3:15–4:45 pm	Accidents and malfunctions
4:45–5:00 pm	Afternoon session wrap-up
<b><i>6:30–9:00 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Potential evening session</i></b>

**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*

**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

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

***Health break***

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*

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada
- 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