



NIRB File No: 03UN114

April 4, 2013

Denis Hamel
Xstrata Zinc Canada
Suite 400, 8801 TransCanada Highway
Saint-Laurent, QC H4S 1Z6

And

Matthew Pickard
Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.
930 West 1st Street, Suite 202
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3N4

Sent via email: dhamel@xstratazinc.ca and mpickard@sabinagoldsilver.com

Re: Receipt of updated Project Description for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project and Next Steps in the NIRB's Review Process

Dear Denis Hamel and Matthew Pickard:

On March 28, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (the NIRB or Board) received Xstrata Zinc Canada (Xstrata) and Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s (Sabina) updated Project Description for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) Project (enclosed).

The NIRB will conduct an internal review of the updated Project Description to determine whether any revisions and/or supplements to the existing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines would be required to reflect the updated Project Description, the evolution and refinement of environmental assessment practices and expectations and the changing circumstances of the Project with respect to particular issues such as effects on caribou, cumulative effects, climate change and transboundary issues. If the EIS Guidelines are revised and/or supplemented, the Proponent's *Draft* EIS will be required to conform to the existing EIS Guidelines as revised and/or supplemented by the NIRB. Following the Board's acceptance of a revised *Draft* EIS submission, the NIRB would initiate the technical review period for the revised *Draft* EIS including the following steps:

- Submission of Information Requests (IRs) directly to the NIRB by interested parties. Parties will be given **30 days** to submit IRs.
- After considering all IRs and making decisions regarding their suitability, the NIRB will forward all appropriate requests to the Proponent (and other parties if applicable). The NIRB may set a timeframe for the Proponent (and other parties if applicable) to respond with an IR response package.

- Scheduling of public information sessions by the NIRB.
- Submission of technical review comments to the NIRB by interested parties. Upon receipt of the IR response package(s), all parties will be given **60 days** for submission of technical review comments.
- Xstrata and Sabina to provide response to the technical review comments.
- Scheduling of a Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference by the NIRB.

If you have any questions regarding the next steps associated with the NIRB's Review of the BIPR Project, please contact Jaswir Dhillon, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4609 or jdhillon@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: BIPR Distribution List
Robert Prairie, Xstrata Zinc Canada

Enclosure: Proponent Letter to NIRB Re: Updated Project Description for the BIPR Project (March 28, 2013)