

**FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL
PROSPERITY GOLD-COPPER MINE PROJECT**

PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document establishes the procedures for the public hearing to be conducted by the federal Review Panel (the Panel) appointed to review Taseko Mines Limited's proposed Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine project (the project). The Panel has been appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment to conduct a review of the environmental effects of the proposed project in accordance with Terms of Reference issued by the Minister.

1.2 The Panel will conduct the public hearing in a manner that ensures a thorough examination of relevant matters and encourages public input and participation. To ensure that the hearing is held in a manner that offers all parties an effective opportunity to participate, the Panel will hold both general hearing sessions and less formal community hearing sessions. The general hearing sessions will include topic specific sessions on the project, such as "Fish, Fish Habitat and Compensation", "Hydrology, Hydrogeology, and Aquatic Ecology", and "Ecosystems". Topic specific sessions will be determined based on the comments received during the public comment period on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The community hearing sessions will be more informal and be held in selected communities within the project area. Both types of hearing sessions are described in this document.

The Panel will hold the public hearing within the area potentially affected by the project and will announce the timing and location of the various hearing sessions within 7 days of determining that the EIS contains sufficient information to proceed to the public hearing. The Panel will provide at least 30 days notice of commencement of the hearing, as outlined in the Panel's Terms of Reference.

The Panel considers the public hearing to be an essential part of the review process, and will give careful consideration to all submissions.

1.3 The objectives of the public hearing are to provide opportunities for:

- (a) the proponent to explain the project and respond to concerns and questions raised by other participants during the hearing;
- (b) Aboriginal groups, government representatives and the public to provide their views on the implications of the proposed project; and
- (c) the Panel to receive information that will help it complete its assessment of the environmental effects of the proposed project.

1.4 The procedures are meant to ensure that the public hearing takes place in a fair and equitable manner, with maximum co-operation and courtesy. The Chair will maintain order and efficiency of the hearing.

While conforming to the principles of procedural fairness, the public hearing will not follow the rules of procedure and evidence required by a Court. The Panel

encourages groups and individuals to speak on their own behalf and ask their own questions at the public hearing.

- 1.5 In addition to these procedures, all Panels under section 35 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* have the power to summon persons to appear as a witness and provide evidence before the Panel.
- 1.6 The Panel Chair has the discretion to modify or eliminate specific procedures if the Chair is satisfied that the objectives of the public hearing can be better achieved by taking a different approach.
- 1.7 Once the Panel has heard from the proponent, government representatives, Aboriginal groups and interested members of the public, and determined that it has obtained all the information it requires, the Panel will close the record for the entire public hearing (i.e. both general and community hearing sessions). Once the record of the proceedings has been closed, no new information will be considered by the Panel.
- 1.8 **Interpretation**
Participants requiring interpretation at the public hearing must advise the Panel Secretariat at least 30 days prior to the hearing. The Panel Secretariat will make every effort to accommodate requests for interpretation.
- 1.9 **Aboriginal Traditional and Community Knowledge**
The Panel will give due regard to community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge in all of its proceedings.
- 1.10 **Sensitive Information**
If any participant requests that information be kept confidential, the Panel will decide whether the information can be protected, after considering the powers of the Panel as set out in the section 35 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.
- 1.11 **Media**
Media inquiries regarding the Panel's activities should be directed to the Panel's communications advisor, as indicated below.

Media may attend the public hearing and sit in the public seating area, however, no questions, filming, taping or photographs will be allowed in the hearing rooms unless there is prior approval from the Panel Chair. No media interviews or reporting will be allowed in the rooms while the hearing sessions are taking place.
- 1.12 **Public Registry**
All submissions – written, oral, or otherwise - will be placed on the public registry and made available for viewing. Participants who wish to have a copy of any submission may do so by accessing the public registry internet site.
- 1.13 **Transcripts**
Written transcripts will be made of all hearing sessions, and will be made available on the public registry within a reasonable period of time.

2.0 PROCEDURES FOR GENERAL HEARING SESSIONS

2.1 General

2.1.1 Participants who wish to make a presentation at the general hearing sessions are asked to register by contacting the Panel Secretariat at least 10 calendar days in advance of the start of the public hearing. Early registration will allow for the general hearing sessions to be sufficiently planned in order to proceed in a logical and organized manner.

2.1.2 Participants who do not register will still have the opportunity to address the Panel if time allows. Late registration will occur just prior to or during breaks at the general hearing sessions. The opportunity for persons who have not previously registered to make a presentation may be granted at the discretion of the Panel Chair. Priority will be given to participants who have registered in advance.

2.1.3 The Panel encourages all participants to provide written submissions to the Panel in advance of the general hearing sessions. Written submissions (hard copy and electronic) should be sent to the Panel Secretariat 10 days in advance of the participants' scheduled presentation. This will allow at least a one-week period for the Panel and other participants to review submissions prior to the scheduled session.

Participants who make an oral statement but provide no written brief will have their views officially entered into the record of the proceedings through the official transcripts.

2.1.4 Participants may choose to only submit a written brief and not make a presentation at the general hearing sessions. In this case, the written brief should also be sent to the Panel Secretariat 10 days prior to the start of the first general hearing session so that the Panel and other participants may consider this information within the hearing process.

2.1.5 Participants who make presentations at the general hearing sessions may be asked questions by the Panel, the proponent and other participants. The Panel will determine the order of questions asked by participants as outlined in section 2.3.

2.1.6 Presenters are requested to bring an electronic and four hard copy versions of any additional documentation (for example, slideshows) related to their scheduled presentation.

2.1.7 The general hearing sessions will consist of a number of general and topic-specific sessions. A list of topics for these sessions will be developed prior to the start of the general hearing sessions. A separate agenda for the general hearing sessions will be issued in advance and may be adjusted depending on the number of participants registered in advance for each session.

2.2 General Hearing Sessions Outline

2.2.1 The procedures for each general hearing session will be similar and are generally outlined as follows:

- a) Welcoming statements on the first day of the general hearing session given by Aboriginal groups or local leaders and may be followed by an opening prayer by an Aboriginal group Elder(s)/representative.
- b) Opening remarks by the Panel Chair on each day of the general hearing session.
- c) The proponent will provide a presentation on the first day of the general hearing session. This presentation may be approximately 60 minutes and is meant to provide a general overview of the project and main findings of the EIS. At each topic-specific session, the proponent will also have an opportunity to present a short overview on the topic.
- d) Presentations may be made by Aboriginal groups, government officials and other participants following the questioning of the proponent. For the purposes of scheduling and planning each session, presentations should be limited to approximately 30 minutes.

Presentations will be followed by questioning. The order of questioning will be determined the Panel Chair, but will usually begin with the proponent, followed by those who have registered to speak at the session in the order of their registration, the general public, and the Panel. Panel members may ask questions at any time during the proceedings, especially to seek clarification on points made during the presentations

- e) At the end of the public hearing (i.e. after the close of the general and community hearing sessions) a final period of time will be reserved for closing remarks by participants and the proponent. Only those who have previously presented to the Panel may make closing remarks. Closing remarks should be limited to approximately 15 minutes. Participants who make closing remarks should summarize their views on the environmental effects of the proposed project, rather than bringing forward new information. The Panel may ask questions of clarification during the closing statements.
- f) A closing prayer by an Aboriginal group Elder(s)/representative may follow each day and/or the end of the public hearing.

2.3 Questioning

2.3.1 Participants making presentations at the general hearing sessions may be asked questions by the Panel, the proponent and other participants. Questioning will allow the Panel and all participants to gather information and explore issues related to the potential environmental effects of the project.

All participants should be courteous and respectful when asking questions. The Panel Chair may refuse to permit further questioning from an individual who is being discourteous or disrespectful. Clarity and brevity are encouraged.

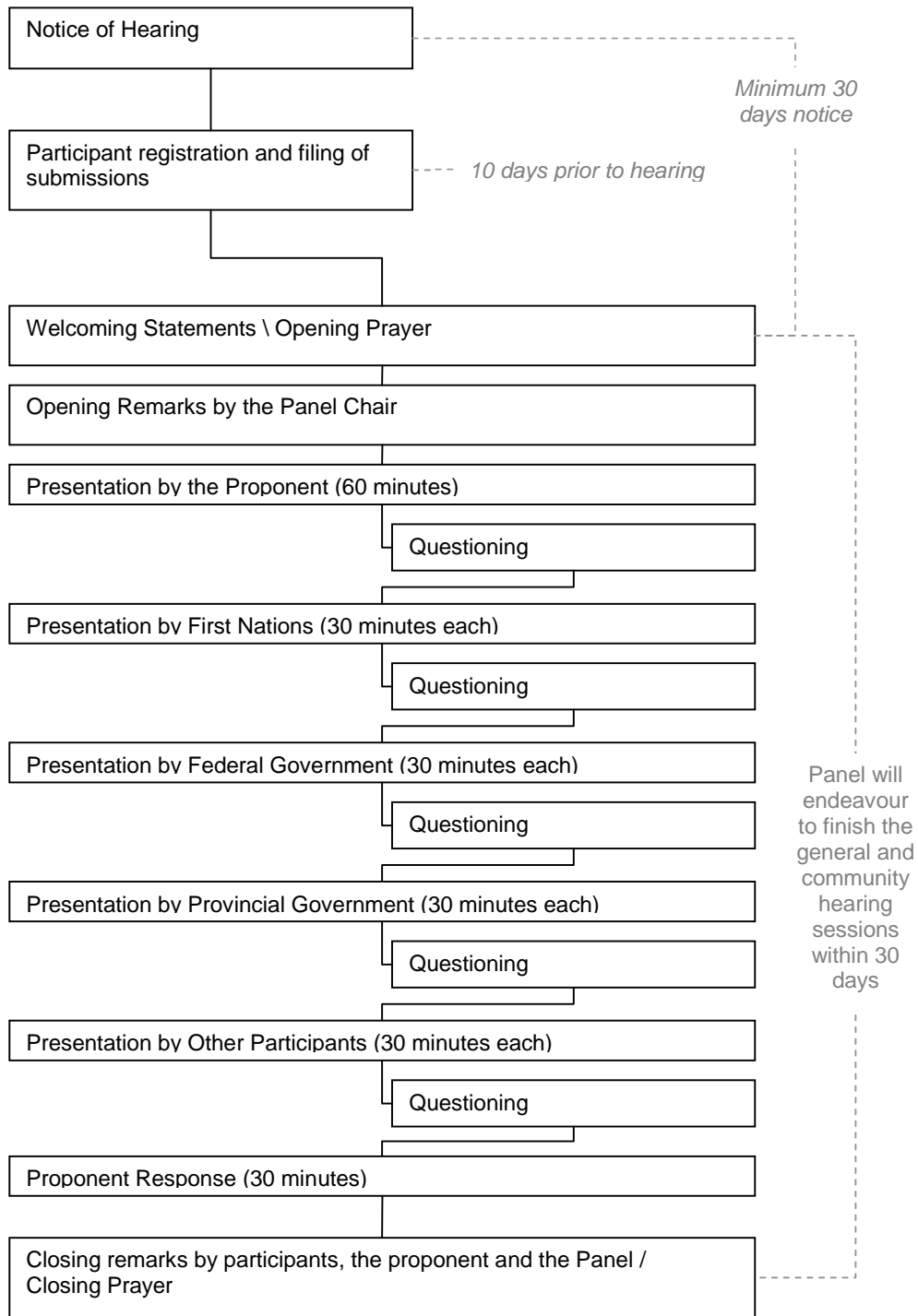
2.3.2 The Panel Chair may limit or exclude questions or comments that fall outside the mandate of the Panel, are repetitive, irrelevant, or immaterial. The Panel may also limit questions if it feels it has sufficient information on a specific topic.

2.3.3 The Panel Chair may limit the number of questions in order to respect the time schedule for each session. If a participant would like additional time during the questions period to ask detailed questions, advance notification should be provided to the Panel.

2.4 Posted Schedule

A schedule for the general hearing sessions, listing the order of registered participants, will be available at the beginning of the general hearing sessions. The schedule will be updated as required.

GENERAL HEARING SESSIONS PROCEDURES¹



¹Note – The Panel may vary the order to general hearing session procedures as required

3.0 PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNITY HEARING SESSIONS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The community hearing sessions are designed to be informal in order to allow participants the opportunity to communicate their views about the proposed project.

3.1.2 The Panel will conduct the community hearing sessions in a manner that encourages public input. To ensure that the community hearing sessions are held in a manner that offers the public an effective opportunity to participate in the hearings, these procedures may be varied according to the traditions and practices of the community.

3.1.3 Participants are welcome to provide written submissions to the Panel in advance of the community hearing sessions. If provided, written submissions (hard copy and electronic) should be sent to the Panel Secretariat 10 days in advance of the participant's scheduled presentation. This will allow the Panel and other participants time to review submissions prior to the scheduled session. Participants who make an oral statement but do not submit a written brief will have their views officially entered into the record of the proceedings through the official transcripts.

Participants making presentations are encouraged to bring an electronic and four hard copy versions of any additional documentation (for example, slideshows) related to their scheduled presentation. If audio-visual equipment is required for a presentation, the presenter should inform the Panel Secretariat not less than 10 days before the presentation.

3.1.4 First Nation Elders will be able to express their views at any time throughout the community hearing sessions. The Panel may choose to dispense with or vary any aspect of these procedures at the request of an Elder.

3.1.5 The specific procedures for the community hearing sessions may vary depending on the local or traditional practices of the community. The Panel Chair will highlight any variations to these procedures at the start of the session.

3.2 Community Hearing Sessions Outline

The community hearing sessions will generally progress as follows:

(a) Welcoming statements given by First Nations or Local leadership followed by an opening prayer by a First Nation Elder(s)/representative.

(b) Opening remarks by the Panel Chair on each day of the community hearing sessions.

(c) Presentations

Each community hearing session will normally begin with presentations by the proponent and any other party. Persons wishing to make a presentation are encouraged to contact the Panel Secretariat at the address found at the end of this document, at least 10 calendar days in advance of the start of community

hearing sessions. This will allow for the presentations to be sufficiently planned in order to proceed in a logical and organized manner.

The proponent may provide a presentation on the first day of each community hearing session.

Presentations by the proponent, Aboriginal groups, and other participants may consist of more than one individual. Persons making presentations at these sessions may be asked questions by the Panel and other participants for the purposes of clarification.

All submissions – written, oral, or otherwise - will be placed on the public registry and made available for viewing. Participants wishing a copy of a submission may do so by accessing the public registry internet site.

(d) **Question and Answer Period**

Following the presentation(s), an informal question and answer period will be held during which the Panel, the proponent, Aboriginal groups, participants and the public can ask questions of any groups who made presentations. Questions may also be asked at the end of all presentations.

Participants making presentations at these sessions may be asked questions by the Panel, the proponent and other participants for the purposes of clarification. The purpose of the questions should always be to elicit information that will help the Panel understand more fully the environmental effects of the project and the issues that relate directly to its mandate, as outlined in the Panel's Terms of Reference.

All participants should pose their questions in a manner that is courteous and respectful. The Panel Chair has the authority to refuse to permit further questioning from an individual who is being discourteous or disrespectful.

Panel members and Elders may choose to ask questions at any time during the community hearing sessions.

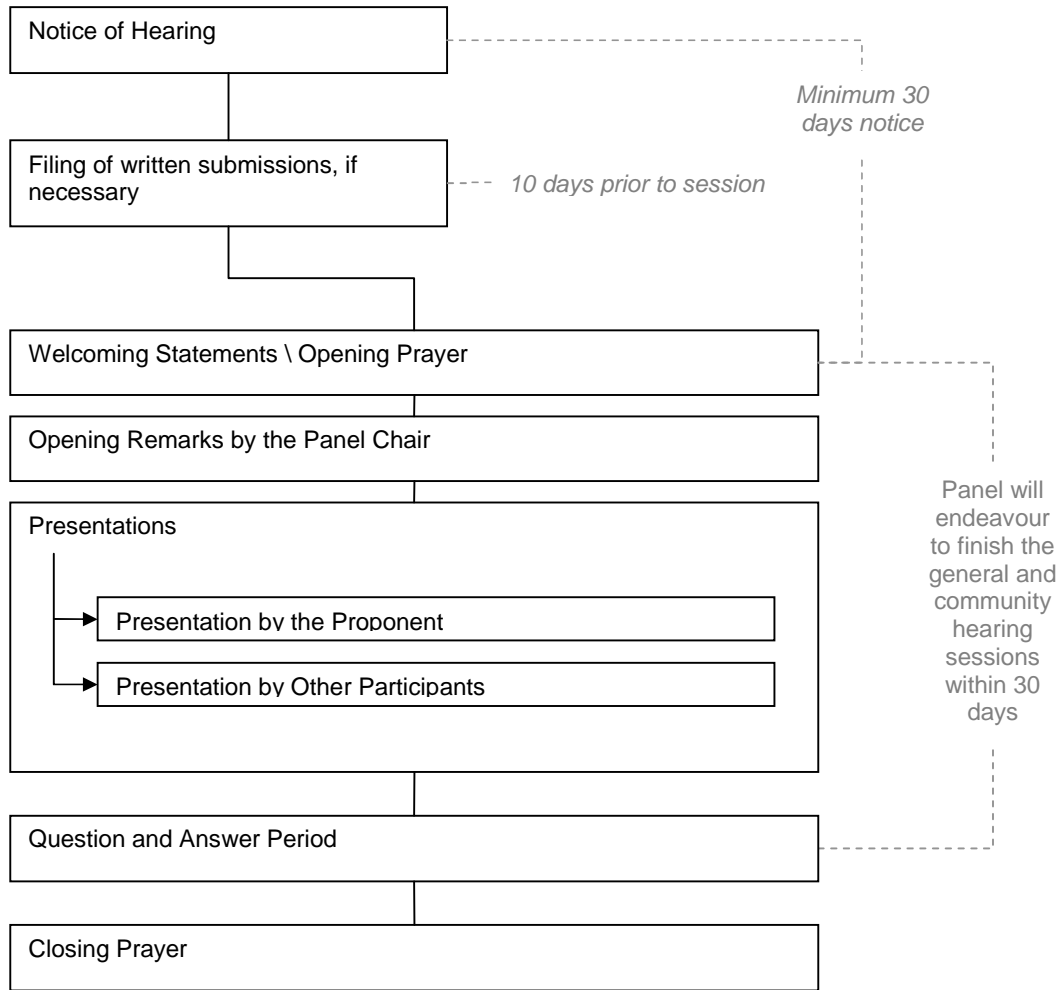
The Panel Chair may limit or exclude questions or comments that fall outside the mandate of the Panel, are repetitive, irrelevant, or immaterial. The Panel may also limit questions if it feels it has sufficient information on a specific topic.

- (e) A closing prayer by an Aboriginal group Elder(s)/representative may follow each day and/or at the end of the public hearing.

3.3 Posted Schedule

A draft schedule for the community hearing sessions outlining the order of presentations by participants will be available at the beginning of the community hearing session. The schedule will be updated as required.

COMMUNITY HEARING SESSIONS PROCEDURES



¹Note – the Panel may vary the order to community hearing session procedures as required

For further information or to register for the public hearing, please contact:

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