



NIRB File No.: 21EN008

Associated NIRB File No.: 15EN028

NPC File No.: 149461

Associated NPC File No.: 148166, 148367, 148649, and 148971

NWB Licence No.: 2BE-KGP18213

CIRNAC LUP No.: N2018C0020

KIA LUP No.: KVL318B01

KIA LUP No.: KVRW18F02

April 22, 2021

To: The Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Solstice Gold Corporation's "Kahuna Gold Property" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On February 17, 2021 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Solstice Gold Corporation's "Kahuna Gold Property" 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. 21EN008.**

On February 17, 2021 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 4, 2021 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On March 12, 2021 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On March 25, 2021 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 April 15, 2021.

Due to the complexity of comments and concerns received by parties, on April 21, 2021 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. As a result of the time required to accommodate the opportunity for the Proponent to respond to concerns raised during the public commenting period, 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 additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **May 19, 2021**, 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.

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

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/125583.

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

Sincerely,



Karen Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Martin Tunney, Solstice Gold Corporation
Tara Gunson, Apex Geoscience
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission