



November 25, 2022

Keith Morrison
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut X0B 0C0

Via Email: info@nirb.ca

Request for Comments on Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s "Back River Project Energy Centre" Project Proposal (NIRB No. 12MN036)

Dear Keith Morrison,

On November 4, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or the Board) requested interested parties and regulatory agencies provide information to the NIRB on Sabina Gold and Silver Corp.'s (Sabina or the Proponent) Back River Project Energy Centre (the Project). Specifically, the Board requested comments and advice with respect to the following:

- a) Whether the proposed modification constitutes a significant modification to the original project as previously assessed and subsequently modified and approved by the NIRB;
- b) Whether the proposed modification is consistent with the terms and conditions of the existing Project Certificate No. 007, or are changes to the Project Certificate necessary to reflect the modification; and
- c) Any matter of importance to the commenting party related to the Board's processing of the project proposal.

The Northern Projects Management Office is providing the following information on behalf of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Health Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada, collectively the responsible Ministers (RMs) and participating departments.

The RMs and participating departments are of the opinion that the proposed modifications warrant an in-depth analysis. Sabina is proposing activities, which are not included in Sabina's original Back River Project Certificate or its 2020 Modification Package.

Furthermore, the Government of Canada notes that Sabina is submitting an application as the Proponent for the Project under Project Certificate No.007. Under section 2 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*, "*proponent* means a person or entity, including a federal, provincial or territorial minister, department or agency, a municipality or a designated Inuit organization, that proposes the carrying out of a



project.” The Government of Canada understands, from public presentations by Sabina, that the Project is expected to be owned and operated by another company from which Sabina will purchase power via a partnership with that company. The Government of Canada wishes to highlight this potential arrangement to the Board and suggests that it may be beneficial for the Board to consider how this arrangement meets the definition of “proponent”, and further relates to liability, compliance, and enforcement stemming from the Project.

If you have any questions about the information outlined in this letter, please contact me at adrian.paradis@cannor.gc.ca

Sincerely,

Adrian Paradis
Senior Project Manager
Northern Projects Management Office
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

cc: Felexce Ngwa, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Jennifer Walsh, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Eva Walker, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

David Kitchen, Health Canada

Julie Anderson, Health Canada

Scott Kidd, Transport Canada

Margaret Zellis-Skiba, Transport Canada

Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada