



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

NWB File No.: 2BC-BRP1819 and 2AM-BRP1831

May 13, 2024

To: Back River Project Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Comment Request for B2Gold Corporation's Back River Project 2023 Annual Report

Dear Parties:

On April 13, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received B2Gold Corporation's (B2Gold) *Back River Project 2023 Annual Report (2023 Annual Report)* as required by Project Certificate No. 007 (NIRB File No. 12MN036). On May 3, 2024, following a completeness check, the NIRB requested minor clarifications on documents within the *2023 Annual Report* which were subsequently submitted by May 10, 2024.

The NIRB requests that interested parties review the *2023 Annual Report* and provide comments with respect to their jurisdiction and/or area of expertise by **June 26, 2023**.

The *2023 Annual Report* and supplemental documents are available for review from the NIRB's Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/124149. Access to the documents can be made by:

- Selecting the "Documents Tab" of the Project Dashboard(s) then select the "Annual Report" category on the left pane;
- Selecting "Recent Documents" on the Project Dashboards; or
- Searching the Public Registry with the Document ID numbers identified in [Appendix A: NIRB Document ID Nos for B2Gold's 2023 Annual Report](#).

As per Section 12.7.3 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*, s. 135(4) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14 (*NuPPAA*), and the Back River Project Certificate, the NIRB's monitoring program focuses on compliance and effects monitoring. The NIRB requests that interested parties review the *2023 Annual Report* and provide comments with respect to their jurisdiction and/or area of expertise on the following:

1. Effects monitoring
 - a. Whether the conclusions reached by B2Gold in the *2023 Annual Report* are valid; and

- b. Any areas of significance requiring further supporting information or any changes to the monitoring program which may be required.

In addition, the NIRB is requesting that Regulatory Authorities also provide comments and/or information associated with their respective mandate and jurisdiction, with respect to the following. An example format for tracking comments and Proponent responses is included in [Appendix B: Example Table for Comments on the Annual Report](#).

2. Compliance monitoring

- a. Provide a summary of any compliance monitoring and/or site inspections undertaken in association with the Project, including specifically;
 - i. Identify the terms and conditions from the Project Certificate which have been incorporated into any permits, certificates, licenses, or other approvals issued for the Project, where applicable, and report annually to the NIRB on the status of those incorporated terms and conditions;
 - ii. A summary of any inspections conducted during the 2023 reporting period, and the results of these inspections; and
 - iii. A summary of B2Gold's compliance status with regard to authorizations that have been issued for the Project.

This information is important in assisting the NIRB to assess, coordinate, integrate, and ensure that the Board has the information to accurately measure effects, adequately assess compliance with terms and conditions, regulatory instruments, and agreements, and whether the Projects are carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions as set out in the Project Certificate.

Please send all forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca. To mail materials to the NIRB, please use the address below.

Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360 (29 Mitik St.)
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the NIRB's monitoring of the Back River Project, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or lklaassen@nirb.ca or contact Cory Barker, Manager, Project Monitoring, at cbarker@nirb or (867) 983-4607.

Sincerely,



Leah Klaassen
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments (2): Appendix A: NIRB Document ID Nos for B2Gold's 2023 Annual Report
Appendix B: Example Table for Comments on Annual Report

cc: Merle Keefe, B2Gold
Kristina Benoit, B2Gold

Appendix A: NIRB Document ID Nos for B2Gold's 2023 Annual Report

Appendix	Document	Document ID
N/A	Back River Project 2023 Annual Report	349951
A	Figure 1	349356
B	Community Engagement Notes	349357
C	2023 Socio-Economic Monitoring Report	349358
D	Ground Thermal Monitoring Plan	349359
E	2023 Annual Geotechnical Inspection Report	349370, 349371, 349372, 349373, 349374, 349375
F1	2021 Aquatic Baseline Report	349360
F2	2022 Aquatic Baseline Report	349361
G	RSW Culvert Installation Construction Monitoring Report	349362
H	Downstream Assessment of Goose Lake Water Withdrawal Increase on Arctic Grayling	349363
I	2023 Pre-Shipment Equipment Cleaning	349364
J	Vegetation Survey Photos	349936
K	2023 WMMP Report	349928
L	2023 Marine Sampling Report	349366
M	Socio-Economic Monitoring Plan	349367
N	Community Engagement Plan	349368
O	Inuit Business Development Plan	349369
P	Stakeholder Grievance Mechanism	349370

Appendix B: Example Table for Comments on the Annual Report

Comment Number:	
Subject/Topic:	
References:	To the appropriate section in the Annual Report and/or Addendum
Comment:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gap/Issue2. Disagreement with the Annual Report conclusion3. Reasons for disagreement with the Annual Report conclusion4. Disagreement and reasons for disagreement with conclusions within the Additional Documents in the Appendix
Conclusion/Request:	