



NIRB File No. 08MN006

February 8, 2012

Michael Boucher
General Manager, Mining Projects
Xstrata Zinc Canada
8801 Transcanada Highway, Suite 400
Saint-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1Z6

Sent via Email: mboucher@xstratazinc.ca

Re: Update Requested on Project Ownership and Anticipated Date of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hackett River Project

Dear Mr. Boucher,

As you are likely aware, on April 7, 2009 the NIRB issued *Guidelines to the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement* to Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation (Sabina) for the Hackett River Project (NIRB File No. 08MN006). In correspondence sent from Sabina dated March 15, 2011 it was indicated that the company is continuing to conduct the preliminary feasibility assessments and baseline environmental data collection, and for those reasons would not be submitting a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) during the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The NIRB has been informed that the project was purchased by Xstrata Zinc and the Board is therefore requesting formal written notice of changes to project ownership as well as an update on the company's intentions for submission of a Draft EIS in the coming fiscal year. In order to facilitate budgeting and planning requirements, the NIRB respectfully requests that Xstrata provide a response by **March 21, 2012**.

Please submit any forthcoming correspondence to the Board at info@nirb.ca, or via fax at (867) 983-2594.

If you have any additional questions on the process moving forward, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services

Cc Elizabeth Sherlock, Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation at (ESherlock@sabinagoldsilver.com)
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board at (licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)