

Section 16.0

Background Information

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PART D – METLAKATLA INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Part D of Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd.'s (proponent) Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the proposed Kitsault Mine Project (proposed Project), made under section 16 of the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* (Application) discusses all Aboriginal group considerations pertaining to the proposed Project. This information is provided following the guidance found in the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office's (BC EAO) "Environmental Assessment Office User Guide" (BC EAO 2010b), the Application Information Requirements (AIR) Template (BC EAO 2010a), and "Proponent Guide for Providing First Nation Consultation information (Non-Treaty First Nations)" (BC EAO 2010d). The introduction to this section provides a summary of the regulatory requirements with regard to Aboriginal groups as outlined in the section 11 and 13 Orders that were issued, and provide a summary of the proponent's statement of Commitment to Responsible Mining (Avanti 2011).

Part D is organised into nine headings, including: 1) contact information and governance; 2) territory and reserves; 3) ethnographic, social, cultural, and economic context; 4) Aboriginal rights and title; 5) land use interests; 6) heritage interests; 7) economic interests; 8) social and health interests; and 9) Aboriginal consultation. For each heading, information on each of the potentially affected Aboriginal groups is summarised.

The information in Part D is a compilation of publicly available information on Metlakatla uses, activities, and communities from desk-based research. Primary and secondary sources were reviewed with a focus on Aboriginal land rights, interests, and values that may interact or overlap with the Kitsault Project. The main sources related to Metlakatla interests, rights, uses, and values include:

- Metlakatla's official websites;
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) First Nation Profile;
- Rescan Environmental Services Traditional Knowledge and Use (TK/TU) Report submitted as part of the Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) Project Environmental Assessment Application;
- Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs), Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs), Landscape Unit Plans (LUPs), and
- Presentations and meeting summaries;
- Agreements with Aboriginal groups;
- Aboriginal policies, procedures, and programs;
- Secondary sources, such as, Halpin, M. and Seguin, M. 1990 (Tsimshian Peoples: Southern Tsimshian, Coast Tsimshian, Nishga, and Gitksan); and
- Statistics Canada and BC Stats on Aboriginal communities.

The results of the research provide limited site-specific information about the locations, seasons, level and type of Aboriginal use and access considerations related to the proposed

Kitsault Project. This report contains broad information about important matters to potentially affected Aboriginal groups related to the mine site and transportation route. Ongoing discussions and consultation may yield more specific and detailed information for future consideration and integration during the Application review period.

16.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

16.1 Introduction

This section provides key information about the Metlakatla First Nation which could potentially be affected by the proposed Project, including contact information, asserted territory and ethnography, language, land use setting and planning, governance, economy, and reserves information. Included in this section is information regarding Metlakatla issues, rights, and concerns, along with a summary of the proponent's consultation with the Metlakatla First Nation. The information was compiled from a review of Metlakatla, government, and academic sources, as well as direct discussions with the Metlakatla First Nation.

Guided by its Corporate Responsibility Statement (Avanti 2011), the proponent is committed to engaging actively with Metlakatla First Nation. The proponent continually seeks to address regulatory requirements by the federal and provincial governments in a proactive manner, and will work to involve the Metlakatla First Nation with the objective of increasing positive project benefits within communities.

Aboriginal consultation, under the British Columbia (BC) *Mines Act* (Government of BC 1996b) and the BC *Environmental Assessment Act* (BCEAA) (Government of BC 2002), requires that proponents actively engage with Aboriginal groups, and ensure that information regarding the proposed Project is distributed to community members, relevant stakeholders, and interested parties. Court decisions have confirmed the existence of Aboriginal rights, which continue to be clarified and defined. As such, the federal and provincial governments must consult and accommodate Aboriginal interests.

As part of its assessment of the proposed Project, the BC EAO (2011) released a section 13 Order, an amendment to the section 11 Order (BC EAO 2010c), identifying five Aboriginal groups that may be potentially affected by the proposed Project's site and / or transportation route, including:

- Metlakatla First Nation;
- Kitsumkalum First Nation;
- Kitselas First Nation;
- Gitxsan Chiefs; and

- Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs Office (GHCO) (including *wilp* Luuxhon¹; *wilp* Wiitaxhayetwx-Sidok; *wilp* Gwass Hlaam; *wilp* Gwinuu; and *wilp* Gamlaxyeltxw).

Part D focuses on a discussion of the Metlakatla First Nation; however, the Road Use Effects Assessment (RUEA) (Appendix 8-C) includes information about the remaining Aboriginal groups. The rationale for this is that the RUEA is intended to be a stand-alone document summarizing baseline and effects assessment related exclusively to the Kitsault transportation route. The remaining Aboriginal groups' traditional territories overlap with the transportation route, and not the mine site, whereas the Metlakatla traditional territories overlap with both.

It will be noted that the provincial legislation (unlike federal), does not require a discussion of the asserted rights and title of Métis groups. Therefore, references to Aboriginal rights, titles and interests include only First Nations for the Province of BC, whereas for Canada this refers to the asserted rights of both First Nations and Métis. To fulfill federal requirements (under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency), a discussion of Métis Nation BC (MNBC) in relation to the proposed Project is included in Section 21.12 of this Application.

16.2 Contact Information and Governance

The representative government of the Metlakatla is called the Metlakatla Governing Council (MCK). The council currently manages 3,464 hectares (ha) of land on 16 reserves, and is composed of an elected chief and six councillors with a three-year term. In March 2007, the Metlakatla members ratified a custom election code that removed election provisions from the jurisdiction of the *Indian Act*. The council functions as the governing body of the band, administering social services and programs. The names of the elected Chief and Council members and their terms are provided in Table 16.2-1.

Table 16.2-1: Membership of Elected Band Council and Chief

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	Leighton	Harold	30 August 2010	29 August 2013
Councillor	Bolton	Alvin	30 August 2010	29 August 2013
Councillor	Leask	Alrita	30 August 2010	29 August 2013
Councillor	Leask	Alvin Jr.	30 August 2010	29 August 2013
Councillor	Nelson	James, Sr.	30 August 2010	29 August 2013
Councillor	Nelson	Robert	30 August 2010	29 August 2013
Councillor	Smith	Cindy	30 August 2010	29 August 2013

Source: INAC 2011h

¹ It is the proponent's understanding that *wilp* Luuxhon, while listed in the section 13 Order as a part of the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, is an independent *wilp*. As such, the proponent has engaged and consulted with *wilp* Luuxhon separately from the GHCO within the Environmental Assessment process.

Contact information for MCK, the Development Corporation, Treaty office, and Stewardship offices are provided in Table 16.2-2.

Table 16.2-2: Metlakatla Leadership Contact Information

Metlakatla Governing Council	Metlakatla Development Corporation	Metlakatla Treaty Office	Metlakatla Stewardship Office
PO Box 459 Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3R2 Office: 1 (250) 628-3234 Fax: 1 (250) 628-9205	Address: PO Box 224 Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3P6 Office: 1 (250) 628-3201 Fax: 1 (250) 628-9259	Address: PO Box 224 Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3P6 Office: 1 (250) 628-3315 Fax: 1 (250) 628-9259	Address: PO Box 224 Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3P6 Office: 1 (250) 628-3315 Fax: 1 (250) 628-9259

Source: MDC 2011; Metlakatla Treaty Office; and Metlakatla First Nation 2011b

The Coast Tsimshian were traditionally divided into nine tribes, each of which consisted of four clans or matrilineal houses: Wolf (*Laxibuu*); Eagle (*Laxsgiik*), Killer Whale (*Gispwudwada*); and Raven (*Ganhada*) (Boas 1916). The house (called the *walp* by Coastal Tsimshian) was the basic political, economic, and social unit that governed affairs in the Tsimshian territory. Specific ranked names were also held within each *walp*; generally, the highest ranked name was held by the hereditary house chief, which was passed down through the generations. Particular houses owned specific hunting, fishing, and gathering territories (Halpin and Seguin 1990). The feast hall functioned as a place of governance, where decisions were made, witnessed, and confirmed. Feasts played an important part in maintaining social order, verifying inheritance and succession, and addressing conflicts.

16.3 Territory and Reserves

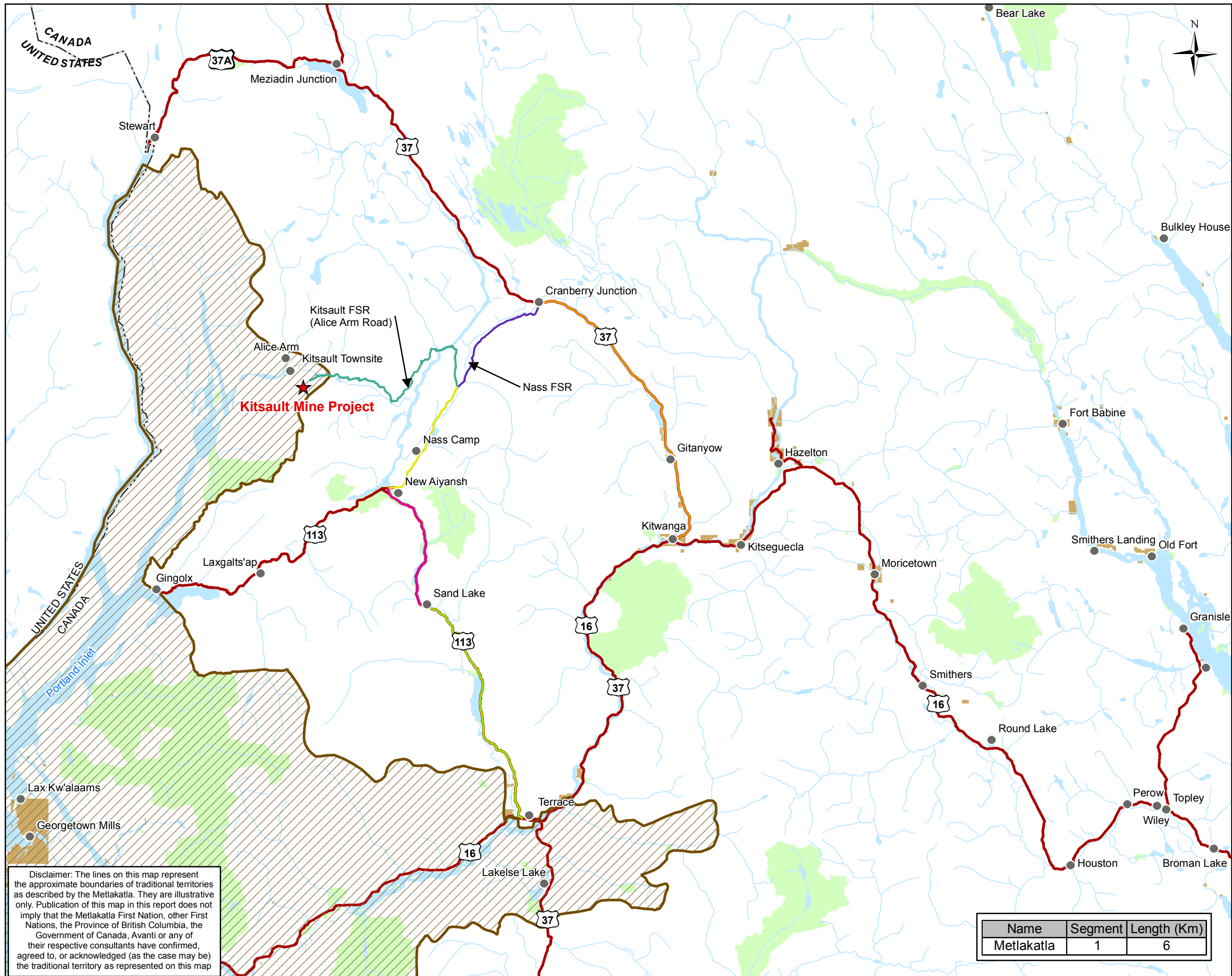
The asserted territory of the Metlakatla covers an area of approximately 10,622 km² of northwestern BC (Figure 16.3-1), including Skeena River (west of Terrace) to Prince Rupert. The Metlakatla asserted territory overlaps with the proposed Project site, and the most westerly portions of the proposed transportation route option. There are 16 Metlakatla reserves (seven of which are shared with Lax Kw'alaams), the primary and most populated one being S1/2 Tsimshian IR2 (No. 07754) (INAC 2011h). Information on the 16 Metlakatla reserves, their locations, and the area each encompasses is included in Table 16.3-1. The community of Metlakatla, which was a traditional village of this Aboriginal group, is 7 km northwest of Prince Rupert. There is no land access to the community, and the Metlakatla Band access is via a Band-operated passenger ferry. Neighbouring Aboriginal groups include the Gitksan and Gitanyow Hereditary Chief territories to the east, overlapping use areas with the Nisga'a Nation, Haida Gwaii to the west across the Hecate Strait, and the Haisla and Hieltsuk First Nations to the south.

Table 16.3-1: List of Metlakatla Reserves, Reserve Numbers, Location Descriptions, and Sizes of Reserves

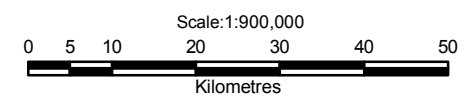
No.	Name	Location	Hectares
07768	Avery Island 92	Coast district, range. 5, lot 3917, entire Avery Island, north of Stephens Island in Bell Passage.	20.40
07761	Dashken 22	Coast district, range 5, on east shore of Smith Island at mouth of the Skeena River.	3
07769	Edey 93	Coast district, range 5, lot 3916, all of a small island in Edey Passage, south of Prescott Island.	0.40
07758	Khtahda 10	Coast district range 5, on left bank of the Skeena River at mouth of the Khtada River.	1.40
07757	Khyex 8	Coast district range 5, on right bank of the Skeena River at mouth of Khyex River.	15.40
07762	Kshoom 23	Coast district range 5, at north end of De Horsey Island at mouth of the Skeena River.	2.60
07764	Lakelse 25	Coast district range 5, on right bank of the Lakelse River approximately 1.7 km northwest of Lakelse Lake.	1.70
07763	Meanlaw 24	Coast district range 5, on right bank of the Skeena River approximately 3.5 km north of Veitch Point.	8.40
07766	Rushton Island 90	Coast district range 5, lot 3915, entire Rushton Island and 1 small island to north in brown pass. Entrance to Chatham Sound.	6.80
07754	S1/2 Tsimpsean 2	Coast district, range 5, on w coast of Tsimpsean Peninsula and north end of Digby Island, on east shore of Chatham Sound.	3270
07759	Scuttsap 11	Coast district, range 5, on left bank of the Skeena River, approximately 1.7 km southwest of Kwinitza C.N. Station.	1.50
07756	Shoowahtlans (Shawtlans) 4	Coast district, range 5, west end of Shawattan Lake, north end of Morse Basin, approximately 3.5 km northeast of Prince Rupert.	0.50
07767	Squaderee 91	Coast district, range 5, lot 3914, on point on southwest coast of Stephens Island, north entrance to Hecate Strait.	2.20
07765	Tuck Inlet 89	Coast district, range 5, lot 3950, at head of Tuck Inlet, approximately 17 km north of Prince Rupert.	1.60
07760	Tugwell Island 21	Coast district, entire Tugwell Island, entrance to Venn Pass, approximately 13.6 km west of Prince Rupert.	126.20
07755	Wilnaskancaud 3	Coast district, range 5, on east shore of Kaien Island, approximately 3.5 km east of Prince Rupert.	2.30

Note: km - kilometre

Source: INAC 2011h



- Legend**
- ★ Kitsault Mine Project
 - Populated Place
 - Highway
 - - - International / Provincial Border
 - Stream
 - Waterbody
 - Indian Reserve
 - Parks & Protected Area
 - ▨ Metlakatla First Nation
 - Segment 1: Kitsault mine site to Cranberry Connector/Nass Forest Service Road (FSR)
 - Segment 2: Cranberry Connector to Cranberry Junction
 - Segment 3: Cranberry Junction to Kitwanga along Highway 37
 - Segment 4: Cranberry Connector to New Aiyansh
 - Segment 5: New Aiyansh to Sand Lake
 - Segment 6: Sand Lake to Terrace



Reference
 Base Data
 Atlas of Canada scale 1:1,000,000.
 Territory Boundary: Metlakatla First Nation Website

CLIENT:		Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd.	
PROJECT:		Kitsault Mine Project	
		Metlakatla Asserted Territory Overlapping with the Kitsault Transportation Route Options	
DATE:	ANALYST:	Figure 16.3-1	
November 2011	MY		
JOB No:	QA/QC:	PDF FILE: 14-50-010_metlakatla_v2.pdf	
VE51988	KS		
GIS FILE: 14-50-010_v2.mxd			
PROJECTION:	DATUM:		
UTM Zone 9	NAD83		

Name	Segment	Length (Km)
Metlakatla	1	6

Disclaimer: The lines on this map represent the approximate boundaries of traditional territories as described by the Metlakatla. They are illustrative only. Publication of this map in this report does not imply that the Metlakatla First Nation, other First Nations, the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada, Avanti or any of their respective consultants have confirmed, agreed to, or acknowledged (as the case may be) the traditional territory as represented on this map.

Y:\GIS\Projects\VE51988_Kitsault\Mapping\14_50-010_v2.mxd

16.3.1 Métis Nation

The Métis Nation has conducted an “Assertion of Métis Rights and Traditional Land Uses” study in 2009, which is a compilation of 14,000 historical documents, indicating “a significant Métis presence throughout BC. Métis Traditional Land Use interviews support Métis use since 1920 and verify Métis continue to exist and use land as our ancestors did” (MNBC 2010a). MNBC clarified in a recent submission to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) it does not assert specific areas of BC; instead, “MNBC on behalf of our Métis Citizens, assert Rights and Traditional uses over the entire province” (MNBC 2010a) with documented traditional land use in 95 percent (%) of the provincial watersheds.

16.4 Ethnography

16.4.1 Pre-Contact

Prior to the early 1800s, most Coastal Tsimshian lived semi-nomadic hunting and gathering lifestyles. The seasonal round encompassed different hunting and gathering locations utilised in different seasons based on local productivity and needs. From mid-February to April, tribes used camps and facilities at the mouth of the Nass River to fish for oolichan (Satanove 2008). Oolichan grease was a particularly important commodity for the Tsimshian. In the month of May, activity shifted to the camps where seaweed was gathered and dried, while men typically fished for halibut, and herring spawn. Abalone and the eggs of sea gulls and oystercatchers were gathered in June, coinciding with the arrival of the first salmon of the season, which were caught by trolling. The people moved into fishing camps during the summer, where each clan fished in their respective fishing areas. Women collected salmonberries throughout the summer, followed by wild crab-apples and high bush cranberries, which were gathered and stored. From mid-summer to fall, each group used fishing, trapping, and hunting camps in the lower Skeena River (Satanove 2008). In the fall, hunting grounds became the focus of resource gathering, including hunting and trapping of deer, elk, seal, sea lions, sea otter, and mountain goat.

People lived in permanent villages during the winter months, during which sporadic hunting occurred. Men and women took part in weaving and carving in the winter, which was also when most ceremonial events were held.

16.4.2 Contact

The history of Euro-Canadian contact with the Coastal Tsimshian peoples began in 1792 when Jacino Caamaño’s landed on Pitt Island, although the Metlakatla may have experienced the effects of European trade between 1700 and 1750 (Satanove 2008). Many Coastal Tsimshian people moved to the area surrounding the fort established by the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1834. From then on their lives began to change drastically due to contact with European cultures. In 1857, Anglican minister William Duncan set up a mission at Fort Simpson. In 1862, he re-established the village of Metlakatla as a Christian village of approximately 350 Tsimshians from Lax Kw’alaams (i.e., Port Simpson), including members of other Tsimshian tribes (Halpin and Seguin 1990; Satanove 2008; Metlakatla First Nation 2011b).

16.4.3 Post-Contact

After Metlakatla was established, a smallpox epidemic decimated Lax Kw'alaams, but few Metlakatla succumbed to the epidemic. By 1879 the population at Metlakatla had grown to approximately 1,100. Duncan earned a reputation as dissident and evangelical leading to his expulsion from the Church of England's Missionary Society in 1881. In response, he created his own non-denominational "Independent Native Church." In 1887, he took 800 or more Metlakatla Tsimshians on a canoe journey to found the community of "New Metlakatla" in Alaska. Since the early 1900s, Metlakatla, BC, has remained among the smallest of the Tsimshian communities. The Metlakatla are still predominantly Anglican.

16.5 Demographics

According to INAC (2011h), the Metlakatla have a population of 830. A large majority of off-reserve members live in Prince Rupert within Metlakatla traditional territory. The breakdown of Metlakatla demographics is provided in Table 16.5-1.

Table 16.5-1: Registered Metlakatla Population as of April 2011

Residency	Number of People
Registered males on own reserve	37
Registered females on own reserve	54
Registered males on other reserves	3
Registered females on other reserves	4
Registered males on own Crown land	0
Registered females on own Crown land	0
Registered males on other Band Crown land	0
Registered females on other Band Crown land	0
Registered males on no Band Crown land	0
Registered females on no Band Crown land	0
Registered males off reserve	353
Registered females off reserve	379
Total registered population	830

Source: INAC 2011h

16.6 Culture and Language

16.6.1 Cultural Practices

Some traditional cultural practices related to the seasonal round are described in Section 16.4. Traditional activities are still practiced by Metlakatla members today, including hunting and fishing, seaweed gathering / processing, hemlock and cedar gathering, and marine harvesting activities. Sites related to these activities are documented throughout the coastal region (Coast Tsimshian Tribal Society 2008). Additional information on cultural

practices that interact with the proposed Project mine site and transportation route options may arise from planned consultation activities.

16.6.2 Language

The language of the Metlakatla people is called *Sm'algayax*, which belongs to the Tsimshianic language family. Various dialects are spoken across the north coast of BC and New Metlakatla, Alaska. Due to residential schools and Metlakatla's close proximity to Prince Rupert, few people are fluent in *Sm'algayax*. However, a number of qualified teachers are now working to revive the language and *Sm'algayax* classes are offered to band members in Metlakatla and Prince Rupert (Metlakatla First Nation 2011b).

16.7 Land Use Setting

16.7.1 Hunting

Hunting and trapping were traditional activities among Coastal Tsimshian in the late autumn (Boas 1916; Garfield 1939; MacDonald (J.A.) 1985; Halpin and Seguin 1990; Inglis et al. 1990). Traditionally, animals such as deer, elk, mountain goat, sheep, bear, porcupine, racoons, and marmot were taken by the Coastal Tsimshian. By the late nineteenth century, with the growth of the fur trade, Coastal Tsimshian had begun to use areas along the Skeena River tributaries for hunting and trapping more frequently (Satanove 2008). Hunting and trapping are still practiced by many Metlakatla within their asserted territory and species of greatest value include ungulates (e.g., deer and moose) and bears (Guardian Watchman Web Site).

16.7.2 Fishing and Marine Resources

The Metlakatla were traditionally highly reliant on fish and marine resources. They used marine and freshwater aquatic resources for food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes, and created surplus to use in times of shortage or for trade. Harvesting, consuming, managing, processing, and trading fish resources was an integral part of their culture before and after contact with Europeans (Satanove 2008). Inglis et al. (1990) document that locally harvested foodstuffs such as fish, shellfish, herring eggs, oolichan, seal grease, berries, and seaweed comprised well over half of a household's diet. Oolichan and salmon had a particularly strong influence on Coastal Tsimshian economy, history, culture, and seasonal activities.

Access to all five salmon species was a significant feature of the Coastal Tsimshian, and the resulting catch provided assurance against famine, excess for trade and was a primary economic resource. Fishing traditionally began in June and ethnographers have described salmon as plentiful in the Skeena (Inglis et al. 1990; Anderson and McDonald in Satanove 2008). The Coastal Tsimshian also fished at oolichan sites at the Nass River and along the Skeena River tributaries, and were based out of territories and camps at Dundas, Stephens, and Portland Islands. Metlakatla are reported to have fished in the mainstream of the Skeena River and in the Zymoetz River (Satanove 2008).

16.7.3 Plant and Berry Bark Gathering

Coastal Tsimshian women traditionally harvested ripening salmonberries, soapberries, high bush cranberries, and wild crab-apples during the late summer months. Some of these berries were dried, while others were stored in grease (Halpin and Seguin 1990). Berry picking, medicinal plant gathering, and bark collecting are activities that are well-documented in academic literature and traditional use studies, and a host of medicinal and food plants are still harvested by the Metlakatla.

16.7.4 Forestry

Culturally modified trees (CMTs) supports the legacy of Coastal Tsimshian culture and its use of forest resources in the area. Due to the historical significance and cultural uses, the Metlakatla have a particular interest in preserving and using cedar. The Metlakatla have interest in the protection of riparian areas (related to water quality protection and fish and wildlife habitat), productive cedar for making canoes and totem poles, sites with high biodiversity values, and significant wildlife and fish habitat (Halpin and Seguin 1990; Guardian Watchman Web Site).

16.8 Land Use Planning

Metlakatla are actively involved in land use planning initiatives that impact land and resources within their asserted territory. In April 2001, Gitga'at First Nation, Haida Nation, Haisla Nation, Heiltsuk Nation, Kitsoo / Xaixais First Nation, and Metlakatla First Nation signed the General Protocol Agreement with BC to promote First Nation involvement in provincial land use planning processes. The interim Metlakatla Indian Band Forestry Agreement (2003), was signed as an interim measure that provided benefits to the Metlakatla when forestry-related activities within their asserted territory. In 2004, community natural resource planners worked with advisory committees to produce a draft of a Strategic Land and Resource Use Plan for Metlakatla territory. Metlakatla also participated with stakeholders to develop the North Coast LRMP (BC ILMB 2004).

The North Coast LRMP, with final recommendations, was signed in 2006. A special forest management zone was recommended in the North Coast LRMP, which overlaps with the proposed Project, covering part of the Kitsault and Stagoo Landscape Units (LU 25 and 45, respectively, Map 3; BC ILMB 2004). A Tourism Area was also suggested, which overlaps with the proposed Project area (Map 8; BC ILMB 2004), as does a grizzly bear occupied area (Map 6; BC ILMB 2004), the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) (Map 7; BC ILMB 2004), and a Class 1 visual management area (Map 10; BC ILMB 2004).

The Metlakatla shortly thereafter negotiated and agreed to a Strategic Land Use Planning Agreement (SLUPA) (Government of BC 2006) with the province and other Coastal Aboriginal groups. The purpose of the SLUPA was to: a) confirm the outcome of government to government discussions held on strategic land use planning between the Metlakatla and the province; b) provide a framework that will assist the parties to work collaboratively to implement the Land and Resource Protocol in the traditional territory of the Metlakatla; and c) provide a framework that will assist the parties to work collaboratively to

implement this Agreement and any subsequent land use planning and management activities.

The Metlakatla SLUPA (Government of BC 2006) entails a number of designated zones in the areas associated with the proposed Project mine site. The attachments of interest in the SLUPA include:

- Attachment B1 - Land Use Zones of the North Coast LRMP: Map;
- Attachment B2 - Land Use Zones: Allowable Use and Designations: Table;
- Attachment C - Proposed Management Area Objectives: Table; and
- Attachment D - Management Areas of the North Coast LRMP: Map.

Attachment B indicates a large Biodiversity (Tourism / Mining) zone southwest of the proposed Project site, and a smaller zone to the northeast of Alice Arm. Biodiversity zones were identified with forested areas that have high ecological values and biological richness, and no history of commercial timber harvesting. The objectives within the biodiversity zone are to retain the landscape in a mostly natural condition, while allowing specified resource extraction activities and access development, excluding timber harvest and some commercial hydro-electric development.

Attachment D also shows the same large Biodiversity zone to the immediate southwest of the proposed Project as a “Management Area,” which are designed to integrate and balance extractive resource use, while protecting or sustaining identified resource values. There are no excluded uses under this designation, but specific objectives may be developed for management within these zones. This Management Area was indicated as potentially including specific plans for Kermode bear management, cultural management, a cedar stewardship area, and special forest management.

16.9 Economy

The economy of the S1/2 Tsimpsean reserve, the primary Metlakatla reserve, is mostly service-oriented with the public sector accounting for more than 50% of all employment (Skeena Native Development Society (SNDS) (BC Stats 2006b). It was found that 17% of employment is related to fisheries with a significant decline from 2003. The public sector provided the majority (58%) of employment among Metlakatla and Lax Kw’alaams Band members. In 2003, the Metlakatla and Lax Kw’alaams Band signed a forestry accommodation agreement with the province, entitling them to 650,000 cubic metres (m³) of timber, and over \$6,000,000 in shared revenues over five years (BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (BC MARR) 2008). Other economic development initiatives include projects related to cruise ship tourism, eco-tourism (e.g., grizzly bear viewing, whale watching), and shellfish aquaculture (BC MARR 2008).

The Metlakatla Development Corporation (MDC) acts as the independent business arm for the Aboriginal group. Established in 1989, the MDC owns and operates a number of local ventures (MDC 2011), including:

- Metlakatla Forestry Corporation;
- First Nations Training and Development Centre;
- Metlakatla Ferry Services Ltd.;
- North Co-op Ferry Services Ltd.;
- Grassy Bay Services Ltd.;
- Seashore Charters Ltd. (eco-tourism and cultural tours); and
- Northland Marine Sales and Service Ltd.

In 2006, unemployment was 29% (i.e., 35 people), compared to 15.8% in Prince Rupert and Port Edward. Unemployed band members rely on seasonal work as an important income source. The labour force participation rate for the Aboriginal population aged 15 and over on S1/2 Tsimpsean reserve was about 57.1% in 1996 and 2006 (SC 2007a). Per capita earnings for Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams residents were \$6,071 compared to \$17,130 for Prince Rupert residents. Twice as many residents between the ages of 20 and 34 in Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla had less than a high school graduation certification than compared to Prince Rupert and Port Edward (BC Stats 2007a).