



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

April 24, 2017

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca; carloyn.bennett@canada.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of North Country Gold Corp.'s "Gibson-MacQuoid Project" Proposal

Dear Ms. Carolyn Bennett:

On February 21, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received North Country Gold Corp.'s "Gibson-MacQuoid Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA). Pursuant to subsection 92(4) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister(s) extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 17EN029.

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, therefore on February 24, 2017 the Board requested that the Proponent provide additional information. On March 10, 2017 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA. On March 15, 2017 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties, requesting comments be submitted for the Board's consideration by April 5, 2017. Due to concerns raised during the public comment period, on April 11, 2017 the NIRB provided the Proponent an opportunity to respond to the comments that had been received; a response from the Proponent is expected to be submitted by April 25, 2017.

As a result of the additional time required to allow the Proponent to respond to the concerns and comments received, the Board requires additional time to fully consider the project proposal and to complete the screening. All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed 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 NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the NuPPAA. The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **May 9, 2017**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister(s) for consideration.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the responsible authority will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Bryan Atkinson, North Country Gold Corp.
Tara Gunson, APEX Geoscience Ltd.
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
David Ningeongan, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Osmond, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Charlotte Lamontagne, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada