



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

NWB File Nos.: 2BC-BRP1819 and 2AM-BRP1831

February 10, 2024

Merle Keefe
Manager, Environment
B2Gold Back River Corp.
666 Burrard St, Suite 3400
Vancouver, BC V6C 2X8

Sent via email: mkeefe@b2gold.com

Re: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2023-2024 Annual Monitoring Report for the Back River Project and the Board's Recommendations

Dear Merle Keefe:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is hereby releasing its *2023-2024 Annual Monitoring Report for the Back River Project* (Monitoring Report) and the NIRB's assessment of B2Gold Back River Corp.'s (B2Gold Nunavut) compliance with Project Certificate No. 007¹. The NIRB Monitoring report contains the findings based on information and observations made between October 2023 through September 2024 and informed Recommendation 2; however Recommendation 1 is specific to requirements past due from Project Certificate No. 007, Amendment 01 issuance in August 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: As the updated Noise Abatement Plan and the Vegetation Monitoring Plan were not provided within 60 days of the release of Amendment No. 001 to Project Certificate No. 007 as required by amended Terms and Conditions #10 and #34, B2Gold Nunavut shall provide the updated Noise Abatement Plan and Vegetation Management Plan within 30 days of receiving the NIRB Monitoring Officers' 2023-2024 Report.

Background: The Board required the following updated plans to be submitted within 60 days of the release of Amendment No. 01 to the Project Certificate: the Noise Abatement Plan (T&C 10), Vegetation Monitoring Plan (T&C 34), and Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (WMMP, T&C 37). On October 8, 2024, the NIRB received the updated WMMP Plan but has not yet received the updated Noise Abatement Plan or the Vegetation Monitoring Plan.

¹ Based on on the NIRB's monitoring activities as set out within the Back River Project Certificate No. 007 (December 19, 2017) and Sections 12.7.1 and 12.7.2 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 135 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

Recommendation 2: The Board requests that B2Gold Nunavut provide an update on this initiative in the 2024 Annual Report including an action plan and timeline for treatment of the water in the secondary containment berm.

Background: during the August 2024 site visit to the Back River Project, NIRB staff noted the secondary containment berm around the tank farm at the Goose Lake exploration site was holding a significant amount of contaminated water. Upon discussions with B2Gold Nunavut staff, they noted that they were currently in the process acquiring an “Oily Water Separator” to treat and discharge it as effluent once/if it reached discharge criteria.

The NIRB looks forward to receiving the additional materials. Documents associated with the NIRB’s ongoing Monitoring of the Back River Project are available online at www.nirb.ca/project/125740 and questions can be directed to the undersigned at cbarker@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4607.

Sincerely,



Cory Barker, M.Sc.
Manager, Project Monitoring
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Back River Project Distribution List

Enclosure: The Nunavut Impact Review Board’s *2023-2024 Annual Monitoring Report for the Back River Project (NIRB File No. 12MN036)*