



NIRB File No.: 17EN029

NPC File No.: 148787

Previous NPC File No.: 148480

May 8, 2018

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 Gold Project" proposal

Dear Bryan Atkinson:

On April 9, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen North Country Gold Corp.'s (NCGC) "Gibson MacQuoid Gold Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on February 21, 2017 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the inclusion of a new, temporary, but large camp.

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*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **17EN029**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 9, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the

NuPPAA, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and that sufficient information has been provided to commence screening. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on April 19, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On April 30, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The “Gibson-MacQuoid” project activities as previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 17EN029) included an early stage exploration program for gold mineralization in the Gibson-MacQuoid Region based out of Baker Lake. A complete description of the scope of activities previously approved has been included within **Appendix A**.

NCGC is currently proposing the “Gibson MacQuoid Gold Project” which would be located in the same area as previously approved and would be located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 100 kilometres (km) southeast from Baker Lake. The Proponent intends to amend the scope of previously approved activities to include a temporary camp with fuel cache to support the ongoing mineral exploration activities. The program is proposed to take place from August to September 2018.

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

- Construction and use of a temporary camp (between 30 and 40 personnel) to support exploration program;
- Collection of additional regional and detailed till samples;
- Ongoing daily collection of high resolution imagery with the use of a drone;
- Geological mapping and ground magnetic geophysical surveys at eight (8) significant gold till anomalies identified from the 2017 program;
- Use of a helicopter for daily transportation to and from the camp and the sample sites;
- Use of an aircraft for transportation of all personnel, equipment and supplies at the beginning and end of the field season to and from Baker Lake;
- Use of water from nearby waterbodies for domestic purposes;
- Incineration of combustible wastes (dual-chamber) at the temporary camp;
- Removal of hazardous wastes from site for proper disposal at an accredited facility;
- Disposal of greywater in an excavated sump;
- Disposal of sewage in pits or incinerated on-site with the use of Pacto System;
- Storage and use of chemicals; and
- Storage and use of 15,375 Litres (L) of aviation fuel, 4,100 L of diesel, 1,205 L of gasoline, and 1000 pounds of propane.

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.: 125337

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 exploration area*
- *2018 Proposed Camp Locations*
- *Abandonment & Reclamation Plan*
- *Corporate & Social Responsibility Action Plan*
- *Fuel Management Plan*
- *Medical Evacuation Plan*
- *Spill Prevention & Response Plan*
- *Waste Management 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 North Country Gold Corp.'s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 29, 2018**.

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; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

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.: 125337

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
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

Attachment: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

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

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 17EN029), was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) on February 21, 2017 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and Section 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). On May 18, 2017 the NIRB issued a screening decision pursuant to paragraph 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA* to the Minister of Crown – Indigenous and Relations and Northern Affairs which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The North Country Gold Corp.'s (Proponent) original "Gibson-MacQuoid" project was located in the Kivalliq region, approximately 100 kilometres (km) from Baker Lake. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct an early stage exploration program for gold mineralization in the Gibson-MacQuoid Region. The program was proposed to take place from July to August 2017.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included 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); and
- Use of facilities in Baker Lake for accommodations, water source and waste management.