



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

NWB File No.: 2AM-BRP----

AANDC File No.: N2012T0025

December 3, 2014

Chief Felix Lockhart
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
c/o Mike Tollis
Wildlife, Lands, and Environment Manager
P.O. Box 28
Lutsel K'e, NT X0E 1A0

Chief Edward Sangris, Dettah
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
c/o Shannon Gault
Director, Land & Environment
P.O. Box 2514
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

Chief Ernest Betsina, Ndilo
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
c/o Shannon Gault
Director, Land & Environment
P.O. Box 2514
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

Sent via fax and email: lkdfnlands@gmail.com; sgault@ykdene.com

Re: Submissions to the Nunavut Impact Review Board regarding the Preliminary Hearing Conference for the NIRB's Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's Back River project

Dear Chiefs Felix Lockhart, Edward Sangris, and Ernest Betsina:

As you are aware, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) recently held a Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) in Cambridge Bay from November 17-19, 2014 as part of its public Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's (Sabina) Back River project proposal (the Project) (NIRB File No. 12MN036).

The PHC allowed members of the public, Inuit organizations, and government agencies to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that was submitted to the NIRB by Sabina in

January 2014, and to identify any areas requiring additional analysis prior to moving forward with the final phase of the Board's environmental assessment process. The NIRB was pleased to facilitate the attendance of community representatives from Nunavut communities including Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo, as well as the attendance of representatives from the Northwest Territories communities of Behchokò, Łutselk'e, Whatì and Wekweètì. Community representatives participated actively throughout the community roundtable and PHC, providing the Board with valuable comments and perspectives to consider for its assessment of the proposed project.

The Board acknowledges the submissions received on November 18, 2014 from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and on November 19, 2014 from the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) with regard to the PHC proceedings for the Back River project proposal. The NIRB is currently preparing its PHC Decision Report for the Review of the Back River project proposal, which will outline the progress made in this assessment to date while providing direction to the Proponent and parties regarding the key issues that must be further addressed through the pending Final Environmental Impact Statement submission and the Final Hearing that will subsequently follow; the NIRB will ensure that the input provided by both organizations is given due consideration while developing its PHC Decision Report. The NIRB anticipates releasing its PHC Decision Report prior to December 24, 2014 and will provide your offices with copy of the report once issued.

All information pertaining to the NIRB's Review of this Project, including the submissions received from the YKDFN and LKDFN, is publically available and can be accessed at the NIRB's online public registry at the following address:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN036-SABINA-BACK%20RIVER/>.

The NIRB appreciates the YKDFN and LKDFN participation in the Board's ongoing Review of the Back River project proposal, and looks forward to receiving continued input from each of your organizations as the next stage of the Review process commences.

Should you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Back River project proposal and the next steps in the assessment, please contact Kristina Benoit, Technical Advisor, at kbenoit@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4607.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation
Back River Distribution List