



NIRB File No.: 17EN029
NPC File No.: 148787

June 13, 2018

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

Sent via email: minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca and carolyn.bennett@canada.ca

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

Dear Honourable Minister:

On April 9, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received North Country Gold Corp.'s (NCGC or Proponent) "Gibson MacQuoid Gold Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to subsection 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 17EN029.**

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*. On May 8, 2018 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by May 29, 2018. Due to concerns raised by parties to date regarding the proposed activities, the NIRB provided the Proponent with an opportunity to respond to the concerns prior to the Board making its decision. As a result, the Board requires additional time to fully consider the project proposal and to allow the Proponent to respond to comments, prior to completing 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.: 125337

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 **June 29, 2018**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the Minister 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,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Bryan Atkinson, North Country Gold Corp.
Tara Gunson, APEX Geoscience Ltd.
Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson of the Nunavut Water Board
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
David Ningeongan, President of the Kivalliq Inuit Association
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
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