



February 28, 2008

NRCan File #NT-046

Leslie Payette
Manager, Environmental Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

By email: lpayette@nirb.ca

Subject: NRCan's Comments on the Part 4 Screening of Sabina Silver Corporation's proposed Hackett River Mine Project

Dear Ms. Payette,

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 2008, requesting comments from parties on the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) Part 4 Screening under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) of Sabina Silver Corporation's proposed Hackett River Mine Project. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has reviewed aspects of the submitted documents and has determined that it is likely a regulatory authority for this proposed project through the issuance of a licence(s) for the manufacture and/or storage of explosives (par. 7(1)(a) of the *Explosives Act*) to allow the proposal to be carried out.

Previous mining projects in Nunavut have been subjected to Part 5 Reviews under the NLCA. Given the nature of this proposal, a base metal mine with an estimated production capacity of 10,000t/d along with related infrastructure and a proposed tailings impoundment area, NRCan believes that the proposal warrants a review under Part 5 or Part 6 (12.4.4 (b)) of the NLCA.

If NIRB determines that a review under Article 12 of the NLCA is required, NRCan recommends that scoping of this project and of the assessment be conducted prior to referral to Ministers with jurisdictional responsibility. This will assist in informing the subsequent Ministerial decisions on environmental assessment matters.



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As has been done in previous projects, we look forward to working with the NIRB and other federal departments in fulfilling our environmental assessment obligations in an effective and efficient manner.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, or if I may be of further assistance, please call me at (613) 995-3153.

Sincerely,

Andrew McAllister

Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Science and Policy Integration
Natural Resources Canada

cc: Rob Johnstone, Minerals and Metals Sector, NRCan