



NIRB File No.: 22EN057
NPC File No.: 149880

January 19, 2023

To: The Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A-0A6

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

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Viridis Mining and Minerals' "South Kitikmeot Gold Project" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister Dan Vandal,

On October 18, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Viridis Mining and Minerals (Viridis)'s "South Kitikmeot Gold Project" 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. 22EN057.**

On October 19, 2022, 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 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On November 25, 2022 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On December 8, 2022, 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 January 6, 2023.

Due to the nature of the comments received from interested parties and the responses of the proponent requiring additional time to review, 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 **February 6, 2023**, 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/125742.

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: Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracy McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada