

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits



Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

04 SEP. 2008

Mr. Lucassie Arragutainaq
Acting Chair
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0



Dear Mr. Arragutainaq:

Thank you for your Screening Decision Report of April 3, 2008, indicating that the Sabina Silver Corporation's (Sabina) Hackett River Project proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

I have reviewed the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Screening Decision Report and concur that the proposal requires a review. Pursuant to section 12.4.7 (b), I am referring the proposal to the Board for a review under Part 5 of Article 12 of the Agreement. The other federal departments with jurisdictional responsibility in relation to the proposal, Fisheries and Ocean's Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Transport Canada concur that a Part 5 review is appropriate.

Pursuant to section 12.5.1 of the Agreement, I would like to identify specific issues of concern for the Board to consider during the course of its review. As noted in the Board's screening decision, Sabina intends on utilizing significant components of the proposed Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project which is currently being reviewed by the Board under Part 5 of Article 12 of the Agreement. However, Sabina has also indicated in its project description that in the absence of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road, it would construct its own all-weather road to Bathurst Inlet, and construct a deep-water port at Bathurst Inlet.

This suggests that major components may be added at some point during the review of the Hackett River Project proposal. Should this happen, the Board will need to ensure that all additional components are thoroughly assessed as part of the Board's current Part 5 review. This may necessitate modifications to the Board's review process to ensure that a detailed assessment of the entire project is completed. I would ask that the Board advise me accordingly of any such changes.

.../2

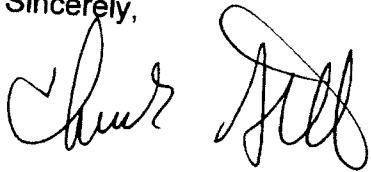
Canada

Irrespective of whether modifications are made to the project, it will be important for the Board to conduct a thorough assessment of cumulative impacts given the development pressures facing the West Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut.

The potential reliance of one proposed project on another currently undergoing review will create unique challenges for the Board. I am confident that the Board will be able to address these issues, and complete a thorough review of the Hackett River Project.

I appreciate the work the Board has done in screening the proposal and look forward to receiving your final report upon completion of the review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Strahl', written in a cursive style.

Chuck Strahl