



**NIRB File No.: 12MN036**  
**NWB File No.: 2AM-BRP1831**

August 22, 2023

To: Back River Distribution List

*Sent via email:*

**Re: Logistics Information and Draft Agenda for the NIRB Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable, and Pre-hearing Conference for Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s "Back River Project Energy Centre" Project Proposal**

Dear Parties:

On July 18, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) notified parties of the upcoming Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference to be held as part of the Board's assessment of Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s (Sabina) "Back River Project Energy Centre" project proposal (the Proposal) related to the Back River Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036). The meetings will occur in-person in Cambridge Bay with the Technical Meeting on October 3, 2023, the Community Roundtable on October 4-5, 2023, and Pre-hearing Conference on October 5, 2023. The following correspondence provides logistical information for the meetings for the information of all parties.

Parties and the Proponent are invited to review the attached *Draft* Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference Agendas and provide the Board with feedback regarding the agenda items on or before **September 6, 2023**. The NIRB will circulate the final agenda prior to the meeting.

#### TECHNICAL MEETING: OCTOBER 3, 2023

The Technical Meeting will be conducted in-person in Cambridge Bay to provide the Proponent, responsible authorities, and interested parties the opportunity to discuss issues raised in their respective technical review comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum (FEIS Addendum) submitted by Sabina. The meeting will be facilitated by NIRB staff and provide opportunity for the Proponent to present a summary of its Proposal and response to technical review comments, followed by discussion between the Proponent, responsible authorities and interested parties. The Technical Meeting will be kept as informal as possible with the objective of identifying, addressing, and/or resolving outstanding technical issues prior to the Pre-hearing Conference.

The NIRB requests that Sabina be prepared to deliver an overview presentation of up to sixty (60) minutes following the opening of the Technical Meeting, providing an overview of the proposal and summarizing Sabina's response to parties' technical review comments, including identification of those issues believed to have been addressed within its response and those which have not yet been resolved. Where possible, it is recommended that the Proponent utilize visual elements (maps, diagrams, figures, etc.) in its presentation to assist with effective comprehension and uptake of technical issues by meeting participants. In addition, it is recommended that Sabina be prepared to deliver concise (10-20 minute) topic-specific presentations for each agenda item, to be utilized as deemed necessary for facilitating discussions.

The NIRB advises Sabina that it will need to provide enough printed copies of its presentation for meeting participants, with translations in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. The Proponent should be aware that there will only be one screen available.

The Proponent is requested to maintain a comprehensive listing of commitments for circulation during and following the meetings. Time may be allotted within the proceedings for a cursory review of these commitments by all parties to enable the listing to be finalized by the conclusion of the Technical Meeting. It is anticipated that the commitment list from each day will be provided at the start of the next day for review and that any comments or issues regarding the commitments will be raised by parties during the end of day wrap up discussion. The final list of commitments will form a part of the meeting record and will also be carried forward to the Public Hearing for consideration by the Board.

Parties should be prepared to speak to whether their technical review comments have been satisfactorily addressed by Sabina and, if not, to provide clarification as to what issues remain outstanding in order to prepare final written submissions. Throughout the meeting, the NIRB will request that parties assist in identifying whether their questions or comments are associated with a specific issue raised within their previous comments to the Board by noting the reference number given in the technical review comments.

Break-out sessions facilitated by NIRB staff may also be utilized to further discuss specific agenda items in smaller groups (e.g., engineering, wildlife, socio-economic issues, etc.) where necessary. Please note that the NIRB has ordered the agenda items to align, where possible, with the thematic sections within Sabina's FEIS Addendum.

#### COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE: OCTOBER 4-5, 2023

The Community Roundtable will be held on October 4-5, 2023, and will provide time for representatives from the communities designated as potentially impacted by the proposed project to be at the table to discuss the Proposal and participate in the Board's assessment. The communities identified as potentially impacted include the 5 Kitikmeot communities, the two (2) seasonal communities as well as three (3) Northern Saskatchewan communities. The NIRB has invited representatives from Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Bay Chimo, Bathurst Inlet, the Black Lake Denesūliné Nation, the Fond-du-Lac Denesūliné Nation and the Hatched Lake Denesūliné Nation to attend the Community Roundtable Session and Pre-hearing Conference.

Information regarding the Community Roundtable has been distributed through separate correspondence to the nominating organizations of each community. The NIRB will be holding a brief information meeting for representatives on the evening of **October 2, 2023**, to prepare representatives for participation in the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference.

#### PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 5, 2023

The Pre-hearing Conference will focus on determining the specific steps and processes required to complete the assessment, including matters such as: determining the timing and format for parties to present their evidence to the Board, timelines for the exchange of documents and information required by parties for the proceedings; finalization of issues to be discussed in the proceedings; or other matters as determined by parties. The Pre-hearing Conference is meant to provide parties with an opportunity to confirm agreement to the list of commitments and identify issues resolved during the Technical Meetings, and those issues which remain outstanding, which the Board will consider when issuing a Pre-hearing Conference Decision and providing direction to the Proponent and parties on what steps are required to schedule a Public Hearing for this assessment.

#### MEETING LOGISTICS

- Interpretation:** Simultaneous English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun interpretation will be provided to the extent practicable.
- Seating:** For the Technical Meeting seating at the main table for each party will be limited, with a maximum of 2-3 seats per organization/agency. Additional seats will be provided for observers and the public. For the Community Roundtable, seating at the main table will be reserved for designated community representatives.
- Facilitator:** The Technical Meeting will be facilitated by the NIRB staff. The Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference will be facilitated by a NIRB Board Member.
- Materials:** The NIRB will provide access to the digital copy of all materials contained within the Board's public registry for the "Energy Centre" project proposal, including the FEIS Addendum, and any additional submissions received up to and throughout the meetings.
- Meeting times:** Meetings start at 9:00 a.m. (MT) and run until 5:00 p.m. (MT) daily, with an hour break for lunch and two 15-minute health breaks throughout the day. An evening session is scheduled for the Community Roundtable on October 4, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Additional evening sessions may be required to ensure all agenda items are sufficiently covered.

The NIRB requests that parties provide a list of attendees by **September 6, 2023**. Parties expecting to have representatives attend the Technical Meeting in person are responsible to secure their own travel, accommodations, meals, and daily transport to/from the meetings.

## MEDIA ACCESS

The NIRB is supportive of any planned efforts by public media outlets to cover or record the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference and will ensure that media representatives are granted sufficient access to the proceedings to report accurately. The NIRB has established rules for recording of Pre-hearing Conference and other proceedings and will require all media outlets that wish to observe, to provide the NIRB with advanced notice to assist in minimizing disruptions and plan for options should they wish to make either an audio or video recording. As such, the NIRB requests that all media outlets that wish to record proceedings during the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference (film, photograph, audio) request media access from the Board on or before **September 5, 2023**.

## NEXT STEPS

In summary, parties planning to participate in the upcoming meetings for the NIRB's assessment of Sabina's "Energy Centre" project proposal are required to provide the NIRB with the following information by **September 6, 2023**:

- Comments on the Draft Agenda for the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable, and Pre-hearing Conference.
- Provide the list of representatives for the party that wish to attend the sessions, including: name, position and respective area of expertise or authority, and email. Parties should also indicate which person will be the key speaker for the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable, and Pre-hearing Conference.
- Any request by public media outlets to cover the proceedings; and

Parties are asked to direct all forthcoming submissions to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca). Should you require clarification on the NIRB's assessment of the "Energy Centre" project proposal, please contact Guillaume Daoust (867) 983-4609 or [gdaoust@nirb.ca](mailto:gdaoust@nirb.ca) or the undersigned directly at [kmorrison@nirb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@nirb.ca) or (867) 983-4617.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison  
Manager, Impact Assessment  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachment: Appendix A – *Draft* Agenda for Sabina's Back River Project Energy Centre Proposal

cc: Merle Keefe, Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.  
Andrew Moore, Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.  
Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.

**APPENDIX A:**  
**DRAFT TECHNICAL MEETING AGENDA**

**NIRB File No.:** 12MN036 – Back River Project Energy Centre Proposal  
**Proponent:** Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.  
**Facilitator:** NIRB staff  
**Dates & Times:** **All times given in Mountain Time are approximate and are subject to change at the NIRB's discretion.**  
October 3-4, 2022; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Community Hall, Cambridge Bay, NU

**Day 1 of Technical Meeting – October 3, 2023**

General Opening:

1. NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks (*30 minutes NIRB speaking time*)
  - a. Opening Prayer
  - b. Opening statements from Mayor of Cambridge Bay
  - c. Introductions, overview of procedural history, structure of the meetings
  - d. Introduction of Meeting Participants
  - e. Overview of Agenda
  - f. Housekeeping items

Technical Meeting

2. Proponent Presentation (*total 60 minutes presentation time by Sabina*)
  - a. Introduction and overview
    - i. Project design and rationale, description of project components including construction, operation, and removal/reclamation
    - ii. Public engagement and community response update
  - b. Response to Technical Review Comments
3. Roundtable discussion: questions by parties and NIRB staff on the following items with potential presentations delivered by Sabina as needed:
  - a. Conclusions presented in the FEIS Addendum pertaining to alternatives assessment and methodologies (*10-minute presentation by Sabina*);
  - b. Atmospheric environment (climate change assessment, air quality, noise and vibration *etc.*) (*10-minute presentation by Sabina*);
  - c. Terrestrial environment (soils and terrain, permafrost, vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, birds, *etc.*) (*20-minute presentation by Sabina*)

Close of Day 1

## Day 2 of Technical Meeting – October 4, 2023

### Technical Meeting (continued from Day 1):

1. NIRB Opening Remarks (*15 minutes*)
  - a. Day 1 Recap
  - b. Overview of Agenda
2. Roundtable discussion: questions by Parties and NIRB staff on the following items with potential presentations delivered by Sabina as needed:
  - a. Socio-economic environment (economic development, education and training, traditional and non-traditional land use *etc.*) (*20-minute presentation by Sabina*)
  - b. Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment and Accidents and Malfunctions Assessment (*10-minute presentation by Sabina*)
3. Discussion and review of Proponent's list of commitments and other outstanding technical issues
4. Closing Remarks from parties
5. NIRB closing remarks and discussion of next steps.

Close of Day 2

**APPENDIX B:**  
**DRAFT COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AGENDA**

**File No.:** 12MN036 – Back River Project Energy Centre Proposal  
**Proponent:** Sabina Gold and Silver Corp/  
**Facilitator:** NIRB Board member  
**Dates:** October 4-5, 2023  
**Location:** Community Hall, Cambridge Bay, NU  
**Times:** **All times given in Mountain Time are approximate and are subject to change at the NIRB's discretion.**

Community Roundtable Session:	October 4, 2023,	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
	October 5, 2023,	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Pre-hearing Conference:	October 5, 2023,	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Community Representative Orientation –October 2, 2023 – 6:30pm**

An orientation session will be held for community representatives in the Community Hall, to demonstrate how proceedings will be conducted and to prepare for the Community Roundtable.

**Day 1 of Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference –October 4, 2023**

General Opening:

1. NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks (35 minutes)
  - a. Objectives of Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference
  - b. Overview of the NIRB process and status of the assessment
  - c. Introduction of Participants
  - d. Overview of Agenda
  - e. Housekeeping items

Community Roundtable Session:

2. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Introduction and Popular Summary of Project Proposal** (total 25-minute presentation time by Sabina if the Proponent feels that it is necessary)
3. Questions from community representatives and the public to the Proponent and/or parties organized by topic:
  - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
  - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties

Evening Session

- Questions from the general public to the Proponent and parties.

Close of Day 1

## **Day 2 of Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference – October 5, 2023**

### Pre-hearing Conference

1. NIRB Opening Remarks (*15 minutes*)
  - a. Community Roundtable Recap
  - b. Overview of Agenda

### Community Roundtable (continued from Day 1):

1. Questions from community representatives and the public to the Proponent and/or parties organized by topic:
  - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
  - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
2. Closing statements from each community

### Pre-Hearing Conference

3. Identification of any issues preventing the reconvening of a Public Hearing (both NIRB and/or parties)
4. Discussion and facilitation of the Public Hearing processes – parties at the table will be given an opportunity to comment on the following:
  - a. Anticipated date, time, form, and location(s) to reconvene the Public Hearing;
  - b. Timetable for the exchange of additional documents and information requests prior to the Public Hearing;
  - c. Confirmation of commitments list by parties;
  - d. Finalization of issues for the Public Hearing, and identification of interested parties to attend the Public Hearing;
  - e. Logistics arrangement, equipment, language, interpretation, translation, and transcript requirements; and
  - f. Other matters that may aid in the simplification of the Public Hearing.
5. Closing remarks from parties
6. NIRB closing remarks and next steps
7. Closing Prayer

Close of Pre-hearing Conference