
HAMMOND REEF GOLD PROJECT RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON FINAL EIS/EA

COMMENT –T-63

Source: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Summary of Comment

It is noted that MTCS comment (MTCS-4) identified that cultural heritage resources have not been fully considered, especially for the two historic mining operations at the project site.

This information is needed to have a clear understanding of the potential cultural heritage importance of the two historic mining operations and how the impacts can be mitigated.

Proposed Action

Evaluate the cultural heritage landscapes for the two historic mining operations and describe the impact the project may have on the two historic mining operations in greater detail, as well as any proposed mitigation measures. .

Reference to EIS

Cultural Heritage Resources TSD

Response

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been completed to address the recommendation from the MTCS. A Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) and HIA have been combined into a single HIA document that is *attached and provided in Part D of the Addendum to the Version 3 EIS/EA as Attachment 2 of the Final EIS/EA Report Addendum.*

A CHER determines whether a property is of cultural heritage value. If the property is determined to be of cultural heritage value, the report concludes with a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value. If the property will be impacted by new development, a recommendation is made to prepare an HIA. An HIA includes all of the information and analysis required to prepare a CHER plus a description of the proposed undertaking, its impacts on the cultural resource, and recommendations for mitigation of adverse impacts to the cultural resource.

The HIA followed the methodology described in *Guidelines for Heritage Impact Assessments* (Ontario. Ministry of Culture, *Toolkit: Heritage Resources in the Land Use Planning Process*). The interpretation of the properties was guided by the United States National Register of Historic Places *Bulletin #42, Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating and Registering Historic Mining Properties.*

The HIA identified two historic mine sites within the Project study area: the Sawbill Mine and the Hammond Mine. The HIA determined that the evolution of the Sawbill Mine represents a typical example of small scale mining in the 1890s and 1930s gold mining eras in northwestern Ontario. The surface remnants of the shafts, pits and trenches, the ruins of the mill building and engine, and the evidence of former tramway trace the location of the mining operation; primarily of the 1930s era.

The Hammond Mine represents an example of the mining activity of the c. 1890s during the first gold-mining era in northwestern Ontario. The mine adit does not seem to have been required at other local mining properties and therefore appears to be a relatively uncommon mine landscape feature. The remnant of the dams and

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reservoir appear to represent a greater investment in mine infrastructure than was typical in other local mining ventures.

The Project could impact these two historic mine sites through the demolition of portions of the resources during the construction phase and accidental damage to the resources immediately outside the Project footprint during the operation of the mine; the Sawbill Mine is located close to the mine access road and the waste rock stockpile; the Hammond Mine is located within the mining area of the East Pit and will be removed during the life of the mining operation. The HIA recommended that a documentation programme be undertaken of these historic sites prior to Project construction. This documentation programme was completed in October 2014 and field crews photographically documented and mapped the historic mine sites. This documentation is provided in Appendix A of the HIA and will be deposited with the appropriate libraries and institutions prior to disturbance of the historic mine features.