



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

May 11, 2017

To: Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Draft Agenda for the Technical Meeting related to the NIRB's Review of Sabina Gold and Silver's Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum for the "Back River Gold Mine Project" proposal

Dear Parties:

As outlined in previous correspondence dated May 10, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) confirmed that the Technical Meeting for Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's (Sabina or Proponent) Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum (FEIS Addendum), submitted to supplement the NIRB's further Review of the Back River Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036), **will be held via teleconference on May 24, 2017.**

To assist with parties' preparation for the Technical Meeting, the NIRB has prepared a *draft* meeting agenda (Appendix A) and is inviting input from parties with regards to the proposed meeting schedule and items for discussion.

TECHNICAL MEETING

The objective of the Technical Meeting will be to clarify technical issues in the FEIS Addendum, and to facilitate informal discussions between the Proponent and interested parties on technical matters related to the Back River Project proposal. The Technical Meeting will be kept as informal as possible in an effort to resolve or clarify technical issues prior to the Final Hearing. This meeting will be facilitated by NIRB staff, with participation by the Proponent, responsible authorities, and interested parties.

Discussions during the Technical Meeting are intended to assist parties with developing a position on whether the Proponent's FEIS Addendum and response to final written submissions sufficiently addressed concerns raised through the supplemental Review and technical commenting period, and to highlight what issues remain outstanding that require further discussion and consideration through the Final Hearing.

The Board asks that parties participating in the Technical Meeting be prepared to discuss the following points in particular, according to their respective jurisdiction/mandate:

- Determination of whether the supplemental information provided within the FEIS Addendum and/or the Proponent's response to final written submissions effectively addressed concerns expressed by parties;
- Determination of whether or not conclusions in the FEIS Addendum and/or the Proponent's response to final written submissions are supported by the analysis – and reasons to support the determination;
- Identification of specific commitments being sought by parties from the Proponent to address outstanding technical issues and concerns; and
- Identification of additional terms and conditions which would be required to address the potential impacts of the Back River Gold Mine Project proposal.

REQUEST TO PROPONENT

The NIRB requests that Sabina be prepared to deliver a 30 minute presentation at the opening of the Technical Meeting which summarizes the supplemental information provided within the FEIS Addendum, the identification of issues which have been addressed with agencies through update meetings and/or completed commitments, and those issues which remain in negotiation or have not been resolved. It is recommended that this presentation follow a similar thematic approach to that contained within Sabina's FEIS Addendum submission and the attached draft meeting agenda. Further, the NIRB requests that Sabina submit a copy of the presentation prior to the teleconference to ensure all parties will have a copy for viewing.

REQUEST TO PARTIES

The NIRB requests that parties planning to participate in the upcoming teleconference Technical Meeting provide our office with a confirmation of attendance, via email to info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594 on or before **May 18, 2017**. The NIRB also requests that parties provide comments on the *draft* agenda and items for discussion as presented by this date.

Once the NIRB has received confirmation from all parties attending the teleconference, separate correspondence will be issued to those attending to provide the teleconference number.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the next steps in the Board's assessment of the Back River Project proposal, please contact Davin St. Pierre, Technical Advisor II at (867) 983-4615, or dstpierre@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Attachments: Appendix A – *Draft* Technical Meeting Agenda

NIRB File No.: 12MN036 – Back River Gold Mine Project
Proponent: Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation
Location: *Teleconference moderated by NIRB staff*
Date: May 24, 2017
Times: 8:00 am – 11:00 am, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Mountain Standard Time (MST)**

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

- 8:00 – 8:15 am NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Objectives of Technical Meeting
 - Introduction of Participants
 - Housekeeping Items
 - Overview of Agenda
- 8:15 – 8:45 am Sabina Presentation - presentation to be circulated prior to teleconference
- 8:45 – 9:30 am Discussion on additional information presented in the FEIS Addendum on topics related to the physical environment including climate and meteorology, air quality, landforms and soils, vegetation and special landscape features as well as relevant mitigation, monitoring, and management plans
- 9:30 – 9:45 am Health Break***
- 9:45 am – 11:00 am Discussion on additional information presented in the FEIS Addendum on topics related to the physical environment including caribou and terrestrial wildlife, potential cumulative and transboundary effects, as well as relevant mitigation, monitoring, and management plans
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Break for Lunch***
- 12:00 – 12:45 pm Discussion on additional information presented in the FEIS Addendum on topics related to the physical environment including surface hydrology, freshwater water quality, freshwater fish/aquatic habitat, marine fish/aquatic habitat, marine fish community, as well as relevant mitigation, monitoring, and management plans
- 12:45 – 1:30 pm Discussion on additional information presented in the FEIS Addendum on topics related to the human environment including socio-economics, human health and environmental risk assessment, supplemental consultation, as well as other matters including accidents and malfunctions
- 1:30 – 1:45 pm Health Break***

- 1:45 – 2:30 pm Discussion on any outstanding issues related to the Back River Project proposal, including management plans
- 2:30 – 3:00 pm NIRB Discussion:
- Next steps and Final Hearing
 - Question and answer period for parties
 - Conclusion of Technical Meeting