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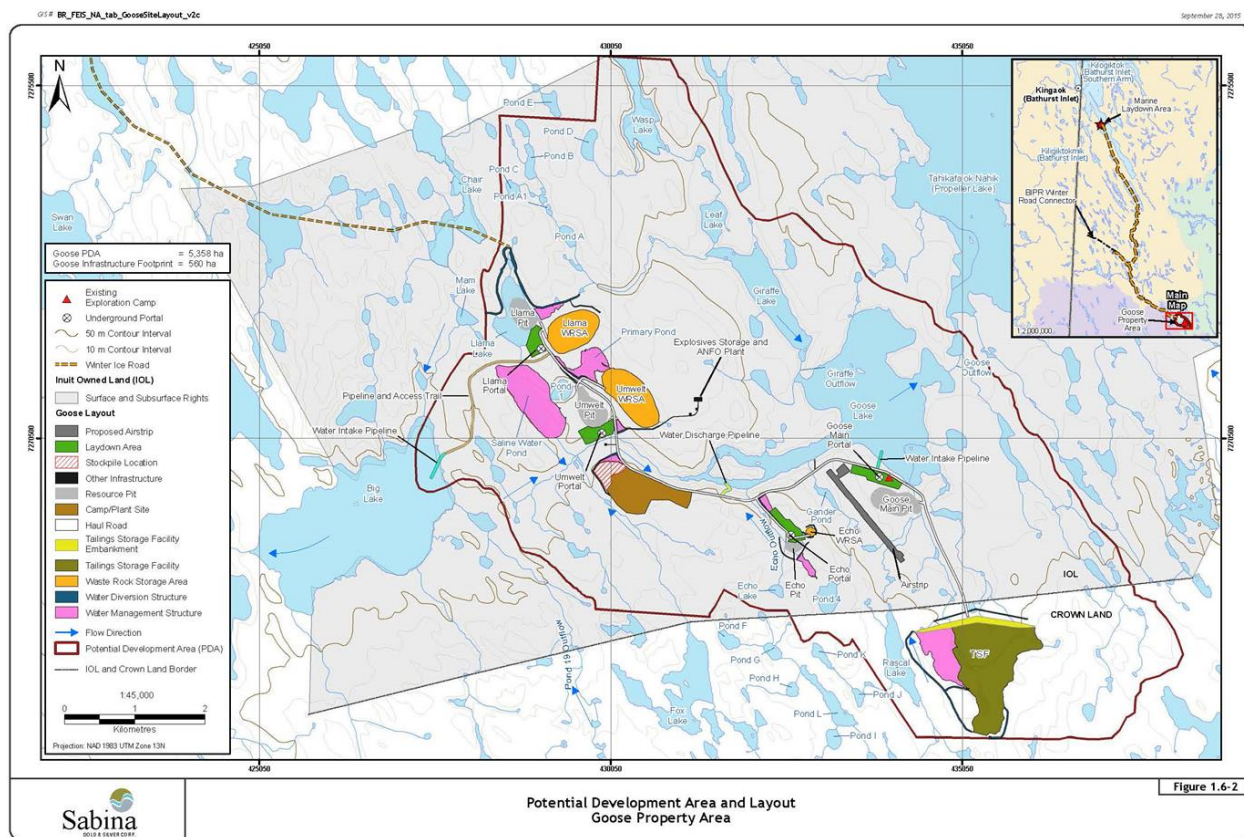
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Kelli Gillard

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September 8, 2023

Guillaume Daoust
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board
gdaoust@nirb.ca

Re: Back River Project Update 2023

Guillaume,

Please find a Back River Project Update for 2023 enclosed as requested. A construction update is provided as well as an update on key Project Certificate No. 007 term and conditions monitoring.

Construction Update:

- **Goose Project on schedule for first gold pour in Q1 2025:** All long lead items for the 2024 construction season have been received at B2Gold's freight consolidation points, prepped for ship transport and currently the 2023 sealift is underway
- **Concrete and steel work in the mill area progressing:** Erection of structural steel has commenced, with building cladding to begin shortly. The Company expects the ball mill to be set in place in December 2023.
- **Phase 1 of the accommodation complex opened in July 2023:** Phase 1 of the accommodation complex includes 310 beds at the permanent site location, which together with the 160 beds located at the existing exploration camp, provide the necessary accommodation to support the Back River Project.
- **Earthworks necessary to extend airstrip to be completed in September 2023:** Planned extension of the airstrip to 5,000 feet will allow large capacity, fully loaded passenger planes to land at the Goose Project during the 2024 construction campaign.
- **Winter ice road preparations are well underway:** The Request for Proposal process has closed for the selection of the winter ice road constructor and a decision is forthcoming.
- **Inuit employment continues to increase from 2022:** Inuit hours worked to date when compared to the end of 2022 have increased by ~15,000 hours, and the number of Inuit employees at project



sites continues to increase through the construction phase with ~90 Inuit Project personnel working at Project sites.

- **Ongoing Inuit & Community Engagement:** The annual Community Information & Human Resources Tour was held in all Kitikmeot Region Communities in Q2. As required by the Back River, IIBA, and Project Certificate, B2Gold and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association established an, “Inuit Environmental Advisory Committee”, which held its inaugural meeting and site visit in Q3.

Project Certificate Term and Condition Update (key points from postponed NIRB 23’ inspection):

- **Dust monitoring, ongoing lichen survey or any other air quality monitoring (TC 1)**
 - Ongoing active dust/passive monitoring

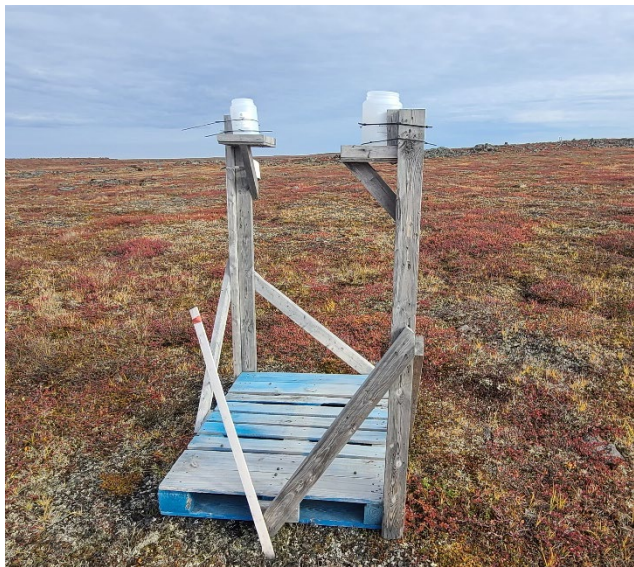


Figure 1. Active Dustfall and Passive Monitoring Station

- Vegetation monitoring program sampling efforts were completed in August
- **Any mitigation measures for air quality (TC 2)**
 - Underground air quality mitigation measures are in place to protect the health of employees



Figure 2. Underground air quality monitoring device.

- Ongoing active dust/passive monitoring, as mentioned above (TC 1)
- See additional notes on GHG reduction measures below (TC 6)
- **Dust mitigation measures (TC 3)**
 - Consistent watering efforts are completed on all site roads to mitigate dust
 - New GN approved chemical dust suppressants mobilized to site in 2023, successful test application completed. Plans to increase application efforts in 2024.

- **Incinerator (TC 4)**



Figure 3. Active incinerator and waste management facility

- Waste management has improved sitewide over the past year. This has been achieved by interdepartmental collaboration and communication, education (toolbox meetings), waste audits/ inspections, improved signage, and dedicated waste management areas. We have purchased and are utilizing several 5-yard bins at our waste management areas to accommodate waste volumes. The environment team continues to work with our site services team to improve signage and communication with all relevant parties to ensure smooth and compliant waste management. Environment staff have made a point of attending several toolbox meetings on both shifts to answer questions, understand working group needs, and re-enforce waste management requirements on site.
- **How stack testing works, still no stack testing done (TC 5)**
 - Stack testing will be completed in 2024 when the new incinerator and new camp are commissioned

- **Any GHG reduction modification (TC 6)**
 - Heat recovery initiatives (waste oil furnaces)
 - Vehicles are driven at designated speeds and regularly maintained to ensure optimal fuel efficiency
 - Complete burns in incinerator at manufacturer recommended temps
 - Renewable energy center application
 - Process plant design, powerhouse, nothing but waste heat recovery – that’s how we heat that building
- **Local weather monitoring (TC 8)**
 - Weather monitoring completed 365 days, 24/7
 - Monthly downloads



Figure 4. Active meteorological station

- **Any noise monitoring or visible mitigation at site (TC 9 & 10)**
 - Handheld decibel noise monitors mobilized to site in 2023
 - Third party Occupational Hygienist will be engaged to come to site and conduct monitoring



- **Permafrost monitoring or mitigation measures (TC 12)**
 - Rigorous permafrost monitoring occurred during the baseline data collection data stage providing a very thorough understanding of the thermal regime in the project area
 - Permafrost monitoring is continuing to occur in 2023 and the thermal monitoring plan is progressing. Monitoring is occurring at the Primary Pond location (which is in construction), at the Goose Camp Pad, and we have committed to installing ground temperature monitoring cables in both the bulk tank facilities at the MLA and Goose at the next available opportunity.
 - Additionally, drilling was completed to investigate if permafrost was aggrading back into camp pad by third party geotechnical engineer and confirmed it was (-8 degrees Celsius approximate reading)
- **Landfill management (TC 14)**
 - Storage of inert non-hazardous landfill material being temporary stored in an exhausted quarry
 - Relocation of inert non-hazardous landfill material to Echo WRSA being constructed to occur in 2024
- **Borrow site (TC 16)**



Figure 5. Borrow site in top right of photo



- **Saline water management, (not present yet) (TC 19)**
 - B2 Gold confirms we are not encountering saline water at this time
- **Thermal Monitoring, (not present yet) (TC 20)**
 - Same answer for TC 12 above:
 - Rigorous permafrost monitoring occurred during the baseline data collection data stage providing a very thorough understanding of the thermal regime in the project area
 - Permafrost monitoring is continuing to occur in 2023 and the thermal monitoring plan is progressing. Monitoring is occurring at the Primary Pond location (which is in construction), at the Goose Camp Pad, and we have committed to installing ground temperature monitoring cables in both the bulk tank facilities at the MLA and Goose at the next available opportunity.
 - Additionally, drilling was completed to investigate if permafrost was aggrading back into camp pad by third party geotechnical engineer and confirmed it was (-8 degrees Celsius approximate reading)
- **Any surface water monitoring, sedimentation control (TC 21 & TC23)**



Figure 6. Sedimentation fence installed at exploration cuttings sump

- B2 Gold understands the importance of surface water monitoring and sedimentation control and mobilized third party consultants (WSP) onsite during construction of the RSW culvert specifically to monitor turbidity

- **To manage contact water (TC 22)**
 - Contact water is minimal onsite with no tailings or waste rock facilities constructed
 - Contact water generated within Echo Open Pit is contained and managed within the pit boundaries
- **Rascal stream fish passage (TC 24)**
 - Not constructed
 - Will be constructed in conjunction with the airstrip extension which is planned for Q3 2023
- **Rascal Stream west/east if constructed (TC 26)**
 - Construction completed at the start of Q3, 2023



Figure 7. Culvert installation at Gander Outflow

Mitigation measures on Water crossing, to visit the Gander Outflow (TC 29)

- Weirs were successfully constructed in 2022 upstream of the water crossing to reduce and mitigate velocities that could impede fish migration
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) were on site in 2023 and viewed the installations as well as reviewed the plans in advance of 2022 construction

- **Ensure no barriers to culvert, Rascal Stream (TC 30 and related to TC 24&29)**



Figure 8. Culvert installation at Gander Outflow

Monitoring of the Rascal Stream Fish Passage (TC 31)

- Monitoring occurred in 2023 by third party consultants (WSP), and those results will be provided in the 2023 annual report
- During 2024 freshet, B2 Gold will again have third party consultants (WSP) on site and this plan has been reviewed with DFO
- **Any vegetation monitoring close to site (TC35, 34)**
 - Plots are established for both the Goose and MLA sites and along the Winter Ice Road (WIR)
 - Annual monitoring occurred in early August
- **Mitigation measures for wildlife movement (TC 45)**
 - Caribou monitoring along the WIR for the Back River Project from March 28 through to the end of road operations on April 24, 2023. The objectives of this monitoring program were to support mitigations for caribou along the WIR as outlined in the Back River Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Program Plan (WMMPP; ERM 2022). The specific objectives were:
 - Educate driver on mitigation measures and monitor driver mitigation
 - Record sightings of caribou along the WIR and locate areas where caribou are more likely to cross the WIR



- Deploy remote cameras along the WIR to record caribou crossing the road
 - Conduct caribou behaviour surveys along the WIR
- The ERM wildlife biologist worked with an Inuit land user to conduct the winter 2023 program. It was noted by an Inuit environment technician: *"I'm very happy with what I'm seeing out here, this is really important work and the site is doing great"*.
- **Any visible deterrent to birds around the project (TC 54, 56,57)**
 - No visible deterrents to birds around the project
 - In 2023, blasting in Echo open pit was shut down for approximately 4.5 weeks apprx. due to ravens nesting on the high wall. Additional B2 Gold shut down rock truck #12 at Goose and trailer at the MLA due to nesting.
 - Once the nesting birds left, activities recommenced.
- **Helicopter logging data, during flight (TC 61)**

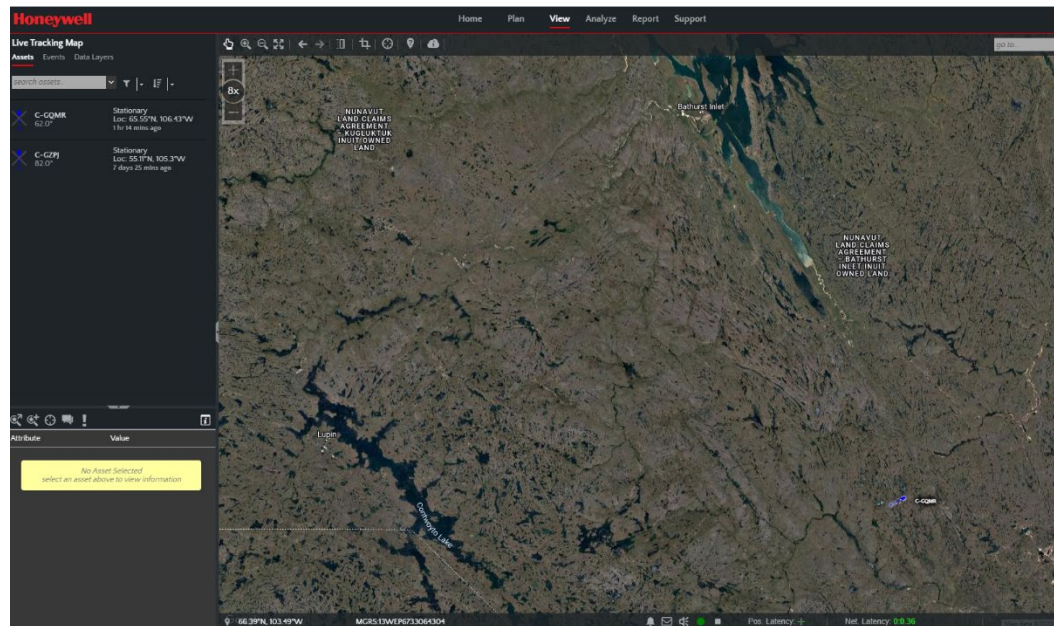


Figure 9. Helicopter skytracker software active at site

- Helicopter companies track and maintain helicopter logs as well and we will continue to provide this data annually
- **Employee language training (where can employee find the information?) (TC 76)**
 - Training courses based on demand/upon request. To date, none have been requested.



- Other measures to reduce the potential for language barriers to Inuit employment on site: Explain CLO (John K.) extended and increased site visits, Internal translated glossary circulated to site for signage (demonstrate signage)
- **Location where the Proponent monitor public use of WIR, if possible (TC80)**
 - It's not a public road
 - Site Visitor Access Policy in place and circulated to seasonal communities
 - Permanent employee presence in CB/Kug which communicate with locals
 - Dispatch gates at either end; sign in procedures, etc.
- **Where to assess the EFAP for employees (TC 83)**
 - EFAP brochures are hung up at Project sites. Further, during the hiring process information about the EFAP is provided directly to new hires. See attached brochure.
 - Memos from HR are regularly provided reminded employees of the services available
- **Airborne actinolite fibres monitoring potential risk (TC 86)**
 - We have never experience actinolite fibers on our project site, but all rock (underground or drill core) is inspected by UG workers or Geologists
- **Spills equipment at MLA (TC 89)**
 - Seacan at the MLA is situated for spill response on the marine environment
 - OPEP and SOPEP are always in place
 - Transport Canada inspected our OHF last year
- **How do you ensure Bay Chimo/ Bathurst have spill equipment and adequate training? (TC 92)**
 - Discussed preliminary equipment lists for the communities during the EA, including potentially:
 - 1000 ft. of floating boom, floats, anchors
 - Dozen packages of oil absorbent pads
 - Shovels
 - Gloves
 - Eye protection
 - Respirators
 - Chest waders
 - B2 will be re-engaging communities to continue conversations
- **TC 93 is related to any construction of the jetty at the MLA**
 - Not constructed, and no plans for construction in 2024.



- We will review the necessity of the MLA jetty for a potential 2024 construction.

Thank you very much,

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