

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Comprehensive Study Scope of Assessment

Pursuant to Section 21(1) of the
Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

For the proposed:

**Morrison Copper-Gold Mine
Near
Granisle, British Columbia**

Proposed by:

Pacific Booker Minerals Inc.

Prepared by:

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada

Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry Reference Number: 48445

File Number: 4302-189

May 25, 2010

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed scope of the Morrison Copper/Gold project for the purposes of conducting an environmental assessment and obtaining public input. The scope of the project involves the identification of those components of the proposed undertaking as described in the Project Description that should be considered as part of the project for the purposes of conducting a federal environmental assessment. This document will be used to obtain public comment on the proposed scope of the project and the proposed scope of the environmental assessment.

The primary objectives of federal environmental assessments are to ensure that projects are considered in a careful and precautionary manner in order to ensure that such projects do not cause significant adverse environmental effects. The federal environmental assessment process also aims to promote sustainable development and thereby achieve or maintain a healthy environment and economy, promotes communication and cooperation amongst federal and provincial agencies, as well as with Aboriginal peoples, and also ensures that there are opportunities for timely and meaningful public participation throughout the environmental assessment process.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada are identified as responsible authorities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) for the Morrison Copper-Gold Mine. As responsible authorities, each department is required to ensure that an environmental assessment is conducted for the proposed project. Since a component of the project exceeds a threshold described in the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* of CEAA, the responsible authorities have determined that the project will be reviewed by means of a comprehensive study environmental assessment.

Under subsection 21(1) of the CEAA, where a project is described in the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations*, responsible authorities must seek the views of the public on the following issues:

- proposed scope of the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment
- factors proposed to be considered in the assessment
- proposed scope of those factors, and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project

Following receipt and consideration of public comments on the scoping document, responsible authorities will report the results to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister will then decide whether the project review should continue as a comprehensive study or whether to refer the project to a mediator or a review panel.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Pacific Booker Minerals Incorporated proposes to develop a copper gold and molybdenum deposit located 65km Northeast of Smithers, near Granisle, BC (Figure 1). The coordinates of the Morrison property are 55° 11'N Latitude and 126° 16'W Longitude. The project is

commonly referred to as the Morrison Copper/Gold project. The proposed mine is an open pit mine utilizing conventional truck and shovel equipment. The ore production rate will be 30,000 tonnes per day or approximately 11 million tonnes of ore per year. The proposed treatment process is a conventional crushing, grinding and flotation system resulting in the production of approximately 155,000 tonnes of concentrate per year containing copper and gold. Additionally, a molybdenum concentrate will be produced.

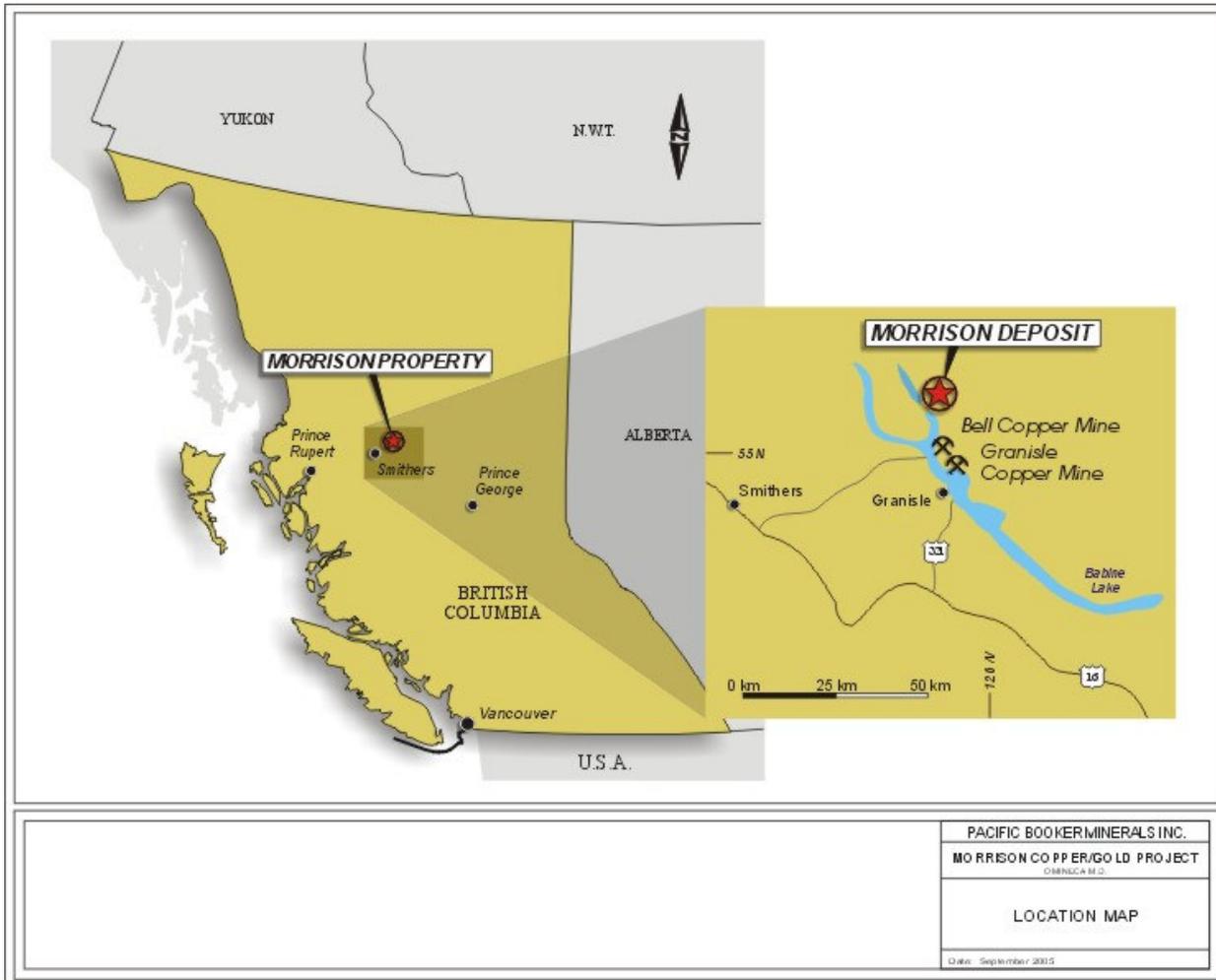


Figure 1: Proposed Morrison Copper-Gold Mine location.

Further details on the proposed project are available at the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office’s Project Information Centre (e-PIC) at www.eao.gov.bc.ca and at the Major Projects Management Office web site at www.mpmo.gc.ca.

3.0 REQUIREMENT FOR A FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Under section 5 of CEAA, a federal environmental assessment may be required when, in respect of a project, a federal authority:

- is the proponent
- makes or authorizes payment or any other form of financial assistance to a proponent
- sells, leases or otherwise disposes of land or
- issues a permit, licence or other form of approval pursuant to a statutory or regulatory provision identified in the *Law List Regulations* of CEAA.

A federal environmental assessment is required in relation to the proposed Morrison Copper-Gold Mine because Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Natural Resources Canada have determined that certain components of the project are likely to require an authorization or licence in accordance with section 5 of CEAA. Specifically:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada may issue an authorization pursuant to subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat
- Natural Resources Canada may issue a license under section 7(1)(a) of the *Explosives Act*, and
- Transport Canada may issue an approval under section 5(2) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* and a section 23 exemption from Section 22 of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*

As a result, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada are designated responsible authorities with respect to the project. As responsible authorities, each department is required to ensure that an environmental assessment is completed pursuant to CEAA.

Health Canada and Environment Canada are designated as federal authorities under CEAA. Health Canada will provide specialist or expert advice in areas of human health including changes to air quality, drinking water quality, noise and the potential contamination of country foods upon request from a Responsible Authority. Environment Canada will provide specialist or expert advice in regards to water quality, air quality, and species at risk subject to the Species at Risk Act (SARA) legislation, migratory birds, wetland conservation, emergency response and toxic substance management.

The responsible authorities have determined that the ore production capacity of the project as described by the proponent is subject to a comprehensive study, pursuant to Part V, section 16 (b) and (c) of the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* of CEAA. The relevant section states:

16 .The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of:
(b) a metal mill with an ore input capacity of 4 000 t/d or more:

(c) a gold mine, other than a placer mine, with an ore capacity of 600 t/d or more

In accordance with the Cabinet Directive on Improving the Performance of the Regulatory System for Major Resource Projects, the proposed project has also been identified as a “major resource project” due to its complexity and multi-jurisdictional nature. The environmental assessment will therefore be tracked and monitored by the Major Projects Management Office (MPMO). Additional information on the MPMO initiative is available at www.mpmo-bggp.gc.ca.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has administrative and advisory responsibilities pursuant to the CEEA in support of the environmental assessment. The CEEA Agency will act as the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator and as the Crown Consultation Coordinator for the environmental assessment in relation to the Project.

4.0 JOINT CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The proposed project also requires an environmental assessment certificate pursuant to the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*. The federal and provincial environmental assessments will be conducted in accordance with the terms of the *Canada-BC Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (2004)*. Under this Agreement, projects that require an environmental assessment by both the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia undergo a single, cooperative assessment, where possible, to meet the environmental assessment requirements of both levels of government. Although the BC Environmental Assessment Office will lead on the review of the environmental impact statement, each government will make project-related decisions on matters within its own legislative authority.

The role of the FEAC within a cooperative assessment is to facilitate the coordination of the federal environmental assessment process in cooperation with the BC Environmental Assessment Office to the extent possible.

5.0 OVERVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

As stated in Section 1 of this report, the purpose of this scoping document is to provide information to the public on the federal environmental assessment process, and to seek public comment on the federal assessment to be conducted in relation to the proposed project. Specifically, this document provides an opportunity for the public to comment, in accordance with subsection 21(1) of CEEA, on the following issues:

- proposed scope of the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment
- factors proposed to be considered in the assessment
- proposed scope of those factors
- ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

Following the public comment period on the Scoping Document, the responsible authorities will provide an environmental assessment Track Report to the federal Minister of Environment. The Track Report is prepared based on the public comments that are received and contains a recommendation on whether to continue the environmental assessment by means of a comprehensive study or whether to refer the project to a mediator or a review panel. If the Minister decides that the environmental assessment should continue as a comprehensive study, the project can not be referred to a mediator or review panel at a later date.

If the Minister refers the project to a mediator or review panel, the project will no longer be subject to the requirements of a comprehensive study under CEAA. Further information on the mediation and review panel processes can be found at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

If the environmental assessment continues as a comprehensive study, a Comprehensive Study Report will be prepared. The responsible authorities will ensure there are additional opportunities for public participation during the preparation of the Comprehensive Study Report. Upon completion, the Comprehensive Study Report will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment and to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

The Minister of the Environment will make a decision on the significance of environmental effects based on the findings of the Comprehensive Study Report which will include an analysis of public comments. The Minister may request additional information or require that public concerns be further addressed before issuing the environmental assessment decision statement.

The environmental assessment decision statement sets out the Minister's opinion as to whether, taking into account the implementation of any mitigation measures and follow-up program that the Minister considers appropriate, the project is or is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Once the Minister has issued the environmental assessment decision statement, the project will be referred back to the responsible authorities for appropriate action which may include issuing permits, licences or approvals.

Participant funding is available for comprehensive study reviews as well as mediation and assessments by review panels. Additional information on the Participant Funding Program is provided in Section 8.2 of this report.

6. PROPOSED SCOPE OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Scoping establishes the boundaries of the federal environmental assessment in order to focus the assessment on relevant issues and concerns. The scope identifies which elements of the proposed development are to be included in the environmental assessment and which environmental components are likely to be affected by the proposed project. The public is invited to comment on this section of the document as to whether the scope has the ability to address the issues relating to the proposed project.

6.1 Proposed Scope of the Project

For the purposes of the environmental assessment, Pacific Booker Minerals has described the proposed Morrison Copper-Gold Mine Project as comprised of the following components:

The proposed construction, operation, modification, decommissioning or abandonment/reclamation (where appropriate) of the following project components:

- Construction, operation and decommissioning of the mine pit and process plant
- Mill tailings and waste rock storage facility(ies) including construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of dams and water diversion channels for the tailings storage facility;
- Site runoff, diversion and sediment control
- Ore storage
- Borrow pits, overburden and topsoil storage
- Sewage and waste water management facilities
- Surplus water management and disposal
- Groundwater and/or surface water used for monitoring and/or extraction
- Explosives transport, factory and magazine
- Electrical power transmission lines and right of way to the project site
- An electrical substation at the project site
- Mine haul roads within the mine property
- Associated mine facilities such as assay buildings, ore load out facilities, labs, maintenance shops, warehouse, equipment lay down areas, office complex parking
- Routes for hauling the ore to the milling facility and for personnel access and delivery of supplies and materials to the site, including new or existing roads, or deep sea ports or sidings.
- Existing and/or dedicated barge and barge facilities
- Any works or undertakings required as compensation for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat that require an authorization under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*.
- The draining of Booker Lake and the construction, operation and dismantling of the structures associated with the dewatering activity.
- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of water intake on Morrison Lake; and
- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of diffuser below the surface of Morrison Lake

6.2 Proposed Factors to be Considered in the Environmental Assessment

The scope of assessment document defines the factors proposed to be considered in the environmental assessment and the proposed scope of those factors. The responsible authorities are required to consider the factors specified in section 16 of CEAA, taking into consideration the definitions of “environment”, “environmental effect” and “project”.

As defined under CEAA, “environment” means the components of the Earth, and includes:

- a) land, water and air including all layers of the atmosphere,
- b) all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms, and
- c) the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in a) and b) above

As defined under CEAA, “environmental effect” means, with respect to a project:

- a) any change that the project may cause in the environment, including any change it may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residences of individuals of that species, as those terms are defined in subsection 2(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*
- b) any effect of any change referred to in paragraph (a) on
 - i) health and socio-economic conditions
 - ii) physical and cultural heritage
 - iii) the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons, or
 - iv) any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, or
- c) any change to the project that may be caused by the environment whether any such change or effect occurs within or outside Canada.

As defined under CEAA, “project” means:

- a) in relation to a physical work, any proposed construction, operation, modification, decommissioning, abandonment or other undertaking in relation to that physical work, or
- b) any proposed physical activity not relating to a physical work that is prescribed or is within a class of physical activities that is prescribed pursuant to regulations made under 59(b) [of CEAA]

Pursuant to section 16 of CEAA, the environmental assessment will consider the following factors:

- environmental effects of the project (including cumulative environmental effects and environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project);
- significance of any such environmental effects;
- comments received from the public in accordance with the Act

- technically and economically feasible measures and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project
- purpose of the project
- alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means
- need for, and the requirements of, any follow-up program in respect of the project
- capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future
- consideration of the need for the project and alternatives to the project.

Under section 79 of the *Species at Risk Act*, the responsible authorities must identify adverse effects of the project on listed species and their critical habitat or residences. The responsible authorities must also ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen adverse effects and that effects are monitored. Mitigation measures must be consistent with recovery strategies and action plans for the species.

6.3 Proposed Scope of the Factors to be Considered

The responsible authorities propose that the following scope of factors be considered through the environmental assessment. Selection of these factors is based on the anticipated potential for the works, undertakings and activities that are included in the proposed scope of project to cause adverse environmental effects.

Environmental Component	Factors
Physical Environment	Surface and groundwater quality Surface and groundwater quantity (e.g. changes to flows/volumes/directions,etc) Air quality Climate and meteorology Terrain, soils and geology Erosion and sedimentation
Biological Environment	Vegetation and plant communities Wetlands Wildlife and wildlife habitat Ecologically sensitive or significant areas, species of conservation concern, including species at risk and their habitats Aquatic environment (e.g. aquatic life, fish and fish habitat)

	Migratory birds and their habitats
Human Environment (i.e. indirect effects resulting from a direct change in the environment)	Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons Navigable waters Fisheries Human health including the effects of noise Country Foods Physical and cultural heritage Structures/sites of archaeological significance

6.4 Additional Matters

Spatial and Temporal Boundaries

The spatial boundary will be determined specific to each factor in order to effectively assess the potential environmental effects of the project. Spatial boundaries are based on the zone of the proposed project's influence beyond which the effects of the project are expected to be non-detectable. Multiple study area boundaries are to be employed with the rationales provided for all boundaries selected, to reflect the range of geographic areas within which specific effects may be experienced.

The temporal boundaries will encompass the entire lifespan of the project. The environmental assessment will include the current land use and a description of the effects of the project on each factor beginning with the construction phase, continuing through the operations phase (including any maintenance and/or modifications) and concluding with the completion of decommissioning and reclamation. Seasonal and annual variations will also be considered where appropriate.

Cumulative Environmental Effects

The evaluation of potential cumulative environmental effects will focus on the interaction between the residual environmental effects of the project as scoped in Section 6.1 and the environmental effects of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future projects or activities. Residual environmental effects are those adverse environmental effects that may remain after mitigation measures are applied. The cumulative effects assessment will include, but not necessarily be limited to: existing industrial projects; other proposed developments; other land and resource use activities (forestry, hunting, trapping, fishing); and tourism and recreation activities.

Need For, Purpose and Alternatives of the Project

The environmental assessment will include an evaluation of the need for, purpose of, and alternatives to, the project. The "need for" the project is defined as the problem or opportunity that the proposed project is intending to solve or satisfy. The "purpose of"

the project is defined as what is to be achieved by carrying out the project. The “need for” and “purpose of” and “alternatives to” the project will be established from the perspective of the proponent.

Comments from the Public

Comments from the public that have been received in accordance with CEAA will be considered by the responsible authorities and the Minister of the Environment. A record of how comments have been considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the environmental assessment, will be prepared.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation means, in respect of a project, the elimination, reduction or control of adverse environmental effects. The environmental assessment will identify mitigation measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate identified adverse environmental effects arising from the proposed project.

Environmental Effects Analysis and Significance of Environmental Effects

The federal environmental assessment will include an evaluation of the nature and extent of the residual adverse environmental effects after applying mitigation measures where possible. A determination of whether the adverse environmental effects are likely to be significant will be included along with the methods employed to reach this determination.

Alternative Means of Carrying out the Project

The environmental assessment will include an analysis of the alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible, and the environmental effects of any such alternative means. A rationale for the preferred alternative will be included.

Effects of the Environment on the Project

In addition to evaluating the effects of the project on the environment, including cumulative environmental effects, changes to the project that may arise as a result of the environment will also be considered. This analysis will include consideration of natural hazards such as: extreme weather events (lightning, extreme precipitation, flooding, wind, avalanches and icing); natural seismic events; fire; slope stability; and climate change. Proposed mitigation measures, including design strategies, will be considered in the evaluation of the effects of the environment on the project and the determination of their significance.

Sustainability of Renewable Resources

The environmental assessment will include consideration of the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.

Potential Accidents and Malfunctions

The environmental assessment will include consideration of the potential accidents, malfunctions and unplanned events that could occur in any phase of the project, the likelihood and circumstances under which these events could occur, and the environmental effects that may result from such events, should contingency plans not be fully effective.

Follow-up Program

As a comprehensive study, the environmental assessment will require a follow-up program. The purpose of a follow-up program is to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures. The environmental assessment will describe the need for a follow-up program and its associated requirements.

7.0 ABILITY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROJECT

As described in section 5 of this report, the decision to continue the environmental assessment as a comprehensive study review or refer the project to a review panel or mediator rests with the Minister of Environment. The factors considered by the Minister in making this decision include:

- the scope of the project, the factors to be considered in an environmental assessment and the scope of those factors;
- public concerns about the project;
- the potential for the project to cause adverse environmental effects; and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

Sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 of this report outline the scope of what must be considered, at a minimum, in the conduct of the comprehensive study. The public is invited to comment on whether this scope has the ability to address the issues relating to the proposed project.

8.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

Public participation is a component of the Comprehensive Study Review process. Public comment will also be sought with regards to the comprehensive study report. Participant funding is made available through the Participant Funding Program. Public notices will be posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry.

8.1 Public Consultation on the Scoping Document

At this stage of the environmental assessment, the public is invited to comment on the following issues:

- proposed scope of the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment (Section 6.1);
- factors proposed to be considered in the assessment (Section 6.2);

- proposed scope of those factors (Section 6.3); and
- ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project (Section 7).

Persons wishing to submit comments may do so in writing to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Comments must be received by close of business day **June 23, 2010**. Comments should be sent to:

Project Manager – Morrison Mine Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
320-757 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 1A1
Fax: 604-666-6990
Email: MorrisonMine@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Please be as detailed as possible and clearly reference the **Morrison Mine** and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry file number **48445** on your submission. Please note that all comments received are considered public and will become part of the public registry.

Also note that the public will have additional opportunities to participate in the environmental assessment. These opportunities will be available whether the project continues as a comprehensive study, a mediation or review panel assessment.

8.2 Participant Funding

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, will provide participant funding to successful applicants to assist groups and individuals to take part in the environmental assessment. This funding will be made available whether the environmental assessment proceeds by means of a comprehensive study, mediation or assessment by review panel. Information on the participant funding program, including the Participant Funding Program Guide and the application form are available at: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

To receive funding, successful applicants must participate in the environmental assessment by reviewing and commenting on documents, preparing technical analyses, attending meetings or contributing by other means to the environmental assessment of the project.

Notices regarding the availability of participant funding will be posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry internet site at www.ceaa.gc.ca under reference number 48445.

8.3 Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry

Pursuant to section 55 of CEAA, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR) has been established to provide notice of the environmental assessment and to facilitate public access to records related to the environmental assessment. The CEAR consists of a project file and an internet site. The internet component of the CEAR can be accessed at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca under reference number 48445.

If you have general questions in relation to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, you can access the CEAAgency website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

8.4 Aboriginal Consultation

The federal Crown's duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Aboriginal groups arises when it contemplates conduct that might adversely impact potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights.

Consultations that occur through the EA process will be used by the federal Crown to assist it in understanding Aboriginal groups' concerns and, as appropriate, in addressing those concerns.

The Agency is the federal Crown consultation coordinator for this EA, and as such, will work closely with the RAs and the EAO, the proponent and potentially affected Aboriginal groups, to coordinate consultation activities as much as possible.

The Lake Babine Nation have been identified as potentially affected as the project is proposed within their traditional territory. The Yekooche First Nation have been identified as potentially interested due to the proximity of this project to their traditional territory.

9.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

The project description as proposed by the proponent is available at www.mpmo.gc.ca. Additional information on the federal environmental assessment process is available at: www.ceaa.gc.ca or by contacting MorrisonMine@ceaa-acee.gc.ca