



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

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January 22, 2018

Your file Votre référence

8BC-BRP----

Our file Notre référence

12-HCAA-CA7-00007

Nunavut Water Board (NWB)

Attn: Karén Kharatyan

A/Manager of Licensing

P.O. Box 119

Gjoa Haven, NU

X0B 1J0

Dear Nunavut Water Board,

Subject: 8BC-BRP--- Distribution Review & Comment Request New Application Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. Back River Project Kitikmeot Region-OAAE

The Fisheries Protection Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO-FPP) would like to thank the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for the opportunity to provide comments on Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s New Water Licence Application (8BC-BRP) for the Back River Project.

As outlined in your request dated December 7, 2017, reviewers are invited to submit comments to the NWB by January 22, 2018.

DFO-FPP has reviewed the application and supporting documents in accordance with its mandate to maintain the sustainability and ongoing productivity of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries. DFO-FPP is providing the following comments:

DFO-FPP Comment 1- Reference: Back River Project Road Management Plan, Type B Development Works Water Licence Version 2.0 (August 2017); 4.1 All-weather Service Roads - 4.1.3 Water Crossings (p.4-5)

DFO-FPP understands that the new water licence application includes new activities such as the construction of an All-weather Service Road and Associated Water Crossings. DFO-FPP acknowledges that Sabina has committed to constructing culverts that *"will be designed to, and conform with, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Measures to Avoid Causing Harm to Fish and Fish Habitat"* in the Road Management Plan, version 2 document. DFO-FPP notes

that the construction of culverts within fish bearing watercourses will require review by DFO. As such, DFO-FPP request that Sabina provide detailed, site specific engineer drawings for any proposed culverts and watercourse crossings. This includes, but is not limited to, the calculations used to determine correct sizing of the culvert, which will ensure adequate velocities for fish passage during both high and low flows, and the hydraulic calculations showing the capacity of the culvert to adequately handle peak flows. However, DFO notes that this information can be submitted as part of Sabina's 'DFO Request for Review' application.

DFO-FPP Comment 1- *Reference: Back River Project Road Management Plan, Type B Development Works Water Licence Version 2.0 (August 2017); 4.2 Winter Ice Roads - 4.2.2 Water Use for Winter Ice Road Construction and Maintenance (p. 4-9).*

DFO-FPP notes that in the Road Management Plan, version 2 document, the proponent states "All water will be sourced from Goose Lake and Lakes proximal to the MLA [marine laydown area]." DFO-FPP recommends that Sabina provides DFO with further details of the "Lakes proximal to the MLA" that will be used as a source for road construction, for review. This should include, but is not limited to the location of each of the chosen waterbodies, bathymetry and volume, and expected water withdrawal limits. DFO-FPP notes that winter water withdrawal from ice-covered waterbodies has the potential to cause serious harm to fish.

Furthermore, it remains the Proponent's responsibility to ensure it avoids causing serious harm to fish in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*, and that it meets the requirements under the *Species at Risk Act* as it may apply to your project. If the Proponent's plans have changed or changes in the future, the Proponent should consult our website (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>).

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Watkinson at (867) 669-4920, or by email at Laura.Watkinson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Sincerely,



Mark D'Aguiar
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist
Fisheries Protection Program

cc. Laura Watkinson - FPP Biologist DFO