



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

March 27, 2017

Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Notice of Final Hearing and Intervenor Application Deadline for the NIRB's further Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's Back River Gold Mine Project Proposal

Dear Parties:

Please find enclosed the Notice of Hearing for the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) further Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's (Sabina or the Proponent) proposed Back River Gold Mine project proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN036). Please note that formal notice will also be appearing in local newspapers in the coming weeks in English, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, and French. A copy of the notice has also been posted online to the NIRB's public registry (with translated copies to follow) and can be accessed at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Back River Project
- NIRB File No.: 12MN036
- NIRB Application No.: 124149

Dates of Final Hearing

As identified in the Board's correspondence of January 23, 2017, in response to the Responsible Minister's referral of the Back River Project back to the NIRB to further assess deficiencies with respect to five main ecosystemic issues, the Board has determined that a Public Hearing should be held to support the Board's further assessment of these issues. On this basis, the Board has determined that as with the previous Final Hearing, this Public Hearing will be held in the community of Cambridge Bay, and will involve a combination of technical and community sessions. Reflecting the Board's direction and availability of meeting venue and logistical support, the NIRB is pleased to announce the following schedule for the Public Hearing in support of this further Review:

LOCATION	DATE	TIME*	SCHEDULE
Cambridge Bay, Luke Novoligak Community Hall	May 31, 2017	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Technical Presentations
	June 1, 2017	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Technical Presentations

	June 2, 2017	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Community Roundtable
	June 3, 2017	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Community Roundtable and Closing Statements

***NOTE: The NIRB may, in its discretion, extend any day session into an evening session if required.**

While the agenda for the Public Hearing will be circulated to all parties in advance and may be adjusted as necessary at the discretion of the NIRB’s Chairperson, the schedule for these proceedings has been arranged such that the first portion of the Public Hearing will consist of formal proceedings, including technical presentations, while the latter portion will allow for more directed community engagement through community roundtable sessions. An evening session will be held to ensure members of the community also have adequate opportunity to participate outside of regular working hours.

Public Hearing Logistics & Details

The Public Hearing will be conducted in accordance with the NIRB’s Rules of Procedure (the Rules)¹. Proceedings will be facilitated by the NIRB’s Board Members, with support from NIRB staff and legal counsel as required. A stenographer will be present at the Hearing to record an official transcript, and simultaneous English-Inuinnaqtun, English-Inuktitut, and English-T’licho interpretation will be provided through all proceedings, while French interpretation may also be provided if requested at least 14 days in advance of the Hearing. Access to the full public registry will be made available during proceedings.

Intervenor Participation and Attendance

For the previous NIRB Final Hearing for the Back River Gold Mine project (April 25-30, 2016) the NIRB requested that parties wishing to apply for intervenor status at the proceedings identify themselves under Part III, Rule 22 of the NIRB’s Rules of Procedure. For this Public Hearing, the NIRB is not requiring parties who participated as Intervenors in the previous Final Hearing to apply again for intervenor status. The Board encourages all previous Intervenors to continue with their participation and attend the upcoming Public Hearing. Intervenors are asked to confirm their participation and attendance at this Public Hearing by **April 18, 2017**.

Summary

In closing, as we move closer to the Public Hearing for the NIRB’s further Review of the Back River Gold Mine project proposal, the Board thanks all parties for their continued active engagement in the Board’s processes. Additional details regarding the Hearing will be provided as they become available.

As a reminder to all parties, the NIRB requires parties that participated in the previous Final Hearing to confirm attendance at the upcoming Hearing by **April 18, 2017**.

The NIRB reminds all parties that the deadline for final written submissions is **April 24, 2017**.

¹ NIRB Rules of Procedure (September, 2009) are available from the NIRB’s online registry from the following link: <http://www.nirb.ca/rules-of-procedure>.

Should you have questions regarding the upcoming Public Hearing for the NIRB's further consideration of the Back River Gold Mine project, including the NIRB's Rules of Procedure and Board's specific directions for the Board's further assessment, please contact Ryan Barry, the Board's Executive Director at (867) 983-4608 or via email at rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.

Enclosed (1): Notice of Public Hearing (*March 27, 2017*)