



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

NWB File No.: 2BC-BRP1819 and 2AM-BRP1831

July 10, 2024

Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Receipt of the Responsible Ministers' Response to the NIRB's Reconsideration Report and Recommendations for B2Gold Back River Corp.'s "Back River Energy Centre" Proposal Modifying the Back River Project, and Request for Comment on Next Steps to Finalize Project Certificate No. 007, Amendment 1

Dear Parties:

On July 8, 2024 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the enclosed correspondence in response to the Board's April 12, 2024 Reconsideration Report and Recommendations¹ (the Report) regarding B2Gold Back River Corp.'s (B2Gold) "Back River Energy Centre" Project Proposal (the Energy Centre Proposal) for the Back River Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036) from the Minister of Northern Affairs on behalf of the Responsible Ministers.² In the Report, the Board recommended that the Energy Centre Proposal be allowed to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to recommended revisions to 11 existing terms and conditions, and the addition of two (2) ecosystemic terms and conditions and one (1) socio-economic term and condition in Project Certificate No. 007.

Pursuant to s. 112(6)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), Responsible Ministers indicated that they:

...accept the Board's recommendation that the Proposal should be allowed to proceed and, pursuant to paragraph 112(6)(a) of the Act. We also accept each of the Board's recommended new and revised terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 007

¹ Public Registry ID: 349700

² Collectively, the Responsible Ministers with regulatory jurisdiction over the Back River Project and with authority for responding to the Board's Report included: the Minister of Northern Affairs, Prairies Economic Development Canada, and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency; Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard; Minister of Energy and Natural Resources; and Minister of Transport (Responsible Ministers).

Therefore, under s. 112(10) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is required to issue an amended Project Certificate No. 007 within 30 days of receipt of the Ministers' July 8, 2024 letter.

The enclosed *Draft* of Project Certificate No. 007 Amendment 1 contains the following updates to the Project Certificate:

- Change to the legal entity that is now the Proponent of the Back River Project (as recently confirmed by B2 Gold Back River Corp.);
- Additions to the procedural history and scope of the Project as modified by the Back River Energy Centre Proposal
- Updates to the existing 11 terms and conditions as recommended by the Board in the Report;
- The addition of 3 (three) new terms and conditions as recommended by the Board in the Report;
- Updates and clarifications to the Reporting Requirements associated with specific terms and conditions to reflect developments in relation to the monitoring and reporting program since the Project Certificate was issued for the original Project, including administrative updates and standardization of terminology by the Board.

As the Responsible Ministers have not varied the Board's recommended revisions and additions to the terms and conditions of the *Draft* Project Certificate No. 007, Amendment 1 the Board has determined that an in-person workshop is not necessary to finalize the *Draft* Project Certificate. To determine the extent to which parties would nonetheless find value in a teleconference Project Certificate workshop, or are satisfied with submitting any additional comments (including requests for clarification) in writing only, the Board is asking parties to review the attached documents and comment on the following on or before **July 22, 2024**:

- Regulatory Authorities: identify any terms and conditions under which they would be identified as a regulator (if different than what is identified in the draft).
- Proponent and Regulatory Authorities: confirm whether or not you consider a teleconference workshop to be necessary to discuss implementation of the new/updated terms and conditions or updates to reporting requirements.

Parties are asked to submit all comments to the NIRB by **July 22, 2024** via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via email at info@nirb.ca.

All materials related to the NIRB's assessment of the Energy Center can be accessed online from the NIRB's Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125740.

Should you have any questions or require additional clarification regarding the NIRB's assessment of the "Back River Energy Center" project proposal for the Back River Project, please contact Keith Morrison, Manager, Impact Assessment at kmorrison@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4617.

Sincerely,



Dionne Filiatrault
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (2) Minister Response Re NIRB Public Report (*July 8, 2024*)
Draft NIRB Project Certificate No. 007, Amendment 1

cc: Merle Keefe, B2Gold Corporation
Andrew Moore, B2Gold Corporation