



NIRB File No. 07EN021
NPC File No.: 148337

September 29, 2016

Simeon Robinson
North Country Gold Corp.
600-1199 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 3T5
c/o Yuliana Proenza, APEX Geosciences

Sent via email: yproenza@apexgeoscience.com

Re: Notice of Screening for North Country Gold Corp.'s "Committee Bay" Project Proposal

Dear Yuliana Proenza:

On August 17, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen North Country Gold Corp.'s (North Country Gold) "Committee Bay" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal was related to the project previously assessed by the NIRB (NIRB File No. 07EN021). The NPC also noted that the positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan issued on March 3, 2007 continues to apply to this proposal.

Pursuant to section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **07EN021**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. On August 25, 2016 the NIRB requested that North Country Gold provide additional information in support of this proposal by September 8, 2016. On September 8, 2016 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed “Committee Bay” project is located within the Kivalliq region, in the community of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent proposes to increase the storage capacity of its existing temporary fuel storage facility at Lot 11 within the Itivia Industrial subdivision of the community. The proposed project is to support ongoing exploration activities at the Committee Bay exploration site located approximately 400 kilometres north of Rankin Inlet. The proposed project is to take place from August 2016 to September 2017.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Increase capacity of the existing temporary fuel storage facility (Arctic diesel, Jet A or Jet B aviation turbine fuel, and gasoline) from 73,800 litres (360 drums) to 820,000 litres (4000 drums);
- Establish secondary containment for the temporary fuel storage facility;
- Transport fuel via heavy lift aircraft from the temporary storage facility in Rankin Inlet to an existing 1.5 million litre (7,300 drums) capacity fuel storage facility at the Committee Bay exploration site.¹
- Continue to operate a temporary storage area in proximity to the fuel storage facility for the storage and staging of materials, including core boxes, timber, and up to five (5) shipping containers (sea cans), to support ongoing exploration activities;¹
- Store scrap metals, drained and crushed fuel drums, and other recyclable materials at the temporary area for searift to appropriate recycling facilities in the South;
- Decommission and remove all structures associated with the temporary fuel facility and storage area in Rankin Inlet on conclusion of the exploration program; and
- Remediate any contaminated areas on site.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Committee Bay
- NIRB File No.: 07EN021
- Application No.: 124698

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form (formerly the NIRB Part 1 form in English)*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in Inuktitut*

¹ A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**

- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Map noting proposed project area*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Abandonment and Reclamation Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by North Country Gold Corp.'s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **October 20, 2016**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594. **The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca.**

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or at kboaantwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ralph Ruediger, Government of Nunavut – Department of Community and Government Services
Darren Flynn, Government of Nunavut – Department of Community and Government Services
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut – Department of Community and Government Services
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Form (English and Inuktitut)

Appendix: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 07EN021), the original “Committee Bay” project proposed by Committee Bay Resources Ltd. (the Proponent) was located in the Kitikmeot region, approximately 260 kilometres (km) south of Kugaaruk and 270 km west of Naujaat. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct exploration activities within the Committee Bay Greenstone Belt.

The activities and/or components associated with the original proposal screened under the original File No. 07EN021 included:

- Delivery of equipment, fuel and supplies required for the exploration program;
- Ice strip construction for temporary airstrip on lake at Hayes Camp;
- Exploration and drilling on ice and on land;
- Repositioning of drill equipment;
- Use of existing airstrip at Crater Lake Camp;
- Landing of aircraft with tundra tires on an esker at Ingot Camp;
- Use of existing seasonal exploration camps at Ingot, Crater, Hayes and Bullion camps;
- Storage of drilling fluids;
- Fuel transportation and storage;
- Geochemical soil sampling;
- Gridding and ground geophysical surveys;
- Geological mapping and prospecting, sampling (rock, till and water) and staking;
- Consumption of water for drilling purposes;
- Generation of waste and water;
- Preparation of landing site for helicopter; and
- Baseline environmental work at Hayes camp.

The original proposal was received from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC, *now* Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada) on February 27, 2007 and screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 11, 2007 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB’s recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Additional authorization and extension requests associated with the “Committee Bay” project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (07EN021). In each instance where the NIRB received applications up to and including January 26, 2009, the NIRB confirmed that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and that the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 11, 2007 Screening Decision Report. On February 2, 2010, after receiving an application for additional activities at site, the NIRB issued additional terms and conditions associated with the “Committee Bay” project. On January 28, 2011, after receiving an application for additional activities at site, the NIRB issued additional terms and conditions associated with the “Committee Bay” project. The following is a summary of subsequent previously screened project activities and requests for extensions and/or amendments to authorizations.

The activities and components associated with the previous February 29, 2008 application for an amendment to the Type B Nunavut Water Board licence (No. 2BE-CRA0710) for the proposal included:

- Increase the amount of water use for exploration from 16 gallons per minute (two active drills) to 32 gallons per minute (four active drills); and
- Additional domestic water use for camps.

The January 26, 2009 extension requests for INAC Land Use Permits N2007C0001 and N2007C0002 involved activities in support of continued exploration at the Committee Bay Greenstone Belt for an additional two years, between March 2009 and March 2011.

The activities and/or components associated with the February 2, 2010 amendment application to the INAC Land Use Permits N2009C0018 and N2009C0019 included:

- Continue exploration activities to October 30, 2011;
- Increase the number of drills to be used from 3 (three) to 6 (six) drills
 - 6 (six) drills to be used concurrently with 2 (two) of the 4 (four) camps open at any one time; and
- Build a temporary winter road approximately 10 kilometres long from Hayes Camp to the Three Bluffs deposit
 - Road to be used to haul water, drills and related equipment and personnel to the deposit to enable spring exploration drilling.

The activities and/or components associated with the December 2010 extension request for Land Use Permit N2009C0018 and the addition of a quarry permit and surface lease included:

- Increase in exploration activities, including additional drills, and revamping and addition of accommodation, camp buildings and services at the Hayes Camp:
 - Use of 7 (seven) diamond and 2 (two) RC drills positioned on the Three Bluffs Deposit for drilling up to 60,000 metres in 2011 and 2012;
 - Airborne and ground geophysical surveys;
 - Geological mapping and prospecting;
 - Infrastructure upgrade to accommodate up to 100 persons by adding:
 - 11 – 12x14 foot sleepers;
 - 1 – 200 cubic metres (m³) commercial kitchen;
 - 1 – 200 m³ commercial bathroom;
 - 1 – 200 m³ dining/rec room;
 - 2 – 600 m³ shops;
 - Vehicles, heavy equipment, waste water treatment plant, incinerator, and drilling equipment;
- Improving and increasing the length of the current Hayes Camp airstrip:
 - Upgrading the current esker airstrip to 3000 feet (approx. 915 metres) through levelling/grading and lengthening;
 - Quarrying of approximately 5000 m³ of ¾ crush to top coat the airstrip;
- Building an all-weather road from Hayes Camp to the Three Bluffs Gold deposit including a 5000 foot (approx. 1500 metres) airstrip:
 - Construction of an approximately 6-10 km road connecting the Hayes Camp to the Three Bluffs Exploration Gold Deposit;

- Temporary fuel storage for heavy equipment along the road corridor in 204 litre drums with a maximum of 19 drums per cache, secured with berms and spill kits;
- Installation of culverts may be required to facilitate site drainage. Location of culverts to be determined based on 2011 hydrology survey. No planned changes in water courses;
- Construction schedule:
 - April to June 2011, and September 2011: equipment mobilization;
 - June to September 2011: Study hydrology and geomorphology of the proposed road corridor to assess the best position for the all-weather road; and
 - September 2011 to August 2013: road construction.

The activities and components associated with the January 3 and January 25, 2012 requests included a proposal to extend the term of both of the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC, *now* INAC) Land Use Permits N2009C0019 and N2009C0018 for the proposal from March 2012 to March 2014, as well as to amend AANDC Land Use Permit N2009C0018 to include the following additional components:

- Use of explosives for blasting of gravel and/or work for the purposes of obtaining crushed material and aggregate to complete the upgrades to the all-weather 3000 foot (approx. 915 metres) airstrip to Hayes Camp including the addition of 2 (two) explosive magazines and a mini drill which will also require a new quarry permit;
- Addition of new equipment: 2 Huggland personnel carriers, 1 All Track, and 4 additional snow machines;
- Addition of 2 (two) new skid mounted 35,000 litre double walled fuel tanks to compliment the 2 already in place at the Hayes Camp to further reduce the need for drummed fuel; and
- Total amount of fuel required for the 2012 season will remain at approximately 1,500,000 litres.

The activities and/or components associated with the July 19, 2012 application for a Land Use Permit within the Municipality of Rankin Inlet included:

- Temporary storage of 51,250 litres of diesel fuel secured in an insta-berm;
- Storage of 15 pallets of core boxes and 1 (one) pallet of core box lids;
- Storage of 4 (four) lifts of timber; and
- One (1) sea can.

The activities and components associated with the February 27, 2013 requests for amendment and extension to the AANDC Land Use Permit N2009C0019 for North Country Gold Corp.'s "Committee Bay Project – Camp and Airstrip" project included:

- Additional exploration at 8 (eight) pending mineral leases; and
- Removal of 33 mineral claims from the exploration program.

The February 3, 2014 request was to renew and replace AANDC Land Use Permit N2009C0019 with Land Use Permit N2014C0002 associated with North Country Gold Corp.'s ongoing "Bullion Camp" project and to continue exploration activities as previously approved. The February 5, 2014 request was to renew and replace AANDC Land Use Permit N2009C0018 with

Land Use Permit N2014C0004 associated with North Country Gold Corp.'s "Hayes Camp" project and to continue exploration activities as previously approved.

The December 29, 2014 renewal request for the Nunavut Water Board's Type "B" water licence 2BE-CRA1015 was to support ongoing exploration at the "Committee Bay Project – Three Bluffs Deposit".

The activities and components associated with the May 5, 13 and 22, 2016 requests included a one (1) year extension of AANDC Land Use Permits N2014C0005 and N2014C0002 and a five (5) year extension of Nunavut Water Board's Type "B" Water Licence 2BE-CRA1520 in order to continue previously approved geochemical and soil sampling. In addition, the permits were for the operation of up to 12 additional temporary camps and undertake water withdrawals from additional nearby sources to support the camps.