

## PREFACE TO THE APPLICATION / EIS

KGHM Ajax Mining Inc. (KAM) is proposing to develop the Ajax Project (the Project) located in the Thompson Nicola Regional District, in the south-central interior of British Columbia (BC). The proposed Project will be an open pit copper and gold mine. The proposed mine plan for the Project predicts an operation based on a mill throughput of 65,000 tonnes of ore per day. Total material movement from the pit is estimated at approximately 90 Mt on an average annual basis. Average annual production of the mine is estimated at 140 million pounds of copper and up to 130,000 ounces of gold in concentrate, based on a conceptual mine plan supplying up to 24 million tonnes of ore per year to the mill. For the purpose of the environmental assessment these rates have been assumed for a mine life of 23 years.

The Project is subject to a review under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act* (BC EAA; 2002), and the transition provisions of the federal *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012; 2012). The BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) initiated the provincial environmental assessment (EA) process by issuing an Order under section 10 of the BC EAA on February 25, 2011. The Order confirmed that “the proposed Project constitutes a reviewable project pursuant to Part 3 of the Reviewable Projects Regulation (BC Reg 370/2002), since the proposed project is a new mine facility that, during operations, will have a production capacity of 75,000 tonnes or more per year of mineral ore”. A section 11 Order was issued by the BC EAO on January 11, 2012, and subsequent Section 13 Order on July 23, 2015, which established the scope, procedures and methods for the EA of the proposed Project.

The federal EA process for the Project was initiated on May 31 2011, under the former *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (1992; amended in July 2010 by the *Jobs and Economic Growth Act* [2010]), as a comprehensive study. Pursuant to transition provisions under CEAA 2012, comprehensive studies commenced under CEAA 1992 are to be continued as if CEAA 1992 had not been repealed, and are subject to any CEAA regulations in force at that time, including the *Establishing Timelines for Comprehensive Study Regulations* (SOR/2011-139). The Project will continue as a comprehensive study under the former CEAA (1992) as it is a listed project in the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* (SOR/94-638). The Project has triggers under Section 5 of CEAA 1992 since it is anticipated that it will require a *Fisheries Act* (1985) authorization from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), as well as an explosives licence from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) under the *Explosives Act* (1985).

This document represents both the Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate (Application) pursuant to the BC EAA and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to CEAA 1992. The Application/EIS is being submitted to the BC EAO and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) to meet the requirements of the BC EAA and CEAA 1992.

This Application/EIS has been developed pursuant to the revised Application Information Requirements/Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines (AIR/EISg) approved by the BC EAO and CEA Agency in July 2015, and complies with the scope of the Project described in the Section 11

and 13 Orders of the BC EAA and as described in the Background Information scoping document issued by the CEA Agency in relation to the Project. The AIR/EISg were approved after considering comments from federal and provincial government agencies, local governments, Aboriginal Groups, and the public. The AIR/EISg identifies the provincial information that must be included in the Application/EIS, and identifies the comprehensive study requirements under CEAA 1992 as communicated by the CEA Agency and the federal authorities involved in the review of the Project.

The BC EAO and the CEA Agency established the EA Working Group for the Project and began having Project-related meetings on April 27, 2011. Members of the EA Working Group include representatives of Aboriginal Groups and local, provincial, and federal government agencies, as shown in Table 1. All of Working Group members have reviewed and/or provided feedback which has been used to inform the development of the Application/EIS. Technical experts involved in the development of the Application/EIS are listed in the Acknowledgements section. The public has also had opportunities via public comment periods and proponent-led engagement activities to provide input into the EA process, which has been integrated into the Application/EIS.

**Table 1. Working Group Members**

Type	Organization
Provincial agencies	BC EAO
	Ministry of Energy and Mines
	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
	Ministry of Environment
	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
	Interior Health Authority
	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Federal agencies	CEA Agency
	Environment Canada
	Canadian Wildlife Service
	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
	Transport Canada
	Natural Resources Canada
	Health Canada
Local government	City of Kamloops
	Thompson-Nicola Regional District
Aboriginal Groups	TK'emlups te Secwepemc (Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation)
	Skeetchestn Indian Band (Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation)
	Ashcroft Indian Band
	Lower Nicola Indian Band
	Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band
	Métis Nation British Columbia

## REFERENCES

1985. *Explosives Act*. R.S.C., 1985, c. E-17.

1985. *Fisheries Act*. R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14.

1992. *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 1992*. S.C. 1992, c. 37.

2002. *Environmental Assessment Act*. SBC 2002, c. 43.

2012. *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52.

1994. Comprehensive Study List Regulations. SOR/94-638.

2002. Reviewable Projects Regulation. BC Reg 370/2002.

2011. Establishing Timelines for Comprehensive Studies Regulations. SOR/2011-139.