



**NIRB File No.: 12MN036**

September 28, 2015

Matthew Pickard  
Vice President, Environment and Sustainability  
Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation  
930 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3N4

*Sent via email: [mpickard@sabinagoldsilver.com](mailto:mpickard@sabinagoldsilver.com)*

**Re: NIRB Pre-hearing Decision Commitments Applicable to Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's Proposed Updated Scope for the Final Environmental Impact Statement related to the Back River Project**

Dear Matthew Pickard:

On July 3, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received correspondence from Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's (Sabina or The Proponent) providing notice of a proposed change in scope of the Back River Project currently undergoing a NIRB Part 5 Review, entitled "Final Environmental Impact Statement Update for the Back River Project". On September 9, 2015 the NIRB invited parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by September 21, 2015 regarding the ongoing applicability of commitments made during the previous technical review period, to the updated scope proposed by Sabina.

On or before September 21, 2015 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Transport Canada (TC)
- Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

On September 21, 2015 the NIRB received correspondence from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) advising its submission would be forthcoming; on September 23, 2015 the NIRB received KIA's comments.

All comments and documents received pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN036-SABINA-BACK%20RIVER/02-REVIEW/04-SCOPING%20&%20GUIDELINES/01-SCOPING/04-PROPOSED%20SCOPING%20CHANGES%20FOR%20FEIS/>.

Sabina is encouraged to take into consideration the comments of all parties related to the expectations of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

After assessing the proposed updates to commitments submitted by Sabina in its July 3, 2015 correspondence, as well as comments provided by parties, the NIRB is in agreement with parties expectations especially Environment Canada's note that commitments 330 and 391 in Appendix 2 of the NIRB's Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) Decision should be retained in the FEIS where applicable to the Goose site and Marine Laydown Area, and in appropriate detail for the environmental assessment process. The NIRB expects Sabina to continue tracking all commitments included in Appendix 1 and 2 of the NIRB's PHC Decision, but outline where information related to the water licensing process may be deferred as a result of Sabina's request to withdraw from the NIRB-NWB coordinated process.

The NIRB would like to note that an Information Request period has been included in the FEIS technical review process outlined in the Pre-hearing Conference Decision<sup>1</sup>, and that any suggested updates to the wording of the commitments proposed by parties would be in line with expectations described in the Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement<sup>2</sup> previously issued to Sabina and which continue to be a requirement of the FEIS.

To assist with planning, the NIRB requests that Sabina provide an update on the anticipated submission date of the FEIS for the Back River Project. The NIRB respectfully requests that Sabina provide a response by **October 13, 2015**.

By copy of this letter, the NIRB also requests that interested parties indicate what copies of Sabina's FEIS are required to participate in the NIRB's technical review process, specifically:

- Number and type of copy required (electronic and/or print version), and
- Contact name, agency/department, mailing address, email, and phone number.

Please provide this information directly to the NIRB via email to [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) by **October 13, 2015**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the Kristina Benoit, Technical Advisor at (867) 983-4607 or [kbenoit@nirb.ca](mailto:kbenoit@nirb.ca).

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<sup>1</sup> Nunavut Impact Review Board Pre-hearing Conference Decision Concerning the Back River Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036) Proposed by Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation. December 19, 2014, p. 42.

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement For Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.'s Back River Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036). April 2013.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko  
Director, Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:     Distribution List  
        David Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board  
        Karen Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
        Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
        Luigi Torretti, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosure (1): Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation correspondence to the Nunavut Impact Review Board regarding  
                  Final Environmental Impact Statement Update for the Back River Project (July 3, 2015)