

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PREFACE TO THE APPLICATION..... 1**

## **PREFACE TO THE APPLICATION**

New Gold Inc. (Proponent) is proposing to develop the proposed Blackwater Gold Project (the Project). The proposed Project is located approximately 110 kilometres (km) south of Vanderhoof (straight-line distance) in central British Columbia (BC) and entails an open pit gold and silver mine and associated ore processing facilities with a nominal milling rate capacity of 60,000 tonnes per day (t/d) (22 million tonnes per year (Mt/y)) over 17 years. In order to determine the need for an Environmental Assessment (EA), the Project Description was provided to and accepted by both the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency) in November 2012 (AMEC Environment & Infrastructure (AMEC), 2012).

The Project is subject to review under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* (BC EAA) (Government of BC, 2002a), which is administered by the BC EAO. Pursuant to Part 3 of the *Reviewable Projects Regulation* (Government of BC, 2002b), a review is required for the Project because it would constitute a new mine facility with a production capacity greater than 75,000 tonnes per year (t/y) of mineral ore. On 9 July 2013, the BC EAO issued an Order under section 11 of the BC EAA describing the formal provincial scope, procedures, and methods concerning the provincial review of the Project's EA. On 13 March 2014, BC EAO issued a section 13 Order stating that an off-site transload facility and rail spur lines that were originally part of the project components in the section 11 Order are no longer considered as project components. The Application Information Requirements (AIR) for the Project were approved by BC EAO on 15 May 2014. The AIR specifies the information needed to conduct a provincial EA, and these specifications are provided by the Proponent in the Application. This Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate/Environmental Impact Statement (Application) has been developed pursuant to the AIR approved by BC EAO with input from the Agency and complies with the requirements of the AIR and the Order under section 11 of the BC EAA.

The Project is also subject to review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA, 2012) (Government of Canada, 2012a), and the completion of a federal EA review process is required prior to the construction of the Project. Pursuant to paragraphs 15(c) of the *CEAA 2012: Regulations Designating Physical Activities* (Government of Canada, 2012b), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required because the Project involves the construction, operation, decommissioning, and abandonment of a gold mine with an ore production capacity greater than 600 t/d. On 19 February 2013, the Agency issued the EIS Guidelines for preparation of an EIS for an EA conducted, as a standard assessment, pursuant to the *CEAA, 2012*, outlining the federal information requirements for the preparation of the EIS, which were finalized with the benefit of comments received from federal departments, Aboriginal groups, and the public. This EIS complies with the requirements of the EIS Guidelines.

The principles of the Canada–BC Agreement for Environmental Assessment Cooperation (BC EAO and the Agency, 2004) will be carried out for the proposed Project in the form of a coordinated federal–provincial process. Under this framework, a single report titled “Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate/Environmental Impact Statement” has been prepared to inform both the Provincial and Federal EA processes.

## BLACKWATER GOLD PROJECT

APPLICATION FOR AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE /  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PREFACE



In developing the Application, the Proponent considered the results of early project-related consultation and BC EAO and the Agency requirements to assist with the scoping of the Provincial and Federal EA processes. **Section 3** details the assessment process for this Application. The list of regulatory authorities (federal and provincial), community groups, local authorities, landowners and land or resource users, and Aboriginal groups having an interest in the Project, and with whom the Proponent has consulted or engaged or intends to consult or engage throughout the development and review of the Application, are listed below and are also shown in various tables in **Section 3**. The Proponent in this Application is responsible for ensuring compliance with all of the information requirements identified in the approved AIR and EIS Guidelines.

### **Stakeholders**

#### **Provincial Government**

BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (BC MARR)  
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands BC Ministry of Agriculture  
BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
BC Ministry of Energy and Mines (BC MEM)  
BC Ministry of Environment (BC MOE)  
BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas (BC MEMNG)

BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (BC MFLNRO)  
BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training  
BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (BC MOTI)  
British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO)  
Front Counter BC  
Northern Health Authority (NHA)

#### **Federal Government**

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency)  
Environment Canada (EC)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)  
Health Canada (HC)  
Major Projects Management Office (MPMO)  
Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)  
Transport Canada (TC)

#### **Local Government**

Burns Lake Community Health Centre  
Bulkley-Nechako Regional District  
Cariboo Regional District  
City of Prince George  
City of Quesnel  
District of Fort St. James

District of Vanderhoof  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
School District 91  
Village of Burns Lake  
Village of Fraser Lake

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APPLICATION FOR AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE /  
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PREFACE



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### ***Landowners and Land/Resource Users***

Canadian Forest Products  
CTN Ranching Ltd.  
L&M Lumber Limited  
Laidman Lake Ecologde  
Moose Lake Lodge  
Rim Rock Ranch

Range Tenure holder RAN0772381  
Tatelkuz Lake Ranch Resort  
TTM Resources Ltd.  
Landowner of lot 124R4C  
West Fraser Mills Ltd.

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### ***Other Stakeholders***

BC Forest Safe Council  
BC Institute of Technology  
BC Trappers Association  
BC Wildlife Federation  
Caledonia Courier  
College of New Caledonia  
Community Futures Stuart Nechako Ecosystem  
Restoration Committee  
Gord Armstrong (ARO Auto/Industrial)  
Guide outfitters and trappers potentially affected by  
project footprint  
Gulbranson Logging Ltd.  
Lakes District Community Services

The Nature Trust of BC  
Nechako Environment and Watershed Stewardship  
Society  
Nechako Valley Cattlemen's Association  
Nechako Valley Historical Society  
Nechako Valley Sporting Association  
Nechako Waste Reduction Initiative  
University of British Columbia  
University of Victoria  
Upper Nechako Wilderness Council  
Vanderhoof and District Chamber of Commerce  
Vanderhoof International Air Show Society  
West Chilcotin Tourism Association

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### ***Aboriginal Groups***

Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation  
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation  
Nazko First Nation  
Saik'uz First Nation  
Skin Tyee Nation

Stellat'en First Nation  
Ulkatcho First Nation  
Tsilhqot'in National Government  
Métis Nation BC