



Chief Yvette Metansinine  
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek  
PO Box 120,  
Beardmore, Ontario  
P0T 1G0

Dear Chief Metansinine:

**Subject: Proposed Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine Project**

I am writing with respect to the path forward for the federal environmental assessment of the proposed Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine project (the Project). As you know, the proposed Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by way of a comprehensive study because the Project falls under paragraphs 16(a) and 16(b) pursuant to the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). The Notice of Commencement was originally posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry Internet site on April 29, 2010 (updated on July 19, 2010), and may be accessed online at <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=54755>.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is also aware of the September 7, 2010 announcement of the acquisition agreement between Marathon PGM Corp. and Stillwater Mining Company. Based on discussions with Marathon PGM Corp., the Agency understands that the proponent intends on continuing the environmental assessment process for the Project as currently proposed.

While the proposed Project is currently being assessed as a comprehensive study, the federal Minister of the Environment has the discretion to require an assessment by way of a review panel, if there is a potential for the Project to result in significant adverse environmental effects or if public concern warrants a referral to a review panel. In consideration of advice and analysis from the responsible authorities indicating that the Project, taking into account the implementation of mitigations measures, may cause significant adverse environmental effects, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) will be recommending to the Minister of the Environment that the Project be referred to a review panel.

A review panel under the Act provides extensive opportunities for public involvement.

.../2



A key component of a review panel is the public hearing, during which the Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek would have the opportunity to present their views regarding the Project directly to the review panel.

Additionally, if the Minister of the Environment decides to refer the Project to a review panel, the Agency will continue to fulfill its duty to consult with you during the federal environmental assessment. In particular, the Agency will begin discussions with you regarding the development of an Aboriginal Consultation Framework for the review panel process. This consultation framework would include key steps such as the development of the terms of reference for the review panel, which outlines the review panel process, as well as the environmental impact statement (EIS) guidelines, which outline the information Marathon PGM Corporation would need to include in its EIS. Through these steps, the Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek will continue to have a direct input into the process for the environmental assessment.

Should the Minister decide to refer the Project to a review panel, the Agency will re-evaluate the amount of funding that will be made available to assist Aboriginal groups to participate in the federal environmental assessment. This information will be communicated to you once available.

We will keep you informed of the progress of the federal environmental assessment; Mr. Mark Bowler, Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Affairs and Mr. Brett Maracle, Crown Consultation Coordinator, will be in contact with you in the coming weeks to arrange a meeting to discuss these matters.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Steve Burgess  
Executive Director, Project Reviews

c.c.: Amy Liu – Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Mark O'Brien – Ministry of Northern Development Mines and Forestry  
Regent Dickey – Major Projects Management Office  
Paul Savoie – Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Kelly Withers - Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Alan Rowlinson - Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Denise Joy – Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
David Zeit – Transport Canada  
Rob Read – Environment Canada  
Daniel Johnson – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Mark Yeates – Parks Canada  
Kathleen Cavallaro – Natural Resources Canada  
Fadi Haddad – Natural Resources Canada  
Kitty Ma – Health Canada