



NIRB File No.: 08MN006
INAC LUP No.: N2004C0005
KIA File No.: KTL303C010
NWB: 2AM-HAK----

February 7, 2008

Albert Brantley, President and CEO
Sabina Silver Corporation
1004 Alloy Drive
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6A5

Via email: abrantley@sabinasilver.com

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Sabina Silver Corporation's Hackett River Mine Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Brantley:

On January 21, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the Hackett River Mine project proposal from Sabina Silver Corporation (Sabina). On February 5, 2008 the NIRB received correspondence from the Nunavut Water Board acknowledging Sabina's Type 'A' Water License Application, as well as an Application for a Land Use Permit from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **08MN006**.

The proposed project is a mine development located in the West Kitikmeot Region. The nearest community is Bathurst Inlet, located 105 km to the north.

The following is a summary of the *main* project activities and components¹:

- Base metal mining to include the extraction of zinc, copper, lead, silver and gold through the development of two open pits (East Cleaver and Main Zone deposits) and one underground mine (Boot Lake deposit)
- Exploration activities to include: delineation and exploration drilling, satellite and aircraft remote sensing, soil and sediment sampling, on-land and on-ice diamond drilling
- Utilization of the northern portion (82 km) of the road infrastructure currently undergoing a Part 5 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) Review as part of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) project (NIRB File No. 03UN114)
- Construction of a 23 km all-season spur road connecting the mine site to proposed BIPR road
- Construction of multiple clear span bridges and culverts, and a bridge crossing over the Hackett River in association with the all-season spur road
- Utilization of proposed BIPR port and facilities at Bathurst Inlet, to include: berth for loading and unloading ocean going vessels; fuel unloading facilities, terminal pipelines, tank farm, and dispensing systems; general cargo short-term and long-term laydown areas; general cargo handling of mobile equipment including cranes, forklifts and reach trucks; administration and

¹ As described in *Sabina Silver Corporation's Hackett River Project Proposal Report (2008)*, including *NIRB Part 1 Application and Part 2 PSIR Forms in English*

maintenance offices; camp facilities and services, including airstrip; desalination plant; site roads; waste management and disposal systems; power plant

- Port facilities to be constructed including: concentrate truck receiving, unloading, and wash-down facilities; concentrate receiving, conveying, reclaiming, and shiploading systems; concentrate dust control system; site run-off collection and treatment systems; and possibly additional storage for goods to be backhauled to the mine
- Marine transportation of consumables, supplies, and concentrate
- Construction of a 450,000 tonne capacity concentrate storage facility at the proposed BIPR port site
- Construction of a mine site airstrip, 2000 m in length
- Construction of a permanent camp with an approximate capacity of 300 people
- Estimated 5 ML of fuel stored at fuel tank farm on site (two 2.5 ML storage tanks)
- Chemical and hazardous materials transportation and storage
- Daily truck delivery of fuel from port to tanks at mine site
- Explosives transportation and storage (at port and on-site magazines)
- On-site processing of approximately 10,000 tonnes of mineralized rock per day
- Dewatering of Camp Lake (Main Zone deposit)
- Estimated mine life of approximately 14 years, operating 360 days per year
- Water withdrawal from source lake
- Quarry and gravel pit development
- Construction of waste rock storage facilities (one for each of Main and East Cleaver Pits)
- Dam construction for tailings impoundment
- Deposition of tailings underwater within a fish-bearing lake
- Wastewater and sewage treatment plant(s) and outfall
- Landfill construction and solid waste management
- Incineration of domestic wastes
- Industrial/non-combustible wastes deposited as landfill in waste rock piles
- Abandonment and site restoration

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/NIRB_SCREENINGS/ACTIVE_SCREENINGS/08MN006-Sabina%20Silver%20Corporation/ including:

- *Sabina Cover Letter to NIRB Re: Submission of Project Proposal*
- *Sabina Silver Corporation Project Proposal Report – Hackett River Project including:*
 - *NIRB Part 1 Application Form in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun*
 - *NIRB Part 2 Form - Project Specific Information Requirements (PSIR) and Table*
 - *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun*
 - *Figures and Photographs*
- *NWB Letter Application Acknowledgment*
- *NWB Type A Water License Application*
- *INAC Land Use Permit Application*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), NIRB shall proceed to screen the subject Project Proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. NIRB will copy you on screening process-related correspondence and will also upload related documents to the above ftp site for Public access.

The NIRB is copying interested Parties and municipalities most affected by Sabina's Hackett River project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 28, 2008**.

NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments to the attention of NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration, Leslie Payette, at lpayette@nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4618 or ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

[original signed by:]

Amanda Hanson
Assistant Technical Advisor

Cc Distribution List
 Deborah Muggli, Rescan Environmental Services Ltd. (DMuggli@rescan.com)
 Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)
 Jeff Holwell, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (HolwellJ@inac-ainc.gc.ca)

Attachments:
 Comment Form