



SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 09RN066

NIRB File No. 09RN066
INAC File No. N2004C0006
KIA File No. KTL304F049

November 30, 2009

Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Gatineau, QC

Via email: Strahl.C@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation's Winter Roads Project Proposal, 09RN066

Dear Honourable Chuck Strahl:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) are set out in Section 12.2.5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) as follows:

In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA states:

Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;*
- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;*
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or*
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.*

NIRB ASSESSMENT AND DECISION

After a thorough assessment of all material provided to the Board (please see *Procedural History* and *Project Activities* in **Appendix A**), in accordance with the principles identified within Section 12.4.2 of the NLCA, the decision of the Board as per Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA is:

12.4.4 (a): the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS (Pursuant to Section 12.4.4(a) of the NLCA)

The Board is recommending that the following or similar project-specific terms and conditions be imposed upon the Proponent through all relevant legislation:

General

1. Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the NIRB (NIRB Part 1 Form, October 16, 2009; NIRB PSIR Form, October 19, 2009; Non-Technical Summary, October 16, 2009; Spill Contingency Plan, October 19, 2009; Abandonment and Restoration Plan, October 19, 2009; Covering Email to the NIRB, October 19, 2009) and to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Land Use Permit Application Form, October 16, 2009).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water

5. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course, unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

Waste

6. The Proponent shall backhaul all solid wastes to a previously permitted camp for proper disposal in accordance with any licenses or permits in place at those facilities.
7. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of. All wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.
8. The Proponent shall ensure that the appropriate transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) documentation accompany all potential hazardous samples that are transported off site.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

9. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
10. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.

11. The Proponent shall use secondary containment or a surface liner (drip pans, fold-a-tanks, etc) at all refuelling stations. The Proponent shall ensure that the vehicles transporting equipment and materials on the winter road routes are equipped with appropriate spill kits.
12. The Proponent shall remove and treat hydrocarbon contaminated soils on-site or transport them to an approved disposal site.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that all on site personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

14. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
15. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
16. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.
17. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
19. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance.
20. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
21. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as the movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.
22. The Proponent shall take all possible measures to avoid wildlife encounters. Any problem wildlife should be reported immediately to the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment.
23. The Proponent shall ensure all project staff are trained in appropriate bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques.

Physical Environment

24. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles without prior testing the thickness of the ice to ensure the lake is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles.
25. The Proponent shall ensure that stream crossings are located to minimize approach grades. Bank disturbance is to be avoided, and mechanized clearing should not be done immediately adjacent to any watercourse.
26. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging.
27. The Proponent shall suspend overland travel of equipment or vehicles if rutting occurs. Likewise, upon spring break up; or at such a time as the shorelines of frozen water bodies begin to thaw, the

28. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration

29. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.

30. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the end of each field season.

Archaeological and Historical Sites

31. The Proponent shall commission a survey of archaeological resources along the proposed road route(s) and any alternative route(s) prior to the construction or use of such road routes.

32. The Proponent shall avoid all known archaeological sites within the project area.

Other

33. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.

34. Any activity related to this application, and outside the original scope of the project as described in the application, will be considered a new project and should be submitted to the NIRB for Screening.

Other NIRB Concerns and Recommendations

1. The Proponent review the bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques outlined in “Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country” which can be down-loaded from this link: <http://www.nwtwildlife.com/Publications/safetyinbearcountry/safety.htm>.
2. The Proponent shall maintain a record of wildlife observations while operating within the project area. The reports should include locations (i.e., latitude and longitude), species, number of animals, a description of the animal activity, and a description of the gender and age of animals if possible. Prior to conducting project activities, the Proponent should map the location of any sensitive wildlife sites such as denning sites, calving areas, caribou crossing sites, and raptor nests in the project area, and identify the timing of critical life history events (i.e., calving, mating, denning and nesting).

Additionally, the Proponent should indicate potential impacts from the project, and ensure that operational activities are managed and modified to avoid impacts on wildlife and sensitive sites. A copy of this wildlife record or report should be submitted annually at the end of the operational season to the appropriate Government of Nunavut contacts.

Regulatory Requirements

In addition, the Proponent is advised that the following legislation may apply to the project:

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/F-14///en>).
2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (<http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.8/whole.html>).
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Migratory Birds Regulations* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/M-7.01>).

4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/S-15.3>). Attached in **Appendix B** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Nunavut Wildlife Act* which contains provisions to protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat, including specific protection measures for wildlife habitat and species at risk.
6. The *Nunavut Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/N-28.6>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix C**.
7. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*, *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/menu.htm>), and the *Environmental Protection Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/text.html>) The Proponent must ensure that proper shipping documents accompany all movements of dangerous goods. The Proponent must register with the GN-DOE Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality at 867-975-7748.
8. The *Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA)* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/N-22/index.html>).

Validity of Land Claims Agreement

Section 2.12.2

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated November 30, 2009 at Sanikiluaq, NU.



Lucassie Arragutainaq, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Procedural History and Past Activities
Appendix B: Species at Risk in Nunavut
Appendix C: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use
Permit Holders

Appendix A

Procedural History and Project Activities

Procedural History

On October 19, 2009 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation's (Sabina or 'the Proponent') *Winter Road* project proposal from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The proposed project is located approximately 100 kilometres south of the nearest community of Kingaok (Bathurst Inlet) in the West Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. As no approved Land Use Plan is in place for the West Kitikmeot region, the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required to make a conformity determination for this project. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number **09RN066**.

In addition to applying for a Land Use Permit with INAC, Sabina further requested the renewal of an existing Land Use Permit previously issued to Dundee Precious Metals Inc. for a winter road located between Sabina's recently acquired Goose Lake and George Lake camps. The winter road between Goose Lake and George Lake camps was screened by the NIRB in 2004 and allowed to proceed in accordance with Section 12.4.4 (a) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), subject to project-specific terms and conditions contained within the NIRB's Screening Decision (NIRB File No. 04RN015). The Proponent has applied for a one year authorization for the currently proposed winter road routes (March 1, 2010 through March 1, 2011), with a period of operation lasting for three weeks sometime during the months of March and April 2010.

In recognition of Sabina's recent acquisition of the Goose Lake and George Lake properties, and in order to manage all related filing and permit applications, the Board consolidated the previous NIRB file 04RN015 with the current file, **09RN066**.

This project proposal was distributed to community organizations in Cambridge Bay as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies and Inuit organizations. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by November 16, 2009 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, (providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On November 16, 2009 the NIRB received email correspondence from the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment requesting an extension to the public commenting period. The NIRB granted the extension request, providing parties until November 23, 2009 to provide comments on the project proposal. On or before November 23, 2009 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- **Government of Nunavut – Culture Language Elders and Youth (GN-CLEY)**
- **Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment (GN-DOE)**
- **Environment Canada (EC)**
- **Transport Canada (TC)**

All comments provided to the NIRB regarding this project proposal can be viewed on the NIRB's ftp-site at the following location: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/>.

Project Activities

The proposed project is located approximately 100 kilometres south of the nearest community of Kingaok (Bathurst Inlet) in the West Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. The Proponent intends to reconstruct a previously established winter road route between the George Lake and Goose Lake camps, in addition to developing a new winter road route between the George Lake and Hackett River camps. Use of these winter road routes would occur over a three week period sometime during the months of March and April 2010.

The proposed project activities include:

- Construction of winter road route between the George Lake and Goose Lake camps (per file 04RN015);
- Construction of winter road route between the George Lake and Hackett River camps (approximately 60 kilometres in length);
- Finalized route selection to be based upon environmental conditions, determined via helicopter and/or snow machine reconnaissance trips;
- Temporary survival tents (1-2) to be established along the winter road routes, for the duration of permitted activities only;
- Redistribution of current inventory of equipment and materials (including chemicals) via Cat-haul transportation between the George Lake, Goose Lake, and Hackett River camps;
- Fuel and supplies delivered daily to personnel along the routes, with removal of waste material to camp as required;
- Clean-up of the routes in preparation for closure; and
- Abandonment and restoration of road routes upon completion of transportation activities.

Appendix B Species At Risk in Nunavut

This list includes species listed on one of the Schedules of SARA (*Species at Risk Act*) and under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. These species have been designated as at risk by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for SARA. SARA applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of SARA identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

Schedules of SARA are amended on a regular basis so it is important to periodically check the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: August 4, 2009

Species at Risk	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Lead Management Responsibility ¹
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	EC
Harlequin Duck (Eastern population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	EC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Felt-leaf Willow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Peregrine Falcon (<i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex)	Special Concern	Schedule 1 (<i>anatum</i>) Schedule 3 (<i>tundrius</i>)	Government of Nunavut
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 3	Government of Nunavut
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)	Endangered	Pending	DFO
Red Knot (<i>rufa</i> subspecies)	Endangered	Pending	EC
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound population)	Threatened	Pending	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic populations)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO

Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Atlantic Walrus	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Narwhal	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Red Knot (<i>islandica</i> subspecies)	Special Concern	Pending	EC
Horned Grebe (Western population)	Special Concern	Pending	EC
Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Grizzly Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Wolverine (Western Population)	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut

[†] Environment Canada (EC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has responsibility for management of aquatic species.

Appendix C
Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions
for Land Use Permit Holders



BACKGROUND: Archaeology

As stated in Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement:

The archaeological record of the Inuit of Nunavut is a record of Inuit use and occupancy of lands and resources through time. The evidence associated with their use and occupancy represents a cultural, historical and ethnographic heritage of Inuit society and, as such, Government recognizes that Inuit have a special relationship with such evidence, which shall be expressed in terms of special rights and responsibilities. [33.2.1]

The archaeological record of Nunavut is of spiritual, cultural, religious and educational importance to Inuit. Accordingly, the identification, protection and conservation of archaeological sites and specimens and the interpretation of the archaeological record is of primary importance to Inuit and their involvement is both desirable and necessary. [33.2.2]

In recognition of the cultural, spiritual and religious importance of certain areas in Nunavut to Inuit, Inuit have special rights and interests in these areas as defined by Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. [33.2.5]

BACKGROUND: Palaeontology

Under the Nunavut Act¹, the federal Government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*², it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

Definitions

As defined in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, the following definitions apply:

“archaeological site” means a place where an archaeological artifact is found.

¹ s. 51(1)

² P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

“archaeological artifact” means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old and in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession or regular pattern of usage cannot be demonstrated, and includes a Denesuline archaeological specimen referred to in section 40.4.9 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

“palaeontological site” means a site where a fossil is found.

“fossil” includes:

- (a) natural casts
- (b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and
- (c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.

Terms and Conditions

- 1) The permittee shall not operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
- 2) The permittee shall not remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
- 3) The permittee shall immediately contact the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 or 1 (866) 934-2035 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
- 4) The permittee shall immediately cease any activity that disturbs an archaeological or palaeontological site encountered during the course of a land use operation, until permitted to proceed with the authorization of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Government of Nunavut.
- 5) The permittee shall follow the direction of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and DIAND in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition.
- 6) The permittee shall provide all information requested by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.
- 7) The permittee shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under authority of the permit are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts, and palaeontological sites and fossils.
- 8) The permittee shall avoid the known archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed in Attachment 1.
- 9) The permittee shall have an archaeologist or palaeontologist perform the following functions, as required by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth:
 - a. survey
 - b. inventory and documentation of the archaeological or palaeontological resources of the land

use area

- c. assessment of potential for damage to archaeological or palaeontological sites
- d. mitigation
- e. marking boundaries of archaeological or palaeontological sites
- f. site restoration

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth shall authorize by way of a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit, all procedures subsumed under the above operations.