



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

September 9, 2015

To: Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's Notice of Updated Scope Proposed for its Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Back River Project Proposal

Dear Parties:

On July 3, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the enclosed correspondence from Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation (Sabina) regarding project scope and the previously established Coordinated Process between the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for the Back River Project proposal (Back River Project, or the Project; NIRB File No. 12MN036). Sabina proposed to reduce the proposed scope of the Project to be presented and assessed within its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and to withdraw from NIRB/NWB Coordinated Process. Of the proposed change in Project scope, Sabina is specifically proposing to:

- Remove the George site from the mine development proposal; and
- Modify the Project Development Area for the Goose development site.

As a result of the proposed changes to the scope of the Project, Sabina provided a draft updated list of commitments, previously identified during the NIRB's 2014 Pre-Hearing Conference¹, in its July 3, 2015 correspondence.

All materials received and pertaining to the Back River Project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

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

PROJECT ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

In November 2014 the NIRB held Technical Meetings in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, as well as a Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference on Sabina's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The NIRB subsequently issued its Pre-Hearing Conference Decision on December 19, 2014 which provided a list of commitments made by Sabina at the Technical Meetings, as well as direction on the information to be included in the FEIS for the Back River

¹ Nunavut Impact Review Board Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference held in Cambridge Bay November 13-19, 2014.

Project. Recognizing that the list of commitments and the Board's direction in the Pre-hearing Conference Decision were in consideration of the scope of the project proposed in the DEIS, and were the result of discussions involving multiple parties, the NIRB invites parties to review the proposed updated commitments and provide input on any potential adjustments to the previous commitment list.

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

The NIRB is requesting that parties review the proposed change in Project scope and the previous commitments made by Sabina as well as the updated commitment list provided by Sabina in its July 3, 2015 letter, and provide the Board with an assessment of the proposed amendments to the previous commitments as a result of the proposed scope change being considered by Sabina. On August 21, 2015 Sabina provided the enclosed reorganized table format of the updated commitment list for ease of identifying proposed change linkages to previous commitments lists. By copy of this letter, the NIRB is requesting that interested parties provide comments directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or by fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **12:00 pm MST, September 21, 2015**.

To facilitate parties' submissions, the NIRB has provided a list of information in **Appendix A** of this letter, as well as the following points for parties to consider in relation to the updated scope and removal of the coordinated process:

- Where parties participated in the development of commitments from the Technical Review process (Appendix 2 of the NIRB's Pre-hearing Conference Decision), indicate if the applicable commitment would still apply to the requirements of the FEIS;
- Where parties participated in discussions that lead to the commitments at the Technical Meetings (Appendix 1 of the NIRB's Pre-hearing Conference Decision), indicate if the commitment would apply to the requirements of the FEIS; and
- Provide justification for the recommendation where applicability of a commitment has changed.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the next steps in the Board's assessment of the Back River proposal, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4607 or kbenoit@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kristina Benoit
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Luigi Torretti, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Attachments: Appendix A: Suggested Format for Comment Requests

Enclosures (2): Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation correspondence to the Nunavut Impact Review Board regarding
Final Environmental Impact Statement Update for the Back River Project (*July 3, 2015*) and
Reorganized Table Format of Updated Commitment List (*August 20, 2015*)

APPENDIX A: SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR COMMENTS

Parties are asked to ensure that comments address the points set out below:

- Previous Commitment Source:** Reference to NIRB Pre-hearing Conference Decision Appendix 1 or 2.
- Previous Commitment Number:** Commitment number as noted in the table of the NIRB Pre-Hearing Conference Decision.
- Issue/Concern:** Provide a description of how the previous commitment may be altered, or where information requirements may change in the FEIS, as a result of Sabina's proposed discontinuation or the coordinated process and reduced scope of the project.
- Applicability of Commitment:** Clearly identify whether or not the commitment still applies to the requirements of the FEIS.