



NIRB File No.: 03UN114

December 16, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
10 Wellington St., 21st Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Sent via Email: duncan.j@parl.gc.ca; minister@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Update on the NIRB's Review of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) Project

Dear Mr. John Duncan:

On August 26, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (the NIRB or Board), wrote the Honourable Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (the Minister) to provide an update regarding the status of the NIRB's review of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) project proposal, NIRB File No. 03UN114. In addition, reflecting the project proponent's indication that it would not be re-engaging the technical review process, the Board also requested your direction regarding the termination of the NIRB's Review of this project.

Since the time of our previous correspondence, on December 1, 2011 the NIRB received the enclosed letter from Sabina Gold and Silver Corp. (Sabina) which advised that the company had recently completed the purchase of the BIPR Project and further requested additional time for reconsideration of potential development options prior to termination of the Board's Review. Specifically, Sabina has requested that it be given until March 30, 2012 to report back to the NIRB regarding potential further development of the BIPR Project. The NIRB believes this request is reasonable and, therefore, at this time the Board respectfully withdraws its previous request to the Minister for direction regarding the termination of the NIRB's Review of this Project.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification regarding this file, please contact Ryan Barry, NIRB's Executive Director, at (867) 983-4608 or rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Lucassie Arragutainaq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
Robert Pease, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
Michel Boucher, Xstrata Zinc

Enclosed: Proponent Letter to NIRB Re Project Status (December 1, 2011)