



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
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May 14, 2019

Your file *Votre référence*
NIRB 125461 / 19EA019

Our file *Notre référence*
19-HCAA-00448

Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street, P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Dear Reviewer:

Subject: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Blue Star Gold Corp.'s "Hood River Gold Project" Proposal

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Fisheries Protection Program (DFO-FPP) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments for Blue Star Gold Corp's (the Proponent) application for the Hood River Gold Project (the Project).

As directed by the NIRB in their letter dated April 23, 2019 DFO-FPP is providing the following comments with respect to the Project's screening. DFO-FPP understands that the NIRB would like interested parties to provide comments regarding:

- 1) Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

DFO-FPP is not aware of any significant public concern at this stage of review.

- 2) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;

DFO-FPP requires additional information to assess the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to maintain the on-going productivity of commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries.

- 3) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;

DFO-FPP has reviewed the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to determine whether it is likely to result in serious harm to fish which is prohibited under subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* unless authorized. The proposal includes water withdrawal for domestic and industrial use. Specific information regarding the location and volume of the lakes is required to properly assess potential impacts to fish and fish habitat.

- 4) Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and

The Proponent has indicated that the intake structure will be screened. Please refer to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's 'Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline' for further mitigation measures for intake structures.

- 5) Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

It is your Duty to Notify DFO-FPP if you have caused, or are about to cause, serious harm to fish that are part of or support a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery. Such notifications should be directed to <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/violation-infraction/index-eng.html>.

If you have any questions please contact Sara Eddy at our Burlington office at 905-336-4535 or by email at Sara.Eddy@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Sara Eddy
Team Leader Triage and Planning

COPY: Amanda Conway – Fisheries and Oceans Canada