



NIRB File No.: 19EA019

Related to NIRB File No.: 07EN0678, 14EN033

NPC File No.: 149067

May 27, 2019

To: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Sent via email: carolyn.bennett@canada.ca and carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Blue Star Gold Corp's "Hood River Project" Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On March 18, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Blue Star Gold Corp's "Hood River Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 19EA019.**

On March 18, 2019 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on March 28, 2019 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On April 23, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

On April 23, 2019 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by May 14, 2019. Due to the complexity of comments and concerns received by parties, on May 16, 2019 the NIRB provided the Proponent with an opportunity to respond to comments and address issues raised prior to the Board's decision-making for this file. Further, due to the nature and location of the proposed project activities, the NIRB requires additional time to prepare translated materials required for the Board's decision-making for this file.

As a result of the time required to accommodate opportunity for the Proponent to respond to concerns raised during the public commenting period and the time required to prepare translated materials to facilitate the Board's decision-making, the NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA* and requires an extension to complete the screening to fully consider the project proposal and all comments and responses.

The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **June 14, 2019**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125461.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson, Nunavut Water Board
Stanley Anablak, President, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
The Honourable Patterk Netser, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Nunavut
The Honourable David Joanasi, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Government of Canada