



**NAHWEGAHBOW
CORBIERE** GENOODMAGEJIG
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

ADVOCATING FOR OUR NATIONS. FIRST.

David C. Nahwegahbow, IPC, LSM, LL.B
Dianne G. Corbiere IPC, H.B.S.W., LL.B

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nncfirm.ca

5884 Rama Road, Suite 109, Rama, ON L3V 6H6

7 April 2022

Ms. Debra Sikora, Chair, Joint Review Panel
Joint Review Panel for the Marathon Palladium Project
c/o Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0H3

VIA EMAIL: marathonminereview-examenminemarathon@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Sikora,

Re: Extension and Closing Remarks (relative to Undertaking #31 described in CIAR # 1244)

This is a further comment on the joint Generation PGM Inc. (GenPGM) and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg request for a four-week extension to the public hearing procedure.

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg requests the ability to make supplemental closing submissions regarding GenPGM's Undertaking 31 response, on or before the date of GenPGM's Undertaking 31 response filing.

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg respectfully opposes the Panel unilaterally delaying the entire hearing process by delaying the closing remarks for approximately 50 participants to comment on matters that will disproportionately impact Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

The extension request, as agreed to by GenPGM and BN, has one purpose: to give GenPGM and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg the time to engage on commitments specific to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg was clear in its presentation on April 6 that it has numerous Undertaking 31 matters that require extensive engagement with GenPGM. These matters address concerns that are, for the most part, specific to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. They include GenPGM supports to the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg community fish hatchery, and the potential for post-closure discharges into the Biigtig-Zibi, or Pic River. These matters will disproportionately, if not exclusively, affect Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

Accordingly, opening the delayed period for closing remarks by multiple participants could prejudice Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. Leaving aside the potential complications of timing and further extension requests by other participants, instead of GenPGM and BN focusing exclusively on commitments to BN, an expanded and delayed closing period would be split between preparing closing remarks and commitments for all participants, thereby diluting the serious, and articulated, concerns of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

With Respect,

<Original signed by>

Sincerely,
NAHWEGAHBOW, CORBIERE

Per: Alain Bartleman, Associate
<email address removed>