



NIRB File No.: 03UN114

May 8, 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: Addendum to the EIS Guidelines for the Bathurst Inlet Road and Port Project to Address the Updated Project Description

Dear Sirs:

As you are aware, on December 19, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (the NIRB or Board) received a request to re-engage its public review of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project (BIPR or Project) from Xstrata Zinc Canada (Xstrata) and Sabina Gold and Silver Corp. (Sabina). On January 17, 2013 the Board requested that interested parties submit comments to the NIRB regarding the proposed re-engagement on or before January 31, 2013. On February 11, 2013 following the review of the comments received¹, the NIRB requested that Xstrata and Sabina provide the Board with an updated BIPR project description to assist in determining whether revisions and/or supplements to the Guidelines for the Proponent's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Project (EIS Guidelines), as originally issued in 2004, would be required.

On March 28, 2013 the NIRB received Xstrata and Sabina's updated Project Description for the BIPR Project and initiated an internal review of the information provided as well as the original EIS Guidelines issued for the Project.

¹ Comment submissions are available from the NIRB's online public registry at: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/03UN114-BIPR/02-REVIEW/02-GENERAL%20CORRESPONDENCE/2012%20RE-ENGAGEMENT%20REQUEST/>.

Please be advised that on May 8, 2013 the NIRB approved the enclosed Addendum to the *Guidelines to the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the BIPR Project* (NIRB File No. 03UN114), issued pursuant to NLCA Section 12.5.2 on December 6, 2004. The objective of this Addendum is to provide further guidance to assist Xstrata and Sabina in the preparation of an EIS that will facilitate a thorough assessment of the BIPR Project. The Addendum is intended to reflect the updated Project Description, recognizing 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, marine and transboundary issues.

While revisions have been made to certain sections as required, the Board's aim was to augment information where required, and it avoided removing information altogether; however, please be advised that the NIRB has removed Section 3.4 from the EIS Guidelines as guidance on the matter of EIS distribution as it is more appropriately addressed via this covering letter. To that end, the Board requests that the Proponent advise our office of its estimated date of submission for a Draft EIS as soon as is practicable. Upon receiving the anticipated submission date from the Proponent, the Board will canvas parties to compile a listing of those wishing to receive printed or electronic copies of the *Draft* EIS and will advise the Proponent accordingly.

Once the NIRB is in receipt of the *Draft* EIS submission, the NIRB will conduct an internal review of the submission to determine whether it adequately addresses the provisions of the EIS Guidelines (*i.e.* conformity review). Should the submission conform to the EIS Guidelines, the NIRB will acknowledge its acceptance of the *Draft* EIS and will issue further direction to parties regarding next steps, including a technical review period and the scheduling of a Technical Meeting and/or Pre-Hearing Conference.

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the enclosed EIS Guidelines Addendum or the Board's Review of the BIPR project, please contact Amanda Hanson, NIRB's Director of Technical Services, at (867) 983-4615 or via email at ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: BIPR Distribution List

Enclosed: Addendum to the EIS Guidelines for the BIPR Project (May 8, 2013)