



File: 30200-20/ALMI-10

Ref: 104544

October 2, 2014

SENT VIA EMAIL

Ron Hallman
President
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Ron.Hallman@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Hallman:

I am writing to you to request substitution pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012* (CEAA 2012) and our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Substitution of Environmental Assessments (2013).

Aley Corporation Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Taseko Mines Limited, proposes to construct and operate an open-pit niobium mine with a production capacity of 10,000 tonnes per day for an estimated 27 years, approximately 130 kilometres north of Mackenzie, British Columbia.

In accordance with section 3 of the MOU, British Columbia requests substitution for the environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed Aley Mine Project (Aley Mine) under CEAA 2012. If substitution is approved by Minister Aglukkaq, British Columbia commits to fulfil the conditions for substitution under CEAA 2012 in accordance with section 4 of the MOU.

In addition, should Minister Aglukkaq request that British Columbia undertake procedural aspects of aboriginal consultation on behalf of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency) for the Aley Mine, British Columbia would be prepared to undertake that responsibility in accordance with section 5 and the Annex of the MOU.

.../2

The Aley Mine is reviewable under the British Columbia *Reviewable Projects Regulation* (BC Reg. 720/02) and a section 10 Order was issued on September 19, 2014 requiring the Proponent to undergo a provincial EA.

I understand that a Project Description for the Aley Mine was submitted to the Agency on September 29, 2014 and I am aware that the Agency must first accept the Project Description and determine whether a federal EA is required before it can respond to this request for substitution.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible regarding Minister Aglukkaq's decision on this request for substitution.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Doug Caul
Associate Deputy Minister

cc: Lisa Walls, Regional Director, Pacific and Yukon Region
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