



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

September 15, 2023

To: Back River Distribution List

*Sent via email*

**Re: Final Agenda for the Upcoming 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 August 22, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) distributed the *Draft* Agenda for the **October 3-5, 2023**, 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 or Proponent) "Back River Project Energy Centre" Project Proposal (NIRB File No.: 12MN036). As part of the correspondence, the NIRB requested that interested parties confirm their planned attendance and provide comments or suggestions on the agenda.

While the NIRB understands that parties may wish to have options for remote participation, these meetings are being planned as in-person proceedings. Accordingly, the NIRB appreciates parties efforts to ensure that their key personnel are in attendance in person during these meetings to actively participate in the meetings and engage in the community. The Board reminds parties that if they require support from individuals that are not in attendance, they are able to defer questions until they have had an opportunity to consult with the relevant members of their team. As well, parties are encouraged to discuss technical matters with each other and the Proponent outside of the NIRB's meetings and to report back to the Board regarding any resolutions or commitments made amongst the parties.

#### SPECIFIC REVISIONS TO THE *DRAFT* AGENDA

On August 22, 2023, the NIRB issued a *Draft* Agenda for the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference and requested that interested parties provide comments or suggestions on the time and order of proceedings. By the deadline of September 6, 2023, the NIRB received comments from the following parties:

- Sabina *now* B2Gold Nunavut (Doc ID: 347094)

This comment is available from the NIRB’s online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125740](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125740) by searching by the above Document ID. To assist parties and the public to understand changes made to the *Final Agenda* and this associated procedural guidance, the Board has summarized in the table below, the comments on the *Draft Agenda* received from Sabina/B2Gold Nunavut.

Party	Comment
Sabina/ B2Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day 2, Technical Meeting: Recommend Item 2a “Socio-economic environment” be deleted and be removed from the agenda and the topics of traditional and non-traditional land use be added to Day 1 Agenda item 3(c), “Terrestrial environment” (soils and terrain, permafrost, vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, birds, etc.) of Day 1 of Technical Meeting.</li> <li>• Day 2, Technical Meeting: Recommend Item 2b “Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment and Accidents and Malfunctions Assessment” be removed from the agenda as there are no unresolved technical issues.</li> <li>• Day 1, Technical Meeting: Suggest Item 3 “Discussion and Review of Proponent’s list of commitments and other outstanding technical issues” on Day 2 of the <i>Draft Agenda</i> also be added to Day 1 of the <i>Draft Agenda</i> following item 2b “Response to Technical Review Comments”.</li> <li>• Day 1, Community Roundtable: Suggest specifying times for discussion of specific topics during the Community Roundtable.</li> </ul>

NIRB has reviewed Sabina/B2Gold’s comments and with respect to the recommendations to remove two topics from the *Draft Agenda* (Item 2(a) “Socio-Economics” and Item 2(b) “Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment and Accidents and Malfunctions Assessment” because there were no technical review comments received on these topics to date), the Board has not made these revisions, because the Board sees value in Intervenors, the Board’s staff and community members hearing the Proponent’s summary of their assessment of these potential effects and stimulating discussions about these topics during these meetings.

The Board has added time to the Agenda on Day 1 after Item 2(b) “Response to Technical Review Comments” to allow for an additional discussion of the Proponent’s list of commitments and other outstanding technical issues as recommended by Sabina/B2Gold.

With respect to Sabina/B2Gold’s recommendation that the Board specify set times for discussions of specific topics during the Community Roundtable, the Board has not made that recommended revision, as the Community Roundtable is intended to provide an informal opportunity for community representatives to share knowledge, ask questions and provide their comments on all aspects of the Proposal throughout the Community Roundtable.

The *Final* Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference agendas have been updated accordingly and are attached as **Appendix A:** and **Appendix B:** of this letter.

## MEETING LOGISTICS

- Interpretation:** Simultaneous English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and Denesuline 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 the Board's Vice Chairperson
- Materials:** The NIRB will provide access to the digital copy of all materials contained within the Board's public registry for the "Back River 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 Proponent, Intervenors and technical experts attending in-person are responsible to secure their own travel, accommodations, meals, and daily transport to/from the meetings.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

The NIRB requires that, if they have not already done so, that all parties provide a list of attendees to represent their organization (number of persons, name, position, respective area of expertise or authority), identify a designated key speaker, and email.

The NIRB requests that Sabina provides electronic copies of presentations to the NIRB by **September 22, 2023**, allowing for them to be made available on the NIRB's Public Registry. The NIRB also reminds that the Proponent will need to provide enough printed copies of its presentation for meeting participants, with translations.

The NIRB also requests that Sabina submit a list of any commitments made to parties or the public to the NIRB on **September 26, 2023**, so that parties can review this list in advance of the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference.

Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference, please contact Guillaume Daoust, Technical Advisor II, at [gdaoust@nirb.ca](mailto:gdaoust@nirb.ca) or (867) 983-4609.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko  
Director, Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Appendix A – *Final* Technical Meeting Agenda for Sabina’s “Back River Energy Centre” Project Proposal

Appendix B – *Final* Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference Agenda for Sabina’s “Back River Energy Centre” Project Proposal



## APPENDIX A:

### FINAL 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, 2023; 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 (to be confirmed)
  - 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
  - c. Discussion and Review of Proponent's list of commitments (filed with the Board on or before September 26, 2023, and other outstanding technical issues)
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 any updates to the Proponent's list of commitments and discussion of unresolved technical issues
4. Closing Remarks from parties
5. NIRB closing remarks and discussion of next steps.

Close of Day 2

## APPENDIX B:

### FINAL COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AGENDA

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