



**NIRB File No.: 09RN066**

AANDC File Nos.: N2010F0015, N2010F0017

KIA File Nos.: KTL304F049, KTL399C010, KTL399C027

March 7, 2013

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development  
c/o Jeff Mercer, Manager of Land Administration  
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
P.O. Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: [jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca](mailto:jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca) and [landsmining@aandc.gc.ca](mailto:landsmining@aandc.gc.ca)

**Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening Pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s "Winter Roads - Hackett, George and Goose Camps" project**

Dear Mr. Jeff Mercer:

On February 8, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to the AANDC Land Use Permit (No.: N2009F0015) for Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s (Sabina) Winter Road project proposal. The NIRB did not require a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Reports (File Nos. 04RN015, 04RN101 and 09RN066) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/>.

**PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

As previously screened by the NIRB (File Nos.: 04RN015 and 04RN101), the Beechy Lake and Back River area projects were located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 150 kilometres (km) from Bathurst Inlet. The Proponent indicated that it intended to construct winter trails which connected its barge offloading area at Bathurst Inlet to the Goose Lake, George Lake and the Hackett River camps in order to facilitate the movement of supplies and fuel needed for year-round exploration activities in that area.

On October 19, 2009 the NIRB received an application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now AANDC) for a new Land Use Permit (No.: N2009F0015) which would replace the previously issued Land Use Permit (No.: N2004C0006) for the project. After reviewing the proposed project activities, and noting that components of the proposal had been previously screened under the NIRB Files 04RN015 and 04RN101, the NIRB consolidated the previous file information with the 2009 application under File No.: 09RN066. This consolidation was intended to: (a) recognize Sabina's 2009 acquisition of the Goose Lake and George Lake properties; (b) enable the Board to conduct a thorough screening of a subsequent Land Use Permit application that proposed the establishment of additional winter roads for the movement of supplies and fuel but which included some components that had been previously screened under the NIRB Files 04RN015 and 04RN101; and, (c) facilitate the administration of related filing and permit applications.

Additional authorization and extension requests for the various permits and licenses associated with this project have also been assessed by the NIRB following the initial screening of the project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09RN066):

| Authorization | Applications Screened Under 09RN066 |                    | NIRB Decision     |                                                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|               | Date Received by NIRB               | Type               | Date              | Type                                            |
| N2009F0015    | October 19, 2009                    | Replace N2004C0006 | November 30, 2009 | Screening Decision Report (SDR)                 |
| N2009F0015    | January 11, 2010                    | Amendment          | February 11, 2010 | Additional terms and conditions                 |
| N2010F0017    | July 6, 2010                        | Amendment          | September 2, 2010 | Additional terms and conditions                 |
| N2011F0029    | November 25, 2011                   | Replace N2004F0006 | December 1, 2011  | Exempt from Screening reissue Sept. 2, 2010 SDR |
| N2009F0015    | March 8, 2012                       | Extension          | March 12, 2012    | Exempt from Screening reissue Sept. 2, 2010 SDR |

Please see **Appendix A** for a more detailed description of the project scope as originally screened by the NIRB in 2009 and which has since been amended through the various applications outlined in the table above.

#### CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is currently proposing to extend its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2009F0015) for one additional year to continue project activities in the Hackett River and Back River areas.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

*“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:*

*(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or*

*(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”*

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the NIRB's September 2, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Catherine Braun Rodriguez, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4607 or [crodriguez@nirb.ca](mailto:crodriguez@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Elizabeth Sherlock, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report – *Additional* Terms and Conditions, File No.: 09RN066  
(September 2, 2010)

## **Appendix A**

### Scope of Previously Screened Activities

As previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation's "Winter Roads" project (File No.: 09RN066) was located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 150 kilometres (km) from Bathurst Inlet. The Proponent indicated that it intended to construct winter roads which connected its barge offloading area at Bathurst Inlet to the Goose Lake, George Lake and the Hackett River camps in order to facilitate the movement of supplies and fuel needed for year-round exploration activities in that area.

The activities and components associated with the proposed project as received by the NIRB on October 19, 2009 and which were screened under the consolidated NIRB file number 09RN066 included:

- Construction of winter road route between the George Lake and Goose Lake camps (per NIRB File No. 04RN015);
- Construction of winter road route between the George Lake and Hackett River camps (approximately 60 metres 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.

The activities and components associated with the January 11, 2010 Land Use Permit (No. N2009F0015) amendment application included:

- Construction and operation of an ice airstrip at D'Arcy Lake including:
  - Use of Hercules aircraft at airstrip,
  - Airstrip operation for up to sixty days between February 20 and May 31, 2010,
- Construction and use of a winter road route (approximately 2 km in length) between the D'Arcy Lake and the previously permitted winter road between Hackett River and George Lake camps, and,
- Conduct the proposed activities between February and May 2010.

The activities and components associated with the July 6, 2010 Land Use Permit (No. N2010F0017) amendment application included:

- Establishment of a temporary camp at Bathurst Inlet;
- Establishment of an ice airstrip at Bathurst Inlet; and,
- Storage of fuel at Bathurst Inlet including:
  - Drummed fuel (approximately 410,000 litres diesel, 61,500 litres gasoline, 410,000 litres aviation fuel, 7500 pounds of propane and 100 pounds of acetelyne) to be stored within secondary containment at the Bathurst Inlet lay down area,

- Bulk fuel (approximately 600,000 litres diesel) to be stored on barge prior to being transferred to tanks or sleighs for transport to Hackett River/Goose Lake camps via Cat-train (involves overwinter storage via barge freeze-in during the winter of 2011-2012).

The activities and components associated with the November 25, 2011 Land Use Permit (No. N2004F0006) amendment application included:

- Replacement of the expiring Land Use Permit No. N2004F0006 with a new Land Use Permit (NF2011F0029) to allow Sabina to continue its activities in the area.

The activities and components associated with the March 8, 2012 Land Use Permit (No. N2010F0017) amendment application included:

- Extension of Land Use Permit (N2010F0017) associated with the “Winter Roads” project for one additional year, in order to continue services between project camps and to facilitate its ongoing exploration program.

All materials received and pertaining to the NIRB’s screening of the “Winter Roads” project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09RN066) can be obtained from the NIRB’s online public registry at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/09RN066-Sabina%20Silver%20Corp-Winter%20Roads/>.