



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

April 10, 2017

Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Logistics Information for the NIRB's Further Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River Gold Mine Project

Dear Parties:

On March 27, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) issued its Notice of Hearing for the NIRB's further Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s (Sabina or Proponent) Back River Gold Mine Project proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN036; Back River Project or the Project).

At this time, the NIRB would like to provide parties with direction regarding general logistics for the upcoming supplemental Final Hearing for this assessment, scheduled for May 31 – June 3, 2017 in Cambridge Bay, NU. The supplemental Final Hearing will involve a combination of technical and community sessions which will focus on the five (5) key ecosystemic areas identified in the Minister's January 12, 2017¹ referral letter to the NIRB, as well as any other relevant ecosystemic or socioeconomic topics that could further assist the Board in its assessment of the Back River Gold Mine Project proposal. Discussions during the Final Hearing will be structured to assist with the identification of issues that will be addressed by the Board within a revised Final Hearing Report, issued to the responsible Minister for this assessment.

Parties can access the Back River Gold Mine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum (FEIS Addendum), as well as the original Back River Gold Mine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement, along with all correspondence and submissions associated with the NIRB's assessment of the Back River Project proposal, at www.nirb.ca using any of the following search criteria:

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

¹ Minister Letter to NIRB Re Final Hearing Report, NIRB File No. 12MN036 (*January 12, 2017*)

CONFIRMATION OF FINAL HEARING ATTENDANCE

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

FINAL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

The next step in the NIRB's further Review of the Back River Project is the filing of final written submissions with the Board on or before **April 24, 2017**. Guidance regarding the recommended format for written submissions was distributed in the NIRB's February 23, 2017 Initiation of Technical Review Period letter, which is available through the NIRB's public registry. The Board appreciates the efforts of all parties to structure their respective submissions in accordance with the recommended format, which will assist greatly in their presentation and discussion at the Final Hearing. Upon receipt, parties' final written submissions will be made available to all parties via the NIRB's online public registry.

FINAL HEARING

The Final Hearing will be held in the community of Cambridge Bay from May 31 – June 3, 2017 and will involve a combination of technical and non-technical sessions, with the first portion of the proceedings consisting of formal technical presentations, while the latter portion will allow for more directed community engagement through a community roundtable. While the draft agenda for the Final Hearing will be circulated in the coming weeks to all parties, once finalized it may be adjusted as necessary during the proceedings at the discretion of the NIRB's Chairperson.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The NIRB is currently soliciting five (5) representatives each from the communities of Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Bay Chimo, Bathurst Inlet, and Cambridge Bay as well as one (1) representative from potentially affected communities of the Northwest Territories to attend the Final Hearing and share their community's comments and concerns on the proposed project.² The NIRB is prepared to cover the costs of travel, accommodations and meals as necessary for community representatives travelling to Cambridge Bay to facilitate their attendance and participation at the Final Hearing.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel reservations are currently being held by the NIRB in Cambridge Bay in order to facilitate participation by responsible authorities, organizations, and Intervenor at the upcoming Final Hearing. The Board asks that all parties plan to provide sufficient representation during both the planned technical sessions and community roundtable portions of the Final Hearing.

The NIRB is prepared to release reserved hotel beds to representatives from the following organizations:

- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)

²As the Hearing is a public event, any interested members of the public from Cambridge Bay will be welcome to attend and participate during the Final Hearing and community round table.

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Transport Canada (TC)
- Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN)
- North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN)

Given that the availability of hotel beds in Cambridge Bay may be limited and may be somewhat less than the number of intended participants for the Hearing, the NIRB will allocate available hotel beds amongst parties as evenly as possible. The Board will also assist parties where required and/or requested with securing billet accommodations to the extent possible, and strongly encourages all groups to consider this option. Reservations for individual hotel beds will be transferred from the NIRB to the planned attendee, who will be responsible for confirming the room and assuming associated costs. The NIRB will release any remaining unconfirmed hotel beds from the group reservation by **April 28, 2017**. All parties seeking accommodations in Cambridge Bay for the Final Hearing should contact the NIRB as soon as possible.

TRANSLATION/INTERPRETATION REQUIREMENTS

The NIRB will conduct the Final Hearing proceedings in simultaneous English-Inuinnaqtun, English-Inuktitut, and English-Tłıcho interpretation as appropriate. The NIRB requests that any parties requiring French interpretation for the Hearing notify the NIRB by **May 17, 2017**.

Additionally, those who require special audio-visual equipment at the Hearing are also requested to inform the NIRB by **April 26, 2017** and to specify the nature of equipment required to allow for the necessary arrangements to be made.

MEDIA ACCESS TO THE HEARING

The NIRB has arranged for court reporters to attend the Final Hearing to produce a transcript of the proceedings to ensure that there is a full and fair historical record that is readily accessible to all. The Board is also supportive of any planned efforts by public media outlets to cover the Final Hearing proceedings and will ensure that media representatives are granted sufficient access to the proceedings to report accurately. However, the Board must also ensure that the participants at the Final Hearing are not unduly limited in their willingness and ability to participate fully if recordings should become intrusive or disruptive. As such, the NIRB has established rules for recording of final hearings and other proceedings that it asks all media outlets to observe to assist in minimizing all such disruptions; a copy of these rules will be provided to any media outlet requesting media access for the Final Hearing proceedings.

As such, the NIRB would like to request that all media outlets that wish to record proceedings during the Final Hearing (film, photograph, audio) request media access from the Board on or before **April 26, 2017**.

SUMMARY

In closing, as we move closer to the Final Hearing for the NIRB's consideration of the Back River Gold Mine Project proposal, the Board thanks all parties for their support and encourages continued active engagement in the review process. Additional details regarding hearing logistics and final scheduling will be provided.

Once again the NIRB would like to remind all parties that the deadline for final written submissions as illustrated in the enclosed process map is **April 24, 2017**.

Requests for French language interpretation during the Final Hearing should be submitted to the NIRB by **May 17, 2017**.

The NIRB also requests that parties notify the NIRB at info@nirb.ca on or before **April 26, 2017** regarding the following:

1. Expression of interest in accommodations, including billeting options, in Cambridge Bay.
2. Indicate whether special audio-visual equipment will be required at the Hearing (indicate which audio-visual equipment will be required).
3. Requests for access from media outlets to record Hearing proceedings (film, photograph, and audio).

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding next steps in the NIRB's review of the proposed Back River Gold Mine Project please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4615 or via email at dstpierre@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Davin St. Pierre
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Mathew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.

Enclosure (1): *Updated* NIRB Review Timeline for the Back River Project, April 10, 2017