



NIRB File No.: 17EN029
NPC File No.: 148787

June 29, 2018

To: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Sent via email: minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca and carolyn.bennett@canada.ca

Re: Screening Decision for North Country Gold Corp.’s “Gibson MacQuoid Gold Project” Proposal, Kivalliq Region

Dear Honourable Minister:

On April 9, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen North Country Gold Corp.’s “Gibson MacQuoid Gold Project” proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on February 21, 2017 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the inclusion of a new, temporary, but large camp.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **17EN029**, the NIRB viewed this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of North Country Gold Corp.’s “Gibson MacQuoid Gold Project” project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated June 29, 2018 to the responsible Minister. The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125337.

Please note that, the Board only directly addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. However, regulatory authorities and other authorizing agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g. Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Acting Director, Technical Services, Kelli Gillard at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson of the Nunavut Water Board
David Ningeongan, President of the Kivalliq Inuit Association

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 17EN029 (June 29, 2018)