



NIRB File No.: 03UN114

June 11, 2013

To: BIPR Distribution List

Sent via Email

RE: Anticipated Submission of *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement for the NIRB's Review of Xstrata Zinc Canada and Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

Dear Parties:

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 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), originally issued in 2004, would be required.

On May 8, 2013 the NIRB approved an 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 the Addendum was 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 reflects 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.

Upon receipt of the Proponent's *Draft* EIS, the NIRB will conduct an internal review of the submission to determine whether it adequately addresses the provisions of the EIS Guidelines. 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.

The NIRB encourages recipients of participant funding awarded in 2008 for the Review of the BIPR Project to consult with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada with respect to current funding status in order to ensure continued engagement and meaningful participation throughout the remaining steps of the NIRB's Review.

In preparation for the submission of Xstrata and Sabina's *Draft EIS* and commencement of next steps in the Review, the NIRB requests that interested parties indicate the number of copies that are requested (electronic copies on CD or memory key and/or print versions) in order to facilitate participation in this assessment. Please advise our office with the contact name, agency/department, mailing address, contact email address and the number of copies requested (please specify electronic and/or print) via email to info@nirb.ca by **June 21, 2013**.

If you have any questions or require further clarification related to the NIRB's Review of the BIPR project, please contact me directly at (867) 983-4609 or jdhillon@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Jaswir Dhillon, P.Eng, M.Eng
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Denis Hamel, Xstrata Zinc Canada
Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.
Margaux Brisco, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Karen Costello, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada