



NIRB File No.: 17EN029
NPC File No.: 148480

March 15, 2017

Bryan Atkinson
North Country Gold Corp.
600-1199 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 3T5

Sent via email: bryan.atkinson@aurynresources.com

Re: Notice of Screening for North Country Gold Corp.'s "Gibson-MacQuoid Project" proposal

Dear Bryan Atkinson:

On February 21, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen North Country Gold Corp.'s (NCGC) "Gibson-MacQuoid Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

Please note that the referral from the NPC was triggered by cumulative effects concerns pursuant to subsection 80(1) of *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA) and are related to:

- a) nearby projects that have been carried out, are being carried out, or have been proposed, including projects associated with expired and active prospecting permits and mineral claims¹;
- b) the project proposal's potential to induce additional projects;
- c) the project proposal's locations, as they overlap with:
 - i. core caribou calving and post-calving areas² for the Qamanirjuaq herd
 - ii. the Kazan Canadian Heritage River³
 - iii. the Fall Caribou Crossing National Historic Site
 - iv. Qamanirjuaq Caribou Protection Area and Designated Crossing⁴; and

¹ Some nearby projects/project proposals include: Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB Project Certificate No. 006), Peter, Fox, Parker Lakes (NIRB File No.: 15EN049), Parker Lake (NIRB File No.: 10EN020), Baker Basin (NIRB File No.: 08EA038), and Pistol Bay (NIRB File No.: 11EN027).

² Government of Nunavut Submission to the Nunavut Planning Commission for the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. May 28, 2014.

³ Kazan Heritage River Management Plan (1990) available online at: http://nunavutparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/KazanHR_ManagementPlan.pdf

⁴ Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). Caribou Protection Map. March 5, 1992.

- d) the area has been identified as having value and priority to local communities⁵ for:
- i. caribou migration, water crossings, and calving
 - ii. fishing
 - iii. muskox
 - iv. wolves and wolverines
 - v. bird nesting
 - vi. drinking water
 - vii. historic sites

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **17EN029**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. On February 27, 2017 the NIRB issued correspondence to NCGC requesting that additional information in support of this proposal be provided to the NIRB on or before March 13, 2017. On March 10, 2017 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Gibson-MacQuoid Project” is located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 100 kilometres (km) southeast of the community of Baker Lake. The Proponent intends to conduct an early stage exploration program for gold mineralization in the Gibson-MacQuoid Region. The program is proposed to take place from July to August 2017.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of a helicopter to transport 13 personnel and materials to and from the prospecting site(s);
- Conduct staking, prospecting, and soil sampling;
- Use of a drone for aerial photography in support of prospecting activities;
- Transportation, temporary storage and use of up to 4,000 litres (L) of aviation fuel at the exploration site(s);
- Use of facilities in Baker Lake for accommodations, water source and waste management.

⁵ Nunavut Planning Commission Summary of Community Meetings on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. 2014.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Gibson-MacQuoid Project
- NIRB File No.: 17EN029
- Application No.: 125085

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting project location*
- *Spill Prevention and Response Plan*
- *Fuel Management Plan*
- *Corporate and Social Responsibility Action Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by NCGC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 5, 2017**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal, including:
 - Whether any cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts could result from the impacts of the proposed project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out inside the designated area, or wholly or partly outside the designated area.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Gibson-MacQuoid Project
- NIRB File No.: 17EN029
- Application No.: 125085

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or at kboaantwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Tara Gunson, APEX Geoscience Ltd.
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Charlotte Lamontagne, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)