



NEWS RELEASE

NIRB File No. 12MN036

Project Certificate No. 007 Amendment No. 001

Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Project Certificate No. 007 Amendment No. 001 to B2Gold Back River Corp.'s (B2Gold) for the "Back River Energy Centre" Proposal

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – August 7, 2024: Following the completion of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the "Back River Energy Centre" Project Proposal (Energy Centre Proposal), a modification of the previously-approved Back River Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036), and as directed by the Responsible Ministers, the NIRB has issued a revised Project Certificate No. 007 Amendment No. 001¹ to B2Gold Back River Corp. (B2Gold). The changes to the terms and conditions in Project Certificate No. 007 Amendment No. 001 reflect the recommendations of the Board as expressed in the Board's *Reconsideration Report and Recommendations*,² as approved by the Responsible Ministers and communicated by the Minister of Northern Affairs in his July 8, 2024 correspondence.³

The Energy Centre Proposal includes the addition of infrastructure at the Back River Project to support alternative energy generation, including up to 13 wind turbine generators, a battery storage system, solar panel array, transmission lines and service roads.

To limit the potential for the activities to result in negative environmental or socio-economic impacts, the Board recommended the following changes to Project Certificate No. 007:

- revisions to 11 existing Terms and Conditions of NIRB Project Certificate No. 007 (#9 and #10 Noise and Vibration; #12 Permafrost; #34 Vegetation; #39, #41, and #51 Caribou; #37, #45, and #50 Terrestrial Wildlife; and #53 Birds and Bird Habitat) as discussed in Section 8.0 of the Board's *Reconsideration Report and Recommendations*;
- the addition of two (2) new ecosystemic Terms and Conditions to NIRB Project Certificate No. 007 in relation to Migratory Birds and Traditional Land Use – Harvesting, and one (1) socio-economic Term and Condition (Inuit and Local Employment/Contracting);
- additional detail was also added to the monitoring and reporting programs applicable to the modified Back River Gold Project;
- updated references to the Proponent to reflect the transfer of ownership of the project from Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. to B2Gold Back River Corp; and
- the addition of non-binding commentary as aids to interpretation and clarifications as requested by B2Gold and regulatory authorities with responsibility for implementing Project Certificate No. 007 Amendment No. 001.

The NIRB will remain in contact with regulators to support the subsequent permitting process associated with the changes to activities for the Back River Gold Mine Project. The NIRB will also continue to work with B2Gold to monitor the Project in accordance with the requirements of applicable legislation and the terms and condition of Project Certificate No. 007 Amendment No. 001.

The NIRB appreciates the participation of the Kitikmeot communities, regulators, B2Gold, and other interested parties in the Board's assessment of the Energy Centre Proposal and the monitoring program for the Back River Gold Mine Project. Documentation relevant to Project

¹ Revised Project Certificate available from the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/>, Document ID No.: 350720

² *Reconsideration Report and Recommendations* (April 2024) on the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/>, Document ID No.: 349350

³ Minister's decision on the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/>, Document ID No.: 350722

Certificate No. 007 Amendment 001 and B2Gold's Energy Centre proposal is available online from the NIRB's public registry at <https://www.nirb.ca/project/125740>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Kaviq Kaluraq". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and the last name "Kaluraq" clearly visible.

Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

For more information, the media may contact:

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