



NIRB File No.: 19EA019

Related to NIRB File No.: 07EN067, 14EN033

NPC File No.: 149067

June 14, 2019

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

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

Re: Screening Decision for Blue Star Gold Corp's "Hood River Gold Project" Proposal, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Honourable Minister:

On March 18, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Blue Star Gold Corp.'s "Hood River Gold Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). The NPC noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan and determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the previously screened works and activities associated with NIRB File No. 07EN067 and 14EA033 because of the change in location and size of the camp as well as the duration of the proposed work since the original activities were screened.

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 and assigned this proposal file number 19EA019.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Blue Star Gold Corp.'s "Hood River Gold 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 14, 2019 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/125461.

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 Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq
A/Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 19EA019 (June 14, 2019)

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 Joanasiq, 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