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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File No: **2AM-BRP1831/TR/D2, D3**

October 27, 2026

Braeden Connor
Environmental Permitting Manager
B2Gold Back River Corp.
Suite 3400, Park Place, 666 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2X8

Email: Braeden.Connor@b2gold.com

RE: NWB Technical Review of the Design Package for the New Desalination Plant at the Marine Laydown Area; Back River Project; Water Licence No: 2AM-BRP1831

Dear Mr. Connor:

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) has completed its technical review of the construction design report for the New Desalination Plant at the Allen Kapolak Marine Laydown Area (Design Report) provided to the Board by B2Gold Back River Corp. (B2Gold or Licensee) on September 19, 2026 to fulfill the requirements of Part D, Item 2 of Water Licence No: 2AM-BRP1831 (Licence).

In its submissions, B2Gold confirmed that the proposed desalination plant will ultimately replace the existing plant, which will be retained temporarily as a backup during commissioning and initial operation of the new plant. The new plant will be located on a pre-existing, levelled gravel pad within the Allen Kapolak Marine Laydown Area (AKMLA) footprint, with the existing marine water intake and brine discharge infrastructure remaining unchanged. B2Gold further confirmed that the replacement plant will operate within the currently authorized seawater intake and discharge volumes.

The new plant is designed to produce freshwater at a nominal rate of 100 m³/day, with the capability to operate at up to 150 m³/day. B2Gold indicated that this capacity is intended to accommodate variable site occupancy, including increased workforce requirements during Winter Ice Road (WIR) operations. The new plant is expected to be commissioned in early November 2026, before the anticipated increase in the WIR workforce. The existing plant will remain available as a backup until the new plant has demonstrated reliable operation.

The Design Report describes the site conditions, design basis, key design parameters, and construction design drawings for the proposed facility, as required under Part D, Item 3 of the

Licence.

Upon receipt, the submission was distributed for a two-week public review period with a deadline of October 1, 2026.

On or before the deadline, the comments were received from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). In its submission, CIRNA indicated that they have no technical comments on the Design Report. KIA raised concerns regarding discharge criteria, authorized intake and discharge volumes, the potential implications of increased desalination capacity for sewage management, and the proposed plant location. DFO requested confirmation regarding the fish screen at the seawater intake and whether any in-water works would be required.

On October 5, 2026, B2Gold submitted responses to the comments received. B2Gold confirmed that the existing intake and discharge infrastructure would remain unchanged, that no in-water or near-water works would be required for installation of the replacement plant, and that the new plant would operate within the authorized intake and discharge volumes. B2Gold also confirmed that the new plant would be located on a pre-existing, levelled gravel pad within the AKMLA footprint. Regarding the fish screen, B2Gold committed to reviewing the existing screen against the applicable DFO standard before the new plant begins operation. B2Gold also confirmed that it would continue to implement applicable protective measures for fish and fish habitat.

KIA and DFO subsequently confirmed their satisfaction with B2Gold's responses on October 7, 2026, and October 23, 2026, respectively.

All correspondence relevant to this submission is available from the NWB's Public Registry and FTP site using the following link:

Construction of a New Desalination Plant at the Allen Kapolak Marine Laydown Area

NWB's Review and Decision

The NWB, having fully reviewed the Licensee's request in the context of potential impact of the proposed activities on the receiving environment, and consistency of the proposed activity with the scope of the Licence, determined that the proposed construction is consistent with the scope of activities considered under Water Licence No: 2AM-BRP1831. Therefore, by way of this correspondence, the Board has accepted the Design Report, as required under Part D, Item 2 of the Licence, and authorizes the Licensee to undertake the construction of the new Desalination Plant at the Allen Kapolak Marine Laydown Area.

Further, in keeping with Part D, Item 11 of the Licence's terms and conditions, the submission of post-construction information, including as-built plans and drawings, and a Construction Summary Report, shall remain applicable to this authorization.

The Licensee is also expected to complete the fish-screen compliance review committed to in its response to DFO before the new plant begins operation.

The Licensee is reminded that the Board's "acceptance" of this submission is a verification that the proposed activities are consistent with the existing terms and conditions of the Licence, and more specifically with Part D, Item 3, and may proceed in accordance with the Design Report and drawings provided. It should be noted that the Board's "acceptance" is NOT intended or offered as any representation regarding the suitability of the plans nor third-party verification of the design, construction, planning or engineering discussed in the documents.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 360-6338 (extension 29) or sergey.kuflevskiy@nwb-oen.ca, at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Sergey Kuflevskiy
Technical Advisor
NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

Cc: Distribution List – Back River Project