



WHAT'S NEW?

We weren't kidding when we said 2014 would be an exciting year. Since our last newsletter, we've responded to information and clarification requests about the Back River Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS), hosted two Community Advisory Groups at the Project site, took part in the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) technical meetings and pre-hearing conference/community roundtable, updated our website and project video, moved our Cambridge Bay office (now Kitnuna Building, 10 Omilik Road, P.O. Box 2239, 867-983-3033), and supported Ariel Tweto and her Popping Bubbles Nunavut Tour. Make sure you visit www.backriverproject.com or follow us on **Twitter**, **@BRP_Sabina** to keep up-to-date on the Project's progress.



EYE ON KITIKMEOT Getting to know the NIRB

Sabina and the Back River Project team are working closely with the NIRB and other stakeholders to complete the Project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Sabina submitted the Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to NIRB earlier this year.

The NIRB is an Institution of Public Government with responsibilities for the environmental assessment of proposed projects, like the Back River Project, in Nunavut. Its board members are appointed by Designated Inuit Organizations, the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of Canada, and all their staff is located in Nunavut.

During the impact assessment process, the NIRB gathers input from numerous sources including Nunavut residents. The process encourages Inuit input and provides multiple opportunities for community concerns to be addressed. Incorporation of Inuit knowledge related to environmental, social and economic impacts is critical to the success of the EIA process.

In making its determinations, or recommendations, the NIRB follows clear rules/procedures to ensure the process is fair. All concerns are addressed so that projects can go ahead with minimal environmental impact and maximum economic benefit.

All of the NIRB's documents, meeting reports and decisions are public. For further information please visit their online public registry at <http://ftp.nirb.ca>.

GETTING BRP APPROVED

| STEP 1 | STEP 2 <i>WE ARE HERE!</i> | STEP 3 | STEP 4 | STEP 5 |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Land Use Planning | Impact Assessment | Decision Making | Licensing | Monitoring |
| Our first step was to submit an application to the Nunavut Planning Commission. | Then we entered the environmental assessment stage where NIRB reviews the environmental, social and economic impacts of the Back River Project. | Once we finish the EIA, the federal minister(s) responsible for decision-making reviews NIRB's report and decides if the Project can move to licensing. | All authorizing agencies set out the explicit terms and conditions of the Back River Project's approval. | Once the Project receives the necessary licences, permits and approvals, the Project may require monitoring. |
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PROJECT INFORMATION

BRP moves forward

As part of the NIRB's environmental impact assessment of the Back River Project, it held technical meetings in Cambridge Bay from November 13-15, 2014. Following the technical meetings, a community roundtable was held on November 17 and the Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) was held on November 18.

In the technical meetings, all interested parties (e.g. Sabina, government, non-governmental organizations, regulatory agencies, associations, hamlets, community organizations, hunters and trappers associations, and the public) were invited to discuss comments related to the technical components of the Back River Project's Draft EIS. These meetings are an informal way to resolve any technical issues before the PHC. The NIRB staff compiled a list of commitments made by Sabina regarding revisions and updates for the Final EIS submission, which was brought to the PHC for consideration and incorporated the PHC report.

Communities identified as potentially impacted by the Back River Project were invited to present at the roundtable. This session provided a meaningful opportunity for the NIRB to receive community concerns.

The PHC gave participants an opportunity to present the issues that were resolved during the technical meetings as well as any outstanding issues. Some of the topics discussed at the PHC included: timelines for submissions, future meetings, evidence, document exchange, final hearing venue(s) and timing, final hearing format and other logistical matters related to the final hearing.

When the community roundtable and PHC wrapped up, the NIRB provided our team with direction to complete the final Back River Project EIS. We also received the procedures for the review of the Final EIS and the final hearing.



An arctic wolf looks into one of Sabina's motion cameras.



Community Advisory Group members Tommy Pigalak, Alice Ayalik, Anna Nahogaloak (who recently passed away) attended our overnight site visit on July 14-15, 2014. Activities included walking tours, helicopter tours, and a fishing trip.



Representatives from Sabina (far right), federal and territorial governments, and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association attended the NIRB's (front) Back River Project's Technical Meeting in November 2014. These sessions were open to the community (back).

Legislative requirements

We're often asked about the rules/regulations Sabina has to follow when developing the Back River Project. Sabina is required to abide by a large number of federal, territorial and Aboriginal authorizations and regulations such as:

- Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act
- Building Codes (Nunavut)
- Business Corporations Act (Nunavut)
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act
- Emergency Medical Aid Act (Nunavut)
- Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists Act (Nunavut)
- Environmental Protection Act (Nunavut) - Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations (Nunavut)
- Explosives Act and Regulations
- Explosives Use Act (Nunavut) - Explosive Use Regulations (Nunavut)
- Fire Prevention Act (Nunavut) - Fire Prevention Regulations (Nunavut), Propane Cylinder Storage Regulations
- Fisheries Act (Section 35)
 - Fisheries Act - Metal Mining Effluent Regulations
 - Labour Standards Act (Nunavut)
- Mine Health and Safety Act (Nunavut) - Mine Health and Safety Regulations (Nunavut)
- Navigation Protection Act
- Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (including Articles 6, 12, 13, 20 and 26, amongst others)
- Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act – Nunavut Waters Regulations
- Nunavut Archaeological and Paleontological Sites, Regulations (Nunavut) - Nunavut Historical Resources Act
- Public Health Act (Nunavut) - Camp Sanitation Regulations (Nunavut)
- Territorial Lands Act - Canadian Mining Regulations
- Territorial Lands Act - Territorial Land Use Regulations
- Territorial Lands Act - Territorial Quarrying Regulations
- The Canada Shipping Act
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act
- Worker's Compensation Act (Nunavut) - Workers Compensation Regulations (Nunavut)

QUESTION, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS?

Contact **John Kaiyogana** at jkaiyogana@sabinagoldsilver.com or drop by our Cambridge Bay office (Kitnuna Building, 10 Omilik Road, P.O. Box 2239, 867-983-3033). You can also contact our Vancouver office at 604-998-4175.