

# 1. PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

## 1.1 PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF DOCUMENT

### 1.1.1 Purpose of Document

This document outlines KGHM Ajax Mining Inc.'s (KAM) plan for the resource development of the proposed Ajax Project (the Project), an open pit copper and gold mine located south of the city of Kamloops, British Columbia (BC).

The Project is subject to review under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* (BC EAA; 2002). The proposed mine facility constitutes a reviewable project pursuant to Part 3 of the Reviewable Projects Regulation (BC Reg. 370/2002), since the proposed mining facility will have a production capacity of 75,000 tonnes or more of mineral ore per year.

The Project is also subject to review under the former *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA; 1992) as a comprehensive study. Based on the Comprehensive Study List Regulations (SOR/94-638), the Project is a proposed metal mine, other than a gold mine, with an ore production capacity of 3,000 tonnes per day or more, as well as a proposed gold mine that exceeds the ore production capacity threshold of 600 tonnes per day, and proposes construction of a metal mill that is anticipated to exceed the ore input capacity threshold of 4,000 tonnes per day. While the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) came into force on July 6, 2012, the Project was already underway when the new legislation came into force, and therefore it is subject to the transition provisions as set out in CEAA 2012 and it will continue to be assessed under the former Act as if the former Act had not been repealed. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) has determined that the Project is subject to federal review because it is anticipated to require authorization from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (*Fisheries Act* [1985b]) and a licence from Natural Resources Canada under the *Explosives Act* (1985a).

The information, analyses, and findings of this document "Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate/Environmental Impact Statement (Application/EIS) for the Ajax Project" are intended to satisfy both the provincial and federal requirements such that environmental assessment (EA) approvals are issued, allowing KAM to develop the Project. As described in further detail in Sections 4.4 and 4.5 of this Application/EIS, a detailed review of the Application/EIS will be overseen by the BC EAO and the CEA Agency. Approval at the provincial level is a joint decision of the Minister of Energy and Mines and the Minister of Environment. For the federal process, the Federal Minister of the Environment will make a decision pursuant to section 23 of the former CEAA, including consideration of a comprehensive study report prepared by the CEA Agency, public comments, and identified mitigation measures.

## 1.1.2 Organization of Document

The Application/EIS has been developed to fulfill all of the requirements of the Application Information Requirements (AIR)/EIS Guidelines, jointly issued by the BC Environmental Assessment Office and the CEA Agency (BC EAO 2015). The Application/EIS is organized as follows.

### 1.1.2.1 Part A: Introduction and Background

- Chapter 1 – Purpose of the Application / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Chapter 2 – Project Overview
- Chapter 3 – Detailed Project Description
- Chapter 4 – Assessment Process (including Information Distribution/Consultation)

The chapters of Part A make clear the purpose of the Application/EIS and summarize the structure of the Application/EIS. A general overview of the Project is also provided including Project benefits, specific location and regional setting, the potential alternative means of developing the Project that have been considered along with the preferred approach that is fully assessed in the Application/EIS.

Details regarding the Project Description are presented in Part A, as well as the details available for the plan for Project closure and reclamation. Lastly, Chapter 4 of Part A describes the regulatory framework and assessment process specific to the Project, and summarizes the Aboriginal, public, and government agency information distribution and consultation undertaken for the Project.

### 1.1.2.2 Part B: Assessment of Potential Effects, Mitigation, Residual Effects Significance

- Chapter 5 – Effects Assessment Methodology
- Chapters 6 through 10 – Assessment of Potential Effects, Mitigation Measures, and Significance of Residual Effects
- Chapter 11 – Summary of Proposed Environmental and Operational Management Plans

Details outlining the specific methods used to identify potential interactions of the Project with Valued Components (VCs), and to assess potential effects of the Project on each VC is given in Chapter 5. This methodology describes how the significance of any effects is to be characterized, the identification of residual effects and the assessment of cumulative effects.

Chapters 6 through 10 identify the VCs as derived from baseline data collection and stakeholder engagement, and describe the existing biophysical, economic, social, heritage, and health environments for each VC. Within each chapter, the potential effects of the Project are assessed and significance of potential residual effects is evaluated.

Chapter 11 describes the context for how mitigation and monitoring measures would be implemented during execution of the Project, and the system that would be in place to ensure compliance.

### 1.1.2.3 *Part C: Aboriginal Groups Information Requirements*

- Chapter 12 – Background and Aboriginal Group Settings
- Chapter 13 – Aboriginal Interests (Rights and Title)
- Chapter 14 – Other Potential Effects on Aboriginal Interests
- Chapter 15 – Procedural Aspects of Aboriginal Consultation
- Chapter 16 – Summary

These chapters identify the Aboriginal Groups named (section 11 and 13 Orders) with specific interests in the Project, and provide available information on each group pertaining to ethnography, language, land use, governance, economy, health, communities, and traditional land use. Also provided is the proponent's analysis of Aboriginal rights, title and interests that could potentially be affected by the Project, and a summary of all pre-application and proposed Application/EIS review stage consultation activities.

### 1.1.2.4 *Part D: Federal Information Requirements*

Consistent with AIR/EIS Guideline requirements, Chapter 17 summarizes the environmental effects, mitigations, residual effects, assessment of significance and cumulative effects assessments presented in Part B and the Aboriginal engagement presented in Part C. Federal components, alternatives to and alternative means of carrying out the project, follow up programs, capacity of renewable resources and benefits to Canadians are also part of the Federal Information Requirements.

Chapter 17 includes the identification of potential accidents/malfunction scenarios, an analysis of potential environmental effects associated with major environmental events (such as storms, floods or wildfire), and information related to the Project's ability to manage and mitigate these events.

### 1.1.2.5 *Part E: Conclusions*

This section presents a summary of the residual environmental effects, the key commitments made by KAM with respect to development of the Project, and the conclusions for the Application/EIS detailing the Proponent's understanding of the EA process to minimize environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health effects and effects on Aboriginal rights, title and interests while striving to promote employment and sustainable resource development.

Appendices included at the end of each chapter provide the supporting studies and other pertinent documentation relevant to the review of the Application/EIS document.

## REFERENCES

1985a. *Explosives Act*, RSC. C. E-17.

1985b. *Fisheries Act*, RSC. C. F-14.

1992. *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, SC. C. 37 (Repealed or spent).

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

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

Reviewable Projects Regulation, BC Reg. 370/2002.

Comprehensive Study List Regulations, SOR/94-638.