

## **3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **3.1 Introduction**

AMNS believes that engagement is a critical component of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and has dedicated significant efforts and resources to develop meaningful, two-way relationships with stakeholders and rightsholders. Engagement is important to resolve problems, create a shared understanding with local stakeholders and rightsholders, and build trust around projects that may be controversial. Engagement can also help communities and stakeholders seize and build upon opportunities that the mine project may present. AMNS is committed to working with stakeholders and rightsholders throughout the EA process and life of mine.

This section outlines the public engagement activities, tools, and commitments related to the Project. The section establishes the objectives for community engagement, the specific tools used in the engagement strategy, the public engagement activities that have occurred to date, the concerns that have arisen resulting from engagement activities and any mitigation measures.

#### **3.1.1 Summary of Public Engagement Before the Updates**

AMNS began engagement specifically for the Project in 2015, which provided input into the identification of valued components, and identified key concerns for stakeholders and rightsholders. This engagement was summarized in the original 2017 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submission (AGC 2017).

In 2018, AMNS established a variety of engagement tools to improve stakeholder communication and engagement. These included a Community Liaison Committee (CLC; the mandate of the Touquoy Mine CLC was expanded to include Beaver Dam in 2018 [Appendix A.3]), community relations email and dedicated phone line, a community newsletter and a website. AMNS conducted engagements with stakeholder organizations that included the Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA), the Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Shore Forestry Watch Association (ESFWA).

#### **3.1.2 Summary of Updates to Public Engagement**

This update includes activities, initiatives and concerns that occurred after the submission of the Revised 2019 EIS (AMNS 2019) and in response to Round 2, Information Requests (IR2s). AMNS conducted a supplementary engagement program in 2020, which identified additional areas of concern for some members of the public not identified through the previous engagement activities described in Section 3.1.1 and provided updates on technical conclusions. This engagement included:

- Meeting and discussions with ATV and snowmobiling groups: ATV Association of Nova Scotia, Pleasant Valley Upper Musquodoboit (PUMA) ATV Club, Sheet Harbour ATV Snowmobile and ATV Club and the Lake Charlotte ATV Club. Engagements including initial meetings to identify concerns, a validation meeting where the input of the Clubs was reviewed, and various emails and calls to discuss potential bypass route options.
- Mooseland and Area Community Association meetings. There were three in-person meetings held with representatives of the Association, including a validation meeting where the input of MACA was reviewed for accuracy. There also has been regular email and phone communication.
- Rocky Brook Lake resident online meeting to discuss the Beaver Dam Mine Project, review proposed bypass roads and to identify recreational usage.
- Individual stakeholder meetings – Although AMNS attempted to hold a community meeting in Mooseland, this was not possible due to COVID-19 public health restrictions. AMNS went door to door within the community of Mooseland.

An up-to-date public engagement database is provided as Appendix A.4a.

AMNS recent discussions with Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) in 2019 and 2020 to engage their input on the proposed BDM Project Description and how best AMNS can accommodate their ongoing important mitigation and research on the Killag River and adjacent watersheds. Recent engagements include a meeting on September 9, 2020 to provide an infrastructure update, introduce EEM monitoring and data collection. Notes were shared from this meeting and follow up phone call occurred on November 30, 2020. The NSSA communicated in December 2020 that they did not want to engage with AMNS at this time. AMNS sent a follow up letter on March 2, 2021 seeking clarification on the NSSA's Current and Future Programs (Appendix A.4b), AMNS reached out to confirm our understanding of cumulative effects and potential interactions with NSSA's existing and future plans in the area (Appendix A.4b). On August 11, 2021, the NSSA declined an invitation to meet with AMNS representatives. AMNS values a cooperative relationship with NSSA and look for opportunities where we can support their work and also share information and data. AMNS will continue to reach out to the NSSA regarding the Project.

AMNS has contacted the Eastern Shore Forestry Watch Association (ESFWA) President Barb Markowitz to communicate that AMNS will address their IRs and are open to a follow-up meeting to discuss the Project. AMNS plans to reach out to ESFWA to review responses and answer follow-up questions.

AMNS prepared a draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6) in 2021 which will guide engagement over the life of the mine. AMNS would like to review the draft Public Engagement Plan before finalizing. A summary of updates to the public engagement are presented in Table 3.1-1.

**Table 3.1-1: Updated Subsections from the 2019 Revised Environmental Impact Statement for Public Engagement**

2019 Revised EIS Submission (February 28, 2019)	Updated in 2021	Corresponding 2021 EIS Update Section Number	Reason for Update
-	-	3.1 Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>new</li> </ul>
3.1 Objective	Yes	3.2 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>included list of objectives for the Public Engagement Plan</li> </ul>
-	-	3.3 Spatial Boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>new included as indicated in IR2s from ESFWA (ESFWA 2-22)</li> </ul>
3.2 Engagement Strategy	Yes	3.4 Engagement Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included additional detail regarding AMNS public engagement strategy (ESFWA 2-14b, ESFWA 2-20 and ESFWA 2-22)</li> <li>Included description and reference to AMNS Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6) included description regarding Complaint Resolution Plan and Form (Appendix 2 of Appendix A.6)</li> </ul>
3.3 Regulatory Consultation	No	3.5 Regulatory Consultation	-
3.4 Public Engagement Activities	Yes	3.6 Public Engagement Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates on CLC as indicated in IR2s from ESFWA (ESFWA 2-14b, ESFWA 2-20 and ESFWA 2-22)</li> <li>Updated to include additional detail regarding commitments from previous community stakeholder engagement meetings</li> <li>Added information on 2020 Beaver Dam Mine Project supplemental engagement and stakeholder meetings</li> </ul>
3.5 Key Issues Raised and Proponent Responses	Yes	3.7 Key Concerns Raised and Proponent Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included additional detail regarding key concerns from public engagement from 2015 to 2019</li> <li>Added information, key concerns and AMNS responses from the 2020 supplemental engagement</li> </ul>
3.6 Ongoing Community Engagement	Yes	3.8 Ongoing Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated to include public engagement commitments table</li> </ul>

Notes: AMNS = Atlantic Mining NS Inc.; CLC = Community Liaison Committee; ESFWA = Eastern Shore Forestry Watch Association; IR2 = Round 2, Information Requests; - = no update.

## 3.2 Objectives

AMNS is committed to stakeholder and rightsholders engagement as part of its Beaver Dam Mine Project. Using key values of openness, transparency, collaboration, and respect, AMNS has continued to work with the local community, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), regulatory agencies, and interested members of the public for over a decade. As part of the planning and permitting of the Touquoy Gold Mine, AMNS developed relationships with members of the local community and NGOs, such as the Moose River Gold Mine Museum Society. A CLC has been in place since 2011 (Appendix A.3).

Both federal and provincial EA legislation requires engagement with the public to recognize concerns about adverse effects of the environment and identification of steps taken by AMNS to address these concerns; therefore, these are specifically identified in the EIS related to the Project. Beyond the regulatory requirements, AMNS strongly believes that meaningful engagement is crucial to the success of any development. AMNS is committed to maintaining stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the Project; these activities extend well beyond the EA process.

The objectives of AMNS's draft Public Engagement Plan are:

- to listen and incorporate into the EIS the community knowledge gathered from stakeholders and rightsholders;
- to determine opportunities to include participation of stakeholders during the development and implementation of the follow up program and future management plans;
- to seek input and feedback on the spatial and temporal boundaries used by this EIS;
- to provide information to stakeholders, particularly those most potentially impacted by the Project;
- to build meaningful, two-way relationships with communities most impacted to address any current or potential future land use conflicts; and
- to gather and consider local and regional knowledge and expertise during construction, operations and post-closure.

## 3.3 Spatial Boundary




The draft Public Engagement Plan for AMNS's Beaver Dam Mine Project (Appendix A.6) recognizes the local communities, and the people who live in them which are located near the mine. The communities of Mooseland, River Lake, Jacket Lake, Pleasant Valley, Marinette, and Sheet Harbour are the primary areas for focused engagement. The Public Engagement Study Area was developed based on engagement efforts in 2020 with local community members who live, own seasonal dwellings or are affiliated with these communities (Figure 3.3-1). These communities use the lands in and around the mine site and the Haul Road extensively for recreational purposes, such as ATV usage, hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling (Figure 3.3-2).

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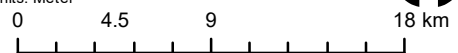
FIGURE 3.3-1

# Beaver Dam Mine Project Public Engagement Study Area

-  Local Community
-  Public Engagement Study Area
-  Project Area



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 20N  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Datum: North American 1983 CSRS  
 Units: Meter



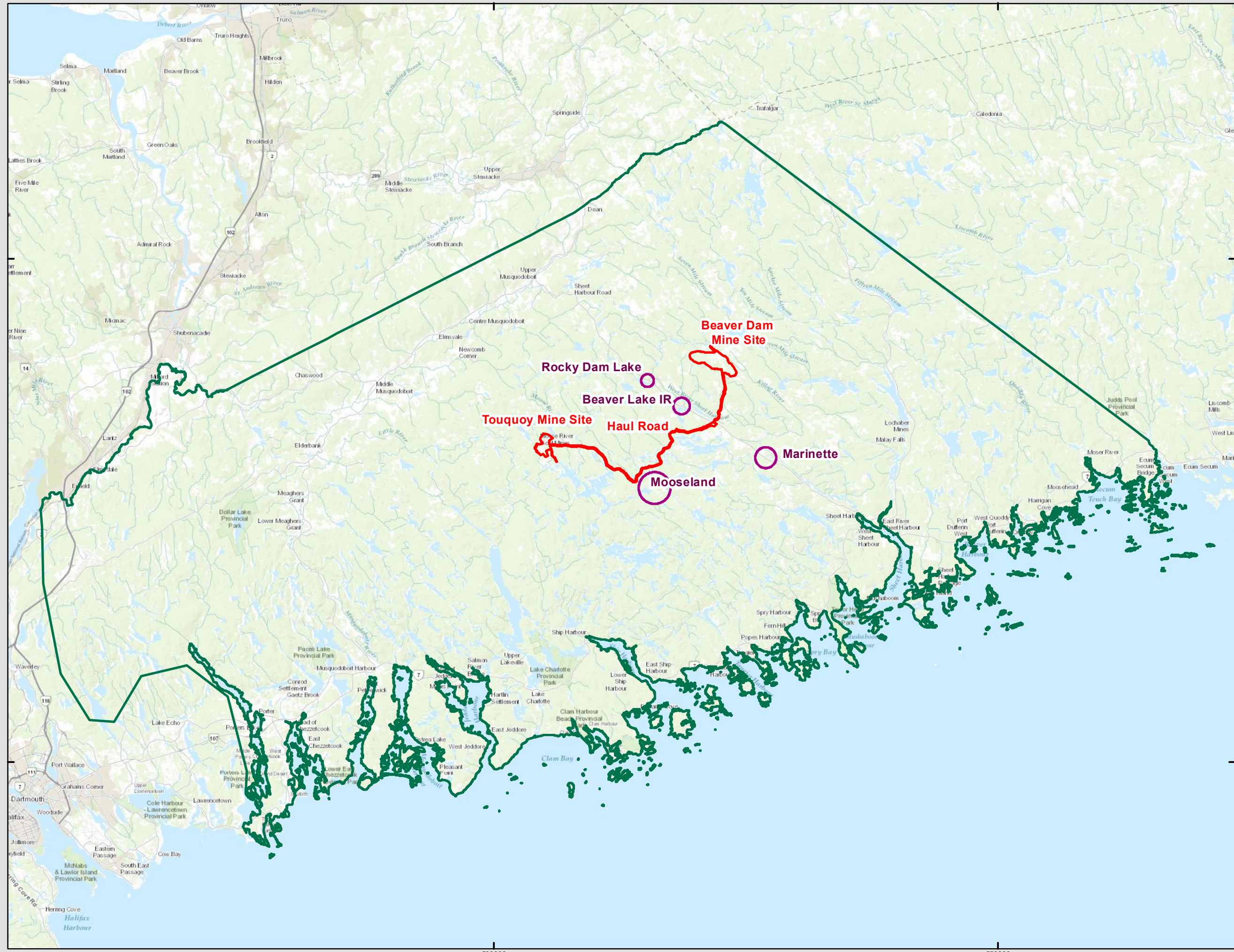
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**Atlantic Gold**

**FIGURE 3.3-2**

**Beaver Dam Mine Project  
Haul Road and Recreational**

- Secondary Access Point
- Stop Sign and Crossing Location
- Proposed Trail End
- Proposed Alternative ATV route
- Proposed Trail Connector
- Proposed Multi-use Bypass
- Haul Road Centerline
- ATVANS Active Trail
- Collector Road
- Local Road
- Seasonal Road
- Diveways (>300 m)
- Track
- Trail
- Streams
- Proposed Infrastructure
- Touquoy Infrastructure Layout
- Lakes
- Beaver Lake IR
- Proposed Property Boundary



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 20N  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Datum: North American 1983 CSRS  
 Units: Meter

0 0.75 1.5 3 Kilometers

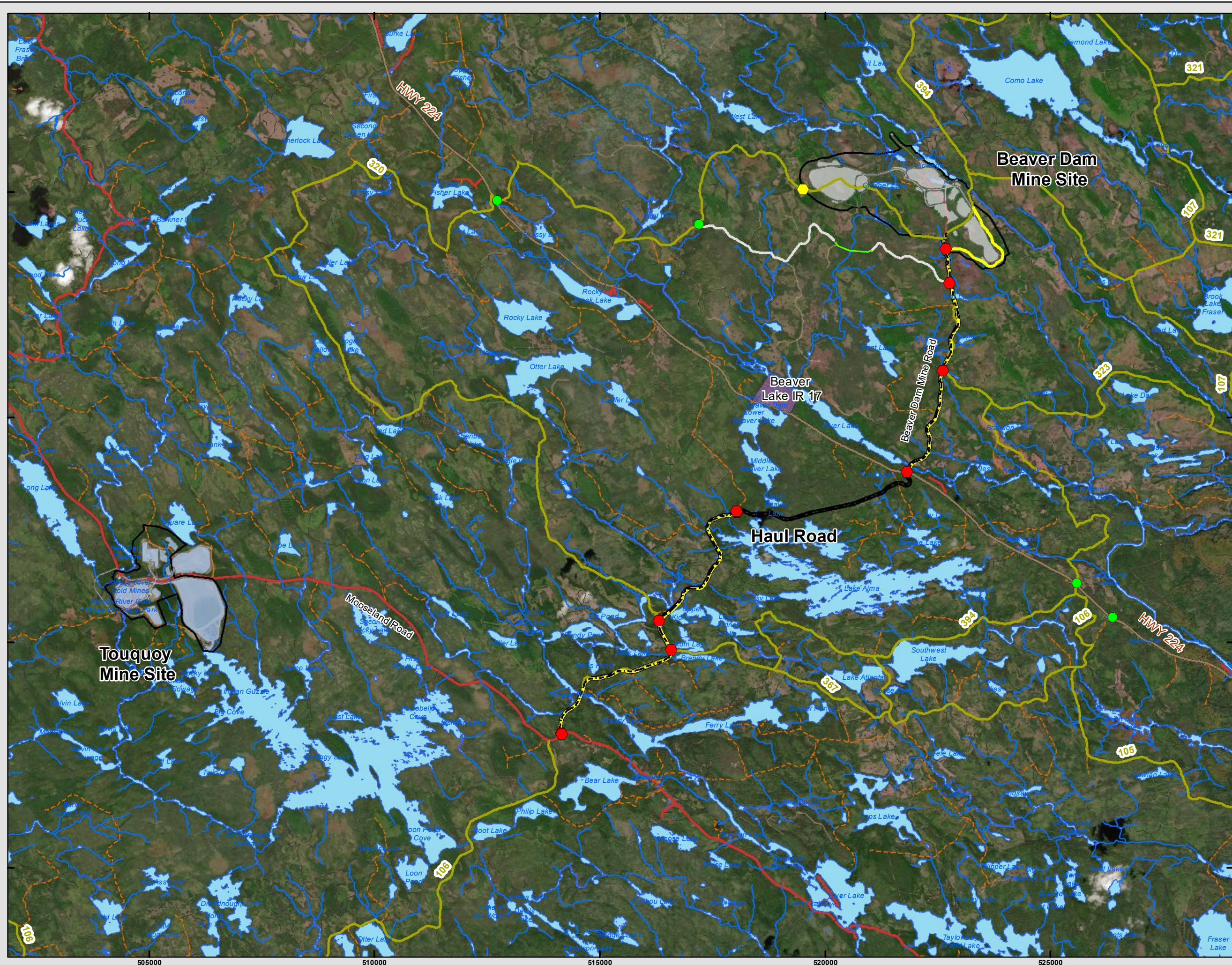
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 Reviewed By: LP

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### 3.4 Engagement Strategy

A community engagement strategy was developed by AMNS for the Project to guide engagement during preparation of the Project Description and the original 2017 EIS (AGC 2017). It set out the formal engagement activities that AMNS will undertake throughout all phases of its exploration activities and mining operations in Nova Scotia. This includes the development, operation and reclamation of the Project, which includes the permitted Touquoy Mine Site and the proposed Beaver Dam Mine Site. AMNS is also active in efforts to provide broader awareness relative to advanced exploration activities at Fifteen Mile Stream Gold Project and Cochrane Hill Gold Project.

A successful community engagement strategy provides flexibility to allow adaptation to the needs of the community. In 2016, AMNS developed its strategy for community engagement to coincide with the start of construction of the permitted Touquoy Mine and the development of the EA for the Project. AMNS drafted an updated comprehensive Public Engagement Plan to reflect changes in the Beaver Dam Mine Project since the initial engagement occurred in 2015 to 2016. This draft Public Engagement Plan is included in Appendix A.6.

The draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6) uses the values of St Barbara as its foundations to create meaningful, two-way conversations throughout the life of the mine. AMNS Corporate Values are:

**Figure 3.4-1: Atlantic Mining NS Inc. Corporate Values**



Note: AMNS Corporate Values are adopted from St Barbara Limited. AMNS is a wholly owned subsidiary of St Barbara Limited.

Engagement will occur according to an established process that includes several elements. The engagement elements are centred on an adaptive management approach for managing ongoing concerns and emerging issues. Adaptive management is a term that arose from the environmental field but also has applicability for general management principles. Essentially, it is the process of working with stakeholders to identify outcomes, implementing a particular course of action to meet that outcome, measuring the outcome and then making changes in an iterative way (adapting) as needed based on data and input received from stakeholders and other sources to reach the desired outcome.

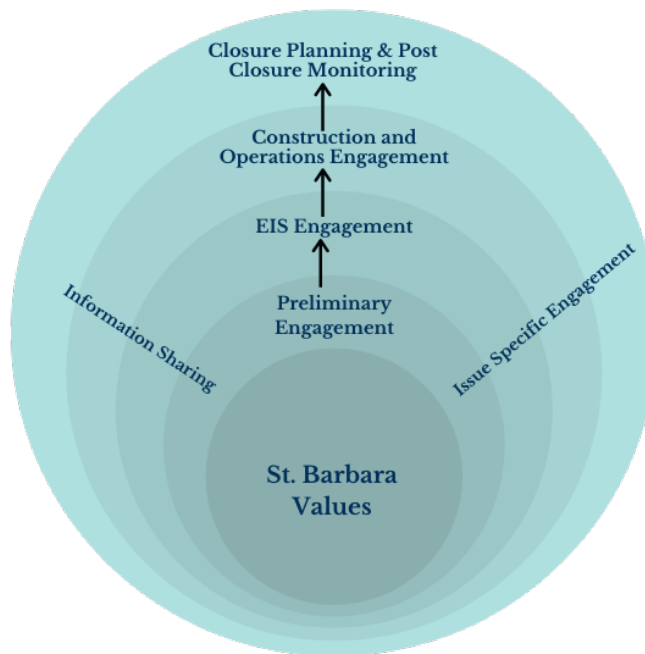
Using adaptive management principals, the Project will update and adjust its management plans to reflect what is being heard from stakeholders.

The draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6) outlines various engagement categories that generally, but not necessarily, link to the different phases of the mine (Figure 3.4-2). Information sharing and specific key concerns engagement occur throughout the mine life. This Public Engagement Plan will be reviewed and updated yearly, or as required, using the adaptive management approach.

The draft Public Engagement Plan identifies and groups stakeholders, outlines the reasons why each stakeholder group needs to be engaged, the frequency of the engagement and the engagement tools. AMNS has also identified indicators of success for engagement activities which link to the engagement objectives. The indicators of success will enable regular reporting, tracking, and evaluation of effectiveness of the draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6).

**Figure 3.4-2: Engagement Categories**

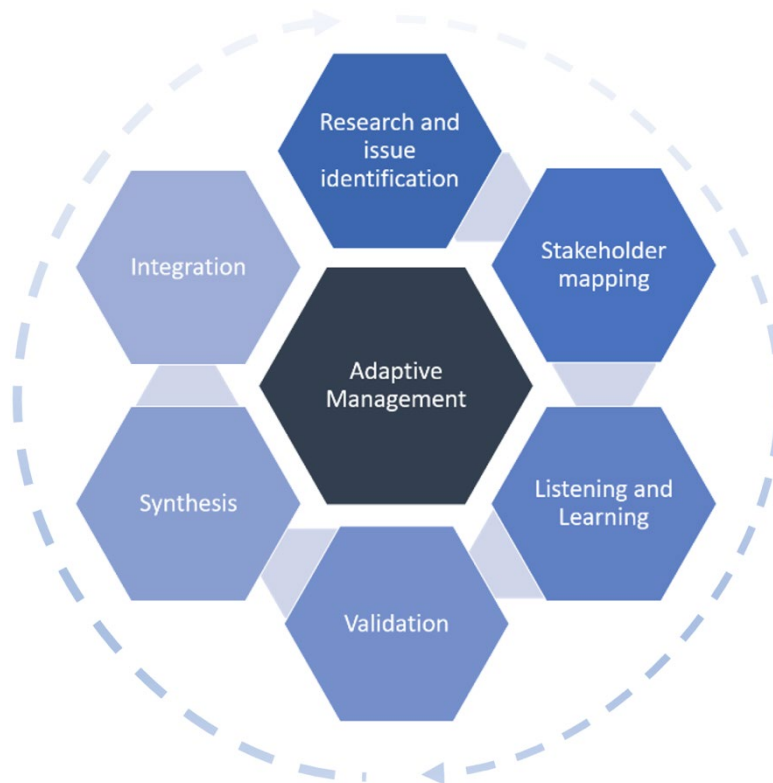
## Engagement Categories



### 3.4.1 Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is the process of working with stakeholders to identify outcomes, implementing a particular course of action to meet that outcome, measuring the outcome and then making changes in an iterative way (adapting) as needed based on data and input received from stakeholders and other sources to reach the desired outcome.

**Figure 3.4-3: Adaptive Management Cycle**



AMNS plans to integrate the adaptive management approach into their other mine projects, including Fifteen Mile Stream Gold and Cochrane Hill Gold projects as part of ongoing updates throughout the regulatory process. Environmental Assessments are intended to be iterative and updates to engagement plan for the Fifteen Mile Stream Gold and Cochrane Hill Gold projects are anticipated

AMNS has created its own adaptive management process, which includes the following steps:

- **Research and preliminary concern identification** – This basic information gathering includes understanding the history, context of the project, key sensitivities, and community and regional perspectives so that preliminary concerns can be identified for further discussion and exploration with the stakeholders.
- **Stakeholder mapping and identification** – At this stage, the “who needs to be contacted or communicated with” is determined. This allows for a fuller understanding of the stakeholder ecosystem.
- **Listening and Learning** – Through focused efforts to engage the initial list of stakeholders and identifying other stakeholders who were missed in the previous step, the project team will listen and learn. Key questions are asked, such as:
  - What is important to you about this project?



- Tell us about your community, organization or group? What is critical for you over the next few years? What do you value about your community?
  - What are your concerns about the project?
  - What additional information do you need to better understand the project? What information can you share to help us better understand your point of view?
  - How do you want to be involved? What is the best way to communicate with you?
  - How can Atlantic Gold support the work you are already doing? Are you active in the area of the proposed mine site?
  - What benefits, if any, do you hope your community, organization or group realizes from this project?
  - Are you interested in partnering around a potential key concern or project?
  - Who else should we talk to?
  - What does AMNS need to understand?
- **Validation** – Throughout and after the listening and learning, we will validate our understanding of what we heard through follow up communications, summary documents, and other validation tools.
  - **Synthesis** – The engagement perspectives and key concerns will be synthesized to identify themes, trends, areas of concerns and opportunities.
  - **Integration** – The engagement data will be integrated into the appropriate project category. This could include the EIS, construction, operation or post closure phase of the mine. It is through the integration step that changes and adaptations to plans, operations and activities will occur.

Engagement will occur to support adaptive management and will feed into planning and operational processes throughout the life of the mine.

### 3.4.2 Community Liaison Committee

Community engagement is important to AMNS and the CLC is one of its foundations. The CLC is diverse with representation from the surrounding communities; it was expanded to a nine-member CLC. The volunteer membership acts as an advisory board to AMNS. The CLC provides a mechanism for information exchange between communities and the company, as well as a forum to share questions, concerns, and input regarding the Touquoy Mine Site and the Beaver Dam Mine Site (Appendix A.3). The CLC meet quarterly with the potential for additional meetings depending on interest and Project developments.

The current members are: Charles Brown (Musquodoboit Harbour), Rick Deale (Middle Musquodoboit), Gilbert Fahie (Mooseland), Robin Webber (Oyster Pond) Gary Leslie (Upper Musquodoboit), Brice Kennedy (Tangier) and Barry Prest (Mooseland). The CLC is currently recruiting for members to bring the membership back to full.

A draft Terms of Reference for the CLC was developed and approved by the CLC on June 24, 2017 (Appendix A.3). The Terms of Reference sets out the governance for the CLC and defines its objective as an advisory body to AMNS with volunteer members representing local communities. On October 13, 2018 the CLC made a formal motion to include the Project in the Terms of Reference and will provide advice to AMNS on concerns related to this Project in addition to the Touquoy Mine. Fifteen Mile Stream Gold Project and Cochrane Hill Gold Project will have their own separate CLCs.

As defined in the Terms of Reference, guests, such as technical consultants or community groups, may be invited to the CLC meetings where topics of interest are planned. To date, the CLC has received presentations from Intrinsik Corp. on Metal and Dimond Mining Effluent Regulations (MDMER), Cyanco on Cyanide, and from a local community group (Eastern Shore Forestry Watch Association). In 2021, the CLC received a presentation from Reid Smith of Stantec on reclamation.

### **3.4.3 Open Houses and Town Hall Meetings**

Open houses allow a proponent to inform the general public about a proposed project, and conversely, interested members of the public have the opportunity to view information and speak directly with representatives of AMNS. This allows one-on-one discussions to answer questions of the visitor. For many members of the public, this can be a more comfortable form of communicating with AMNS than town hall type meetings.

The meetings can take many forms but usually involve information boards and displays showing the location of the proposed project in relation to nearby communities, fact and figures pertaining to the development, and an update of the general public on the status and progress of development activities, such as the EA and anticipated construction schedule.

Many open houses have been held as part of the Touquoy Gold Project over the past decade. In spring 2016, four meetings were held to update the local communities on the construction start of the Touquoy Gold Project and provide specific details on the proposed Project. In response to concerns on traffic potentially associated with the work at the Touquoy Gold Project, a town hall meeting was held in Mooseland in late 2016. AMNS attempted to organize an in-person open house in the community of Mooseland for the Beaver Dam Mine Project; however, with an outbreak of COVID in the fall of 2020 in the Halifax region that meeting was postponed. Additional details regarding the open house are provided in Section 3.6.1.

### **3.4.4 Presentations and Meetings with Local Community Groups**

AMNS has made presentations to many organizations, community groups and educational institutions on its exploration and mine development activities in Nova Scotia. To date, these organizations include but are not limited to, Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce, Council of the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, and engineering students at Dalhousie University. Depending on interest of community groups, AMNS will continue to make presentations to share information about its operations in Nova Scotia.

In 2020 and early 2021, AMNS undertook extensive engagement activities with local and provincial ATV groups, the Mooseland and Area Community Association, the Icelandic Heritage Society, a group from the Rocky Brook Lake area and individual landowners. The learnings from this most recent engagement are outlined in Sections 3.6, 3.7, and Appendix A.4a.

AMNS has and will continue to meet with local community groups in a smaller venue, including the ESFWA, Moose River Gold Mines Museum Society, and NSSA. Depending on interest of community groups as the Project develops, AMNS will continue to meet with community groups to provide information and respond to any concerns. This may include local ATV clubs, environmental groups, business development organizations and other interested community groups.

### **3.4.5 Community Bulletins (Newsletter)**

May 2018 AMNS launched a quarterly community bulletin (Appendix A.4c). The purpose of the bulletin is to keep the community informed about the AMNS activities, update the public on the status of all Project EAs, provide information on AMNS's activities in the local community and provide basic technical information on AMNS's projects. The bulletin will continue indefinitely so that community members are kept informed throughout all stages of the Project.

As of January 7, 2021, AMNS had 369 email addresses on its distribution list. AMNS has issued nine Community Bulletins, and seven Special Bulletins to announce things such as the public comments periods for the Fifteen Mile Stream and Cochrane Hill Gold Projects or special meetings. The June 22, 2021, bulletin was delivered to 345 people. The bulletin has also been forwarded by the initial recipients meaning the distribution network is wider than the initial recipients (Appendix A.4c).

### **3.4.6 Signage**

AMNS posts, and will post, signs at their Project sites with contact details and other general information. For example, in the instance of the Touquoy Mine, the blasting schedule is posted for public information. Working with local groups, such as the Moose River Gold Mine Museum Society, interpretative panels on AMNS Projects may be integrated into the Moose River Gold Mine Provincial Park.

AMNS will also work with the local community and ATV clubs to post signage along the Haul Road. A signage plan will be included in the Operational and Safety Management Plan for the Haul Road.

### **3.4.7 Website, Email, Phonenumber and other Digital Media**

AMNS has a website ([atlanticgold.ca](http://atlanticgold.ca)) where information on the Beaver Dam Mine Project can be found. The website continues to be populated with new information and AMNS intends for the website to be a hub of information for reference by the community.

The purpose of this website is to:

- inform and update the public about the Project;
- address community questions gathered from other communication channels; and
- provide information for further engagement.

The website provides a sign-up location for the quarterly community bulletin (newsletter) and provides access to meeting notes for the CLC.

AMNS has established a regularly monitored email address - [communityrelations@stbarbara.ca](mailto:communityrelations@stbarbara.ca) - specifically as a point of contact for the public.

AMNS will continue to monitor various social media channels for posts and comments regarding the Project. The purpose of this monitoring will be to check for information being shared regarding the Project, to better understand public questions and concerns, and to identify opportunities to engage. AMNS is evaluating opportunities to include social media platforms as well.

AMNS established a community phone line (902-391-4653) in March 2018 where the public can call/text when there are questions or concerns, or to request a meeting with a representative. This phone line is answered during business hours. This phone line has been advertised on the website, in all newsletters and on a business card given out to those who have expressed interest in further communicating with AMNS.

### **3.4.8 Media and Press Releases**

AMNS posts news releases to promote accurate information about the Project. Most news releases to date are associated with AMNS's business interests; however, this has been expanded to include Nova Scotia media outlets to better communicate the benefits of the mine developments with the broader community, address public questions and concerns, and encourage engagement.

AMNS is also considering regular advertising and content in the Guysborough Journal to assist in sharing information on the Project.

### **3.4.9 Meetings with Local Residents and Landowners**

Meetings with residents, landowners and community organizations are vital to understanding concerns, potential impacts and proposed mitigation strategies. Until early 2018, meetings with local residents and landowners have occurred opportunistically where specific interests are expressed.

In the spring of 2018, AMNS initiated a more active engagement process with adjacent landowners by sending letters and offering to meet with property owners potentially impacted by the Haul Road and the Beaver Dam Mine Site. AMNS has also reached out to landowners whose land may be required for mine infrastructure. AMNS will continue to communicate directly with potentially impacted landowners to resolve land issues.

In 2020 and early 2021, engagement efforts with residents and landowners used the steps of adaptive management to reinvigorate and guide engagement activities. This involved undertaking additional research, updating stakeholder mapping, listening and learning, validation, synthesis, and finally integration (Appendix A.4a).

#### **3.4.10 Complaints Response Procedure**

Associated with the ongoing work for the Touquoy Mine, a Complaint Resolution Plan (Appendix 2 of Appendix A.6) is being developed and will be used by AMNS when a complaint is received from the public. This Plan is intended to standardize the formal response procedure to complaints from members of the public. AMNS is committed to addressing complaints in a timely and respectful manner. Information gathered under the Complaint Resolution Plan is shared with the CLC and Nova Scotia Environment on a quarterly basis, including any corrective actions.

AMNS keeps a complaints log that tracks all engagements and communications associated with the complaint. The Complaints Resolution Plan is a component of the adaptive management approach adopted by AMNS.

## **3.5 Regulatory Consultation**

Regulatory engagement on the Project has been ongoing since October 2014 with a Provincial "One Window Process: Mineral Development in Nova Scotia" meeting. This initial meeting was intended to present the planned Project and to receive feedback on the regulatory regime and regional expertise.

Departments from federal and provincial governments have been consulted on the Project, including:

- IAAC Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (formerly the Canadian Environmental Effects Agency [CEAA]);
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO);

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC);
- Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS);
- Health Canada;
- Transport Canada;
- Natural Resources Canada (NRC);
- Nova Scotia Environment (NSE);
- Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal;
- Nova Scotia Lands and Forestry (formerly Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources);
- Nova Scotia Energy and Mines (formerly Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources); and
- Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

Engagement includes one-on-one meetings or correspondence, larger meetings or workshops and site visits. A one-day workshop was held on May 13, 2016 for interested provincial and federal regulators. On November 29, 2016 a site visit and tour was held for interested provincial and federal regulators and representatives of the two closest Mi'kmaq communities, Sipekne'katik and Millbrook, and staff of the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO). A description of recent engagement activities with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia is provided in Section 4.

## **3.6 Public Engagement Activities**

While broader engagement on the Project has occurred for over a decade and will continue as per the draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6), specific public engagement activities have occurred to support the environmental assessment process for the Project since the federal process was commenced in December 2015. A summary of engagement activities conducted with stakeholders is included (Appendix A.4a).

### **3.6.1 Community Open Houses**

Four open houses were held in May 2016; two of these were open to the public while the other two were open to First Nations community members as described under Indigenous Peoples engagement. Two more open houses were held in 2018 with Millbrook First Nation and are outlined in the Indigenous Peoples Engagement section (Section 4).

The two public open houses were advertised in the local papers, including the Eastern Shore Cooperator (monthly print issued on May 5), Guysborough Journal (weekly print issued on May 16) and the Town Cryer (monthly print issued on May 2). The members of the CLC also circulated information. Flyers were also posted in local communities. The dates and locations were as follows:

- May 18, 2016 at Natural Resources Education Centre, 12014 Highway 224, Middle Musquodoboit.
- May 19, 2016 at Sheet Harbour Lions Club, 183 Pool Road, Sheet Harbour.

The format and layout were the same for all open houses. Each open house was hosted from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with refreshments provided. Upon entry, attendees were asked to sign in and were provided a comment form to complete at end of their stay. Maps were also available for viewing and a 3D model of the Beaver Dam Mine Site was used to demonstrate the existing conditions, proposed full mine development (including pit and waste rock pile) and reclamation of the site.

A total of fifteen of large informational poster boards (panels) were placed on easels with AMNS and its consultants hosting the panels. After a welcome and introduction to AMNS and the Project background (three panels), an overview of open pit mining, process of gold recovery, and economic benefits of the Project was provided (three panels). The next three panels provided an update on the Touquoy Gold Project which was soon to begin construction (June 2016). Before the one closing panel, the remaining five panels focused on the Project and the engagement opportunities, specifically:

- presentation of the site location, the gold deposit and the existing site features;
- map of the proposed Beaver Dam Mine site plan;
- information on the transportation of ore, including both options considered for the route and the trucking rate;
- overview of the EA process for the Project including the ongoing baseline studies for the VCs and the regulatory process with opportunities for public participation; and
- opportunities for community and Mi'kmaq engagement, including an overview of the CLC and an invitation for expressions of interest from residents who are interested in joining the CLC.

A total of 94 interested community members attended these two open houses (i.e., Middle Musquodoboit had a total of 61 attendees with 49 providing contact information; Sheet Harbour had a total of 33 attendees with 32 providing name and/or contact information). In total, nine comment forms were completed, two expressed interest in joining the CLC, and many resumes were provided to AMNS.

In 2020, AMNS attempted to hold an Open House on November 27 and 28 in the community of Mooseland. This Open House was organized in response to a request from the local community to provide information on concerns relating to the proposed Haul Road and the Beaver Dam Mine Site. AMNS recognized that additional engagement was required with the community as the last open house was in 2016. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Open House format had to be modified to small information sessions to meet Nova Scotia Public Health directives. AMNS created an internal plan to guide the delivery of information sessions in Mooseland to address concerns identified, in part, by the Mooseland and Area Community Association.

Invitations to the Information Sessions were delivered by hand, email or phone to most property owners in Mooseland and several residences in Jacket Lake. MACA also placed a notification of the meeting on the community sign located in front of the community hall in Mooseland. At least one property owner in Ferry Lake was notified of the meeting. Individuals were asked to pre-register to meet with an AMNS representative to discuss concerns or learn more about the Project.

Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases in HRM, the Office of Public Health issued an order on November 26, 2020<sup>1</sup> that restricted non-essential travel of people within most of HRM. AMNS cancelled the Information Session on November 26, 2020 in the interest of public safety and notified the local community through both formal means (phone calls and emails) and informal means (informing key community leaders about the cancellation and asking them to spread the word). AMNS will hold an Open House in Mooseland after the Updated 2021 EIS is submitted.

As the Information Sessions could not occur on November 27 and 28, 2020, AMNS provided copies of the Plain Language Summary (Appendix A.1) to the 36 mailboxes in Mooseland along with a covering letter with the community relations phone line and email address, to which questions or concerns could be sent.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/restriction-updates/>

### 3.6.2 Community Liaison Committee

The Touquoy CLC was activated in 2016. Due to the operational links between the Touquoy operation and the proposed Beaver Dam Mine, and the fact that the community of Mooseland is geographic link between the operating mine and the proposed mine from a, the mandate of the Touquoy CLC was expanded to include the Project in 2018.

Six CLC meetings were held in 2016. Of these, the last two meetings held on October 29, 2016 and December 3, 2016 included the expanded membership of nine. In 2016, the CLC membership represented different communities, including: Middle Musquodoboit, Millbrook First Nation, Mooseland, Musquodoboit Harbour, Sheet Harbour, Sipekne'katik First Nation, Pleasant Harbour, and Upper Musquodoboit.

Due to the ongoing preparation of the EIS for the Project, a special meeting on December 3, 2016 was held to focus on the Project. As per the Terms of Reference, the CLC may invite guests who may be interested in topics in forthcoming meetings. The CLC invited representatives from the Eastern Shore Forestry Watch (Barbara Markovits and two guests) and the NSSA (Eddie Halfyard and guest).

The meeting was about 2.5 hours in duration. Presentations were made by staff of AMNS and the EA Study Team, maps were provided and a 3D model of the Beaver Dam Mine Site was used to demonstrate the existing conditions, proposed full mine development (including pit and waste rock pile), and reclamation of the site. Questions and answers were facilitated. The agenda included:

- introduction and special purpose of the meeting;
- overview of the Project;
- review of participation opportunities in the federal and provincial EA processes;
- presentation of summary assessment for each VC; and
- description of timelines of the Project.

Offers to meet with specific members of the CLC and/or NGOs present to provide additional information on the Project were made by AMNS.

The CLC has continued to meet regularly:

- in 2017, the CLC met two times;
- in 2018, the CLC has met four times;
- in 2019, the CLC met four times;
- in 2020, the CLC met three times. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meetings did not occur between February 2020 and November 2020; and
- in 2021, the CLC met twice with one more meeting anticipated in late 2021.

The CLC membership continues to fluctuate as members resign and new ones are recruited. The most significant membership change is the agreed upon withdrawal of Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik First Nation on the CLC in 2017. Both First Nation Communities have elected to not participate in the CLC and have decided to directly engage with AMNS. AMNS has made it clear

to both Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations that they are welcome to rejoin the CLC or attend as guests. Information regarding specific Indigenous Peoples engagement is provided in Section 4.

In an effort to promote transparency and understanding of the role of the CLC, AMNS publishes meeting notes for the Touquoy/Beaver Dam CLC, which can be found at <https://stbarbara.com.au/our-commitments/stronger-communities/nova-scotia/>

### **3.6.3 Stakeholder Meetings**

AMNS regularly reviews the stakeholder mapping associated with the Project. This is done by continuously scanning the stakeholder ecosystem for individuals, communities and groups who may be impacted or interested in this Project. AMNS keeps a database of stakeholders, along with contact information, to ensure communication occurs as required. As the Project develops, AMNS will continue to review and update the stakeholder mapping to ensure stakeholders and rightsholder are consulted and engaged. For example, if a property sells near the Project Area, then AMNS update the stakeholder mapping.

A complete list of the stakeholder meetings is shown in (Appendix A.4a).

Through the preliminary engagement, four main organizations arose where a closer relationship is required. Although the draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6) identifies many important stakeholders, two of these organizations, the NSSA and the ATV clubs, are particularly impacted by the proposed Beaver Dam Mine Project due to the significant infrastructure investments each have made. The other two organizations, MACA and the Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce, are links to community groups that represent community perspectives near the mine site. When AMNS works with a community organization or other non-governmental organization, information will be provided with a request that it be shared through the NGO's membership and broader network.

#### **3.6.3.1 Nova Scotia Salmon Association**

AMNS acknowledges the significant and important activities of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association. The Acid Rain Mitigation (ARM) Project on the West River is of particular importance as it is a multi-year, science-based project active in the watershed in which the proposed Beaver Dam mine is located. The West River Acid Mitigation Project started in 2005 and is.., "being developed as a model for the restoration of acid-stressed rivers in the region."<sup>2</sup> In 2016, the NSSA installed and operates a lime doser on the Killag River near the proposed mine site.

In recent years, the NSSA has received funding from the federal government, "to improve the water quality of fish habitat using aquatic, in-stream liming."<sup>3</sup> The Acid Rain Mitigation Project is just one of the many initiatives that support the overarching goal of the NSSA to "maximize the likelihood of survival and sustainability of our fish, rivers and recreation." (NSSA 2020).

AMNS has been meeting regularly with the NSSA to share information, learn more about its activities along the West River and provide information on the Project as it develops. AMNS will continue to offer to meet with the NSSA to share its future activities, share information and look for collaborations to benefit the fish and fish habitat of the watershed.

Over the course of several meetings, emails and phone calls with AMNS over the last several years, the NSSA has shared information regarding the scope and importance of the ARM Project on the West River. The ARM project is focused on addressing

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.salmonconservation.ca/projects/the-west-river-acid-mitigation-project/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nssalmon.ca/acid-rain-mitigation> (web reference December 2020)



acidification by conducting in-stream liming. The NSSA has expressed concerns about the potential impact of AMNS mine rocks piles, potentially acid generating (PAG) mine rock and organic stockpiles. NSSA also has concerns regarding river drawdown resulting from pit development, loss of catchment area and water loss during and until the pit is refilled. On September 9, 2020, AMNS presented updates on the Project (Appendix A.4b).

AMNS supports the NSSA's efforts on the Killag River and is actively seeking opportunities to work with the NSSA. Offsetting opportunities, data sharing and ongoing communication throughout the Project are currently being explored. In addition, AMNS, through its adaptive management process, will seek NSSA input into the Project to ensure all management plans developed for the Project are updated and improved through the life of the Project.

### **3.6.3.2 Mooseland and Area Community Association**

The Mooseland and Area Community Association (MACA) is active in the community of Mooseland and includes the smaller communities of Jacket Lake and River Lake. This community organization manages the Mooseland Community Centre and hosts occasional community activities. MACA has established a working committee that has met with AMNS representatives to discuss potential community investments and to provide input and feedback on the proposed Beaver Dam Mine. The northern boundary of Mooseland is located approximately 850 m from the entrance to the proposed Haul Road (known locally as the "old dump road"). The community is comprised of a mixture of full-time and seasonal residents. The seasonal residents often have historical family connections in the area and treasure the lifestyle and access to the wilderness that Mooseland provides. The proposed Haul Road is a major recreational corridor for Mooselanders.

Given the small population of the Mooseland community, AMNS has worked with this organization and will continue to do so, as many of the permanent and seasonal residents of the area are affiliated with it. AMNS is committed to working with this community on potential mitigation options, adaptive management inputs and to identify community development opportunities.

The MACA members have identified the following as concerns:

- access by residents and user groups of the ATV trails and recreation lands in and around the proposed Haul Road;
- truck traffic and truck noise; and
- impacts on residents' lifestyle.

Many residents have also acknowledged the importance of local employment and the opportunities a mine project can bring.

Detailed technical results related to truck traffic and noise are detailed in Section 6.1 and Appendix B.2 (Updated Noise Impact Assessment). To mitigate impacts of perceived or actual impacts on recreational land use on or around the proposed Haul Road, AMNS is committing to the construction of bypass roads that will allow recreational vehicles, light trucks, and active transportation users to access the desired recreational areas. In addition to the bypass roads, AMNS will identify crossings for the Haul Road for recreational users and include specific protocols in the Access and Safety Management Plan for road usage. Using the adaptive management process, AMNS will work with recreational users to monitor the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy.

### **3.6.3.3 Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce**

The Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce is a business organization located in Sheet Harbour, but also hosts a website promoting the Sheet Harbour area. Under the St Barbara – Atlantic Operations banner, AMNS is a member of this organization. This membership will be maintained over the life of the Project.

Although Sheet Harbour is approximately 25 minutes from the Beaver Dam Mine Site, it is the largest community in the vicinity. Direct impacts from construction and operations on Sheet Harbour will be related to socio-economic impacts and generally will be positive; however, AMNS needs to establish a feedback loop with the community to monitor this assumption which is included as part of the draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6). Housing availability, the local hospital and businesses could experience changes if the mine begins operation. AMNS also sees community and economic development opportunities that can align with the provincial economic development priorities of improved social wellbeing, increased population and economic growth (Section 6.16 Socio-Economic Conditions).

### **3.6.3.4 All Terrain Vehicle Groups**

AMNS has clearly heard that the areas in and around the Beaver Dam Mine Site and Haul Road are used extensively for recreational land uses, such as ATV riding, hiking, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. Local ATV clubs (PUMA, Sheet Harbour and Lake Charlotte) (Figure 3.3-1), along with the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS) have made considerable investments in the construction and maintenance of trails and related infrastructure for its members use. These same trails are used also by non-members, and it is believed many of these are local residents. The local clubs are run by groups of committed, passionate volunteers who build and manage their own trails systems (Figure 3.3-2).

The Haul Road and mine site intersect with the ATV and snowmobile trails managed by the ATV clubs, some of which provide provincial and regional connections. These trails are well travelled throughout the year. The proposed Haul Road will include both crossings for recreational land users and bypass routes for continued connectivity. The safety of all parties – recreational land users, AMNS staff and contractors, and the public – is critical and AMNS will work closely with the ATV clubs on the concerns of safety and accessibility.

AMNS is also interested in having discussions with the ATV clubs on potential community investment opportunities and partnerships that further shared interests. These could include:

- trail construction;
- trail maintenance; and
- safety and education programs.

### **3.6.4 Summary of Supplementary Engagement – 2020 and early 2021**

In 2020, AMNS implemented a supplementary engagement program. The supplementary engagement program included contacting environmental groups, community associations, ATV Clubs and landowners with an offer to meet. In 2020 alone, AMNS had over 322 communications with stakeholders regarding the Project EIS. The supplementary engagement program also includes contacting property owners near the Project Area. All property owners were contacted by phone, letter or email and provided updated information and offered a meeting to answer questions or discuss concerns.

AMNS, in July 2020, began meeting regularly with the MACA where concerns regarding the Haul Road, recreational land use, potential community investment projects and other concerns were raised by the Association. At the request of MACA, AMNS organized and planned a series of community information sessions with the local community (Section 3.6.1).

A property owner from the Ferry Lake area contacted AMNS in 2020 expressing concerns regarding the Project. AMNS has attempted to meet with the property owner several times. AMNS continues to welcome the opportunity to answer questions, address concerns and develop a relationship with the property owners along Ferry Lake.

Also in 2020, AMNS met with property owners near Rocky Brook Lake, which is located in Pleasantville approximately 8 km from the intersection of the Beaver Dam Mines Road and Highway 224. These residents expressed concern about their ability to continue to access the lands in and around the Beaver Dam Mine Site, for recreational uses. Specific recreational uses included fishing, hunting, ATV riding, hiking, accessing camps and snowmobiling. AMNS held a video call with five property owners in the area on December 14, 2020 to answer questions, validate information gathered about recreational land usage in the area, and review proposed mitigation measures. The main mitigation proposed to address recreational land access concerns is to construct alternative access routes or bypass roads to the desired recreational locations. A map showing proposed new bypass routes was reviewed with attendees and there was general agreement that the proposed bypass roads were acceptable (Figure 3.3-2).

Through the supplementary engagement program, new stakeholders were identified that have camps or land that are accessed from the proposed Haul Road. All known landowners were contacted and provided information on the Haul Road. Further contact and communication will occur as the Project progresses. Landowners and camps owners include:

- Marilyn Prest and family;
- Deepwood Estates;
- Harry Casey;
- Darren Lasaga;
- Jeff Bevis;
- Deborah Marlborough;
- Musquodoboit Lumber Company;
- Prest Brothers Ltd.; and
- Northern Pulp.

AMNS will continue to identify other potentially impacted property owners and camp owners as the Project progresses.

Through the public engagement in 2020, the stakeholders identified the follow community sites presented in Table 3.6-1 and described in Section 6.16.5 Socio-economic Conditions.

**Table 3.6-1: Community Sites**

Community Site	Location	Discussion
Date Rock	Along the Haul Road between Mooseland Road and Highway 224	Request by community members to maintain the rock. Rock will be maintained or, if required, moved to a site acceptable to the community.
Otter Lake	Otter Lake is a popular recreational area located to the north of the Haul Road, along Trail #320	This area is a destination for family and outdoor recreational pursuits. The cabin, located on the shore of Otter Lake, is a known stopping location. Access to Otter Lake will not be restricted and the Haul Road bypass will include a crossing to access Trail #320. Otter Lake can also be directly accessed from Highway 224.
Lake Alma	Lake Alma is located to the south of the Haul Road	Lake Alma is a fishing and boating, and there are a l camps located near it on or on its shores. During engagement, at least one person indicated that he left his boat moored during the summer in Lake Alma. Lake Alma can be accessed from Highway 224 and via Trails #394 and 106. Access to Lake Alma from Mooseland will be maintained via the Haul Road bypass.

**Table 3.6-1: Community Sites (continued)**

Community Site	Location	Discussion
10 Mile Lake	Located west of the Mine Site and Cameron Flowage	There are camps located on 10 Mile Lake and this area is also identified for recreational uses. This area is accessed via Trail #394. Trail #106 and #320 both connect to Trail #394. Trail #320 will be dead-ended at the Project Area boundary. A new connector trail between Trail #320 and the BDMR Bypass will be created, as will a Mine Site Bypass that will allow ATV and light vehicles to access Trail #394 and the 10 Mile Lake area.
Otter Lake Demonstration Forest (OLDF)	To the southeast of the community of Mooseland	The OLDF is, "...a place for all Nova Scotians to learn about forest ecology and the sustainable management of our nature.
Mooseland and Area Community Hall	4032 Mooseland Road	This is a community centre that is used for local residents. AMNS is in talks with the Mooseland and Area Community Association (MACA) to develop a partnership. MACA is identified in the Public Engagement Mitigation Plan as a key stakeholder and includes several commitments regarding ongoing information sharing and relationship development.
Ferry Lake	Located approximately 4 km southwest from the Haul Road	Seasonal dwellings are located on the southern shore of Ferry Lake. No impact to residents are predicted based on the impact assessment. A technical memorandum assessing possible linkages is provided in Appendix F.9. The technical memorandum concludes that there are no impacts from dust, noise or surface and groundwater quality to Ferry Lake residents.,

Notes: AMNS = Atlantic Mining NS Inc.; ATV = All-terrain vehicle; BDMR = Beaver Dam Mines Road.

### 3.7 Key Concerns Raised and Proponent Responses

AMNS began stakeholder engagement in 2015, in advance of the June 12, 2017 submission of the EIS to CEAA, now referred to as IAAC for the Project. In previous submissions of the EIS, these engagements were documented and detailed. This section breaks the historical engagement into two distinct historical periods: engagement between 2015 and 2019 and engagement that occurred in 2020 under the draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6).

#### 3.7.1 Public Engagement 2015 to 2019

The main concerns, along with AMNS responses are outlined in Table 3.7-1. The table includes key concerns identified by stakeholders, the response from AMNS to these concerns and the section of the EIS where the concern is dealt with in detail.

#### 3.7.2 2020 Supplementary Engagement Strategy

In the spring of 2020, AMNS submitted a Supplementary Engagement Strategy (Appendix A.4a) that focused on contacting local property owners, seasonal residents and recreational users regarding the proposed Beaver Dam Mine. This additional engagement was requested by IAAC and agreed to by AMNS due to the length of time the Project has been under review by IAAC, the more refined technical analysis and conclusions and to ensure that new and existing stakeholders were engaged.

The objectives of the 2020 Supplementary Engagement Strategy were:

- To notify potential receptor locations of summary conclusions from the updated modeling for air, noise, light and water.
- To notify property owners near the Haul Road of summary conclusions from the updated modeling for air, noise, light and water.
- To provide information to the local community on the status of the Beaver Dam Mine Project Environmental Assessment.
- To ensure local residents, landowners and local community groups are aware of AMNS engagement tools, which include a newsletter, dedicated phone line, email address and website.
- To meet with any local resident or property owner who may have questions about the Beaver Dam Mine Project.
- To offer to meet with any community group active in the area to review summary conclusions related to updated modeling for air, noise, light and water, or any other information that is of interest.

Additional key concerns were raised during the 2020 supplementary public engagement. AMNS continued engagement beyond the original scope to ensure a fuller understanding of the concern and to, if appropriate, identify mitigations strategies. This included identifying any stakeholders missed during the 2015 to 2019 engagement period, identifying any additional impacted landowners in and around the Project Area, the identification of new concerns or questions, researching and exploring each concern, validating what was heard, synthesizing the information and adapting plans or processes to mitigate concerns, where appropriate. AMNS developed a draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6) based on the historical engagement activities and the results of the 2020 Engagement to inform the Project. Adaptive management is the foundation of the 2021 draft Public Engagement Plan for Project.

AMNS made significant efforts to reach out to and listen to the public in 2020 to 2021. AMNS tracks each contact with stakeholders and assessed the atmosphere of each communication. Positive reflects a productive conversation where topics are discussed and explored in a spirit of cooperation. It does not reflect endorsement of the Project or that concerns are resolved but rather that the tone of the meeting was positive and productive. Neutral reflects engagements where information is simply provided and data share. Negative reflects engagements where there is dissatisfaction or a breakdown in discussions. Similarly, negative atmosphere does not necessarily indicate opposition but rather that the engagement itself was unsatisfactory to the stakeholder (Figure 3.7-1).

**Table 3.7-1: Summary of Key Concerns Raised During Stakeholder Engagement 2015 to 2020**

Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding Updated 2021 EIS Section Reference <sup>(a)</sup>	Follow-up/ Commitment
<b>2015 to 2019 Engagement</b>			
Concern about metals leaching from waste rock pile, including arsenic, and acid rock drainage.	Leaching of metals is not expected, e.g., arsenic is expected to be within baseline conditions. PAG will be covered using an engineered cover that reduces infiltration rate and thereby limiting potential acid drainage. If necessary, water treatment will be put in place. Runoff from NAG and PAG will be monitoring during construction, operation, closure, and post closure to determine if adaptive management should be applied.	Section 6.5.4 Bedrock Geology; Section 6.7 Surface Water Quality and Quantity, including Surface Water Quality and Quantity Mitigation (Section 6.7.9) and Groundwater Mitigations (Section 6.6.8)	Monitoring, Mitigations and Adaptive Management of waste rock throughout life of mine
Concern about effect on water quantity in Cameron Flowage from pit development.	Local hydrogeological conditions ensure that groundwater will be maintained to recharge Cameron Flowage. Baseline and ongoing monitoring of surface water and groundwater levels will be in place to identify trends.	Section 6.6.7 Project Activities/Interaction with Groundwater Quality and Quantity	Implement Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program and Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Table 3.7-1: Summary of Key Concerns Raised During Stakeholder Engagement 2015 to 2020 (continued)

Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding Updated 2021 EIS Section Reference <sup>(a)</sup>	Follow-up/Commitment
Questions about contingency planning for accidents and malfunctions.	Hazards have been identified and assessed based on risk with mitigations and contingency planning in place. Future detailed planning and implementation of the Project will further address potential accidents and malfunctions.	Section 6.18 Accidents and Malfunctions	Establish Emergency Response Plan and Operational Procedures to manage planned and unplanned events.
Concern about wetlands being impacted at Beaver Dam Mine Site and future compensation.	Where possible, wetlands have been avoided; otherwise minimization of effects was incorporated into Project planning. Any wetlands altered must have NSE approval and will require compensation.	Section 6.8 Wetlands, including Wetlands Mitigation (Section 6.8.8)	Limit mine footprint and compensate for wetlands that cannot be avoided
Questions about addressing species at risk if identified in Project area.	Species of conservation interest (SOCi) and species at risk (SAR) have been assessed. Effect is minimal and where a potential Project interaction, mitigation and monitoring plans are identified for priority species, including fish, vascular flora and lichens, terrestrial fauna and birds.	Section 6.13.8 Mitigation for SOCi and SAR	Monitoring, Mitigation and Adaptive Management of SOCi and SAR
Concern about effect on habitat from Haul Road construction.	Effects of road construction will be minimized by using existing corridors where possible and improving drainage where damaged culverts exist. Effects and mitigation measures are specifically identified for ecological VCs, including habitat and flora.	Section 2.9.2.2 Haul Roads for Transporting Ore, and key sections for each VC in Section 6 Environmental Effects Assessment	Limit the size of Haul the extent possible. Replace culverts and
Concern about volumes of truck traffic in context of safety on public roadways and recreational vehicles.	Potential interaction exists with operation of the Haul Road and the public; the risk of a mobile equipment accident has been assessed as low with mitigations in place including design of Highway 224 crossing, appropriate signage, and haul truck driver training.	Section 2.9.2.2 Haul Road; Section 6.16.10 Project Activities and Socio-economic Interactions and Effects; and Section 6.18.7.3 Mobile Equipment Accident	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee
Request to prefer Haul Road option that does not travel along Highway 224.	Based comments received on two options during the stakeholder and Mi'kmaq engagement, AMNS completed a feasibility review of the second option which does not pass by any residences. This was selected and is carried forward in the EA.	Section 2.9.2.2 Haul Roads for Transporting Ore	Re-Routing of Haul Road to avoid permanent residents and Beaver Lake IR 17
Concern on cyanide use at plant for gold processing.	The approved Touquoy Gold Project includes a gravity/CIL processing of the ore using a highly efficient cyanide destruction process. This use of this existing plant will be extended for the processing of ore from the Beaver Dam Mine Site. Mitigations for transportation, handling storage and processing will be incorporated into the extended use of the plant.	Section 2.9.2.3.1 Operations and Maintenance associated with the processing plant; Section 2.9.2.3.2 and Appendix F.10 Tailings and Water Management	Maintain Operation and Maintenance Plan for Cyanide Use
Concern on effect of tailings disposal in mined-out Touquoy pit.	Use of the approved pit as part of the Touquoy Gold Project allows the existing footprint to be used and eliminates the need to process the tailings at the Beaver Dam Mine Site. Geological conditions predict minimal effect on the receiving environment; conditions will be monitored and compared with the developing baseline data set for the Touquoy Gold Project.	Section 2.9.2.3.2 Operations and Maintenance associated with tailings management (exhausted pit), and key sections for surface water and groundwater in Section 6 Environmental Effects Assessment	Establish operational plan for deposit of tailings into the mined-out pit and ongoing monitoring of surface and groundwater water will determine if adaptive management should be applied
Request to be informed on the Project activities.	AMNS is committed to maintaining its CLC for the life of the Project. Other aspects of community engagement will continue as per Engagement Plan.	Section 3.6 Public Engagement; Section 6.16.11 Mitigation for Socio-economic Conditions	Implement Engagement Plan

Table 3.7-1: Summary of Key Concerns Raised During Stakeholder Engagement 2015 to 2020 (continued)

Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding Updated 2021 EIS Section Reference <sup>(a)</sup>	Follow-up/ Commitment
<b>2020 Engagement</b>			
Concerns about access to ATV and snowmobile trails.	Restrictions on usage are required for safety reasons. Alternative access for ATVs, snowmobiles and light vehicles are being considered.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project	Construct bypass roads to maintain access during operations
Concerns about access to camps, hunting and fishing locations.	Access to camps, hunting areas and fishing areas will be maintained. Camps, hunting and fishing areas have been identified by stakeholders and AMNS will work with stakeholders to allow continued access.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.5.5 Parks and Open Space, Tourism, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date	Construct bypass roads to maintain access during operations
Concerns about traffic through Mooseland.	Traffic is not expected to impact Mooseland. As AMNS is developing routes for ATVs, snowmobiles and light vehicles, no traffic increases are expected in Mooseland.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date	Construct bypass roads to maintain access during operations Implement engagement plan to address public concerned during life of Mine
Concerns about noise in Mooseland.	Noise modeling shows that all residences and receptors in Mooselands meet guidelines.	Section 6.1 Noise, Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation, Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date and Appendices B.1 Beaver Dam Mine Construction Noise Assessment and Appendix B.2 Updated Noise Impact Assessment Technical Report	Implement a Noise Complaint Protocol and Engagement Plan
Concerns about safety of the road network and trail network on Haul Road.	AMNS Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee
Questions and concerns regarding receiving communications and information during the life of the Project.	Draft Public Engagement Plan has been drafted and will be circulated to stakeholders for feedback and comment. Community relations telephone line, email, website and news releases will continue. AMNS is evaluating opportunities to include social media platforms as well.	Sections 3.2 Objectives, Section 3.4 Engagement Strategy, and Appendix A.6 draft Public Engagement Plan	Implement Engagement Plan
Identification of potential mainland moose in the area.	The information provided by a stakeholder is being reviewed as of the updated 2021 EIS.	Section 6.11.4.1.2 Mainland Moose and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date	Implement Engagement Plan
Concerns regarding slurry and dust from the Mooseland Road related to the Touquoy operations.	AMNS has a skid steer with a broom dedicated to cleaning the crossing. AMNS commits improving visibility and removing debris at the Mooseland Road crossing.	Sections 2.10.11 The Preferred Approach	Implement Operational Procedure to Manage Haul Roads
Concerns that the original EIS incorrect statements regarding the distances between residents and the Mooseland entrance to the Haul Road (known as the "old dump road").	Updated 2012 EIS will be corrected as appropriate.	Section 2.3 Project Location and 2.5 Project History, Section 6.16.4.12 Land and Resource Use, Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic	Corrected in EIS

**Table 3.7-1: Summary of Key Concerns Raised During Stakeholder Engagement 2015 to 2020 (continued)**

Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding Updated 2021 EIS Section Reference <sup>(a)</sup>	Follow-up/ Commitment
Requested signage be placed on the "old dump road" to notify non-local residents that AMNS is considering construction of a Haul Road.	It is premature to place signage until project is approved. Also signage would require landowner approval. Business cards are being provided to local residents for them to distribute so that anyone with questions can contact community relations.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.10 Project Activities and Socio-economic Integrations and Effects, and Section 6.16.11 Mitigation	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee
Concerns that the life of the Beaver Dam project use of the Haul Road will extend beyond 5 years.	The life of mine for the Project is 5 years but Fifteen Mile Stream Gold Project and Cochrane Hill Gold Project will also use the Haul Road.	Section 1.2 Atlantic Mining NS Inc. Information and Section 8 Cumulative Effects Assessment	Implement Engagement Plan
Request to have truck and ATV access between the Mooseland Road and Highway 224.	truck and ATV access between the Mooseland Road and Highway 224 is accommodated via bypass roads.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic and Appendix A.4a	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee
Request to have the Mooseland Road entirely paved between Touquoy and the entrance to the Highway 224.	The Mooseland Road is a provincially owned road and decisions regarding paving at made at the provincial level. This concern has been forwarded to the CLC to assess next steps and possibly providing letter of support for paving.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic and Section 6.16.8 Consideration of Engagement Results	CLC Follow-up
Questions regarding the safety monitoring of the Mooseland road.	AMNS has a close working relationship with NS Department of Transportation and Active Transportation and will work collaboratively with an ad hoc advisory committee.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation, and Appendix A.4a	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee
Question regarding if the Haul Road can have blended traffic	AMNS explored this option and determined that for safety and operational reasons, that blended traffic is not the best option and instead is pursuing a dedicated bypass option for ATVs, snowmobiles and light vehicles.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic	Commitment to reconsider blended traffic after Beaver Dam Mine operations is completed
Request for a public meeting in Mooseland.	AMNS organized an open house for Mooseland residents on November 27 and 28, 2020. Public Health restrictions issued by the province required that this meeting be cancelled. An open house potentially will occur in Q2/Q3, determined on health restrictions due to COVID-19.	Sections 3.6 Public Engagement and Section 3.8 and Appendix A.6 Ongoing Engagement Appendix 4.a	Implement Engagement Plan
Request for input into the operational and safety plan for the Haul Road.	AMNS will seek input in the operations and safety plan for the Haul Road. AMNS may established an ad hoc advisory committee to solicit advice.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation, and Appendix A.4a and A.6	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee
Concerns about impacts on hunting near the Haul Road.	Hunting will be governed by provincial hunting requirements, which will restrict hunting near the Haul Road.	Section 6.14.7.1 Project Interactions with Traditional Use/Rights	Implement Engagement Plan
Concerns about providing access to Marilyn Prest's land.	Access will be provided to this particular landowner.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous	Construct by-pass roads and provide landowner access
Concerns about AMNS is communicating its plan for the Haul Road to the general population outside of the immediate area.	Communication and engagement with this stakeholder will occur as per the draft Public Engagement Plan.	Appendix A.6 draft Public Engagement Plan	Implement Engagement Plan

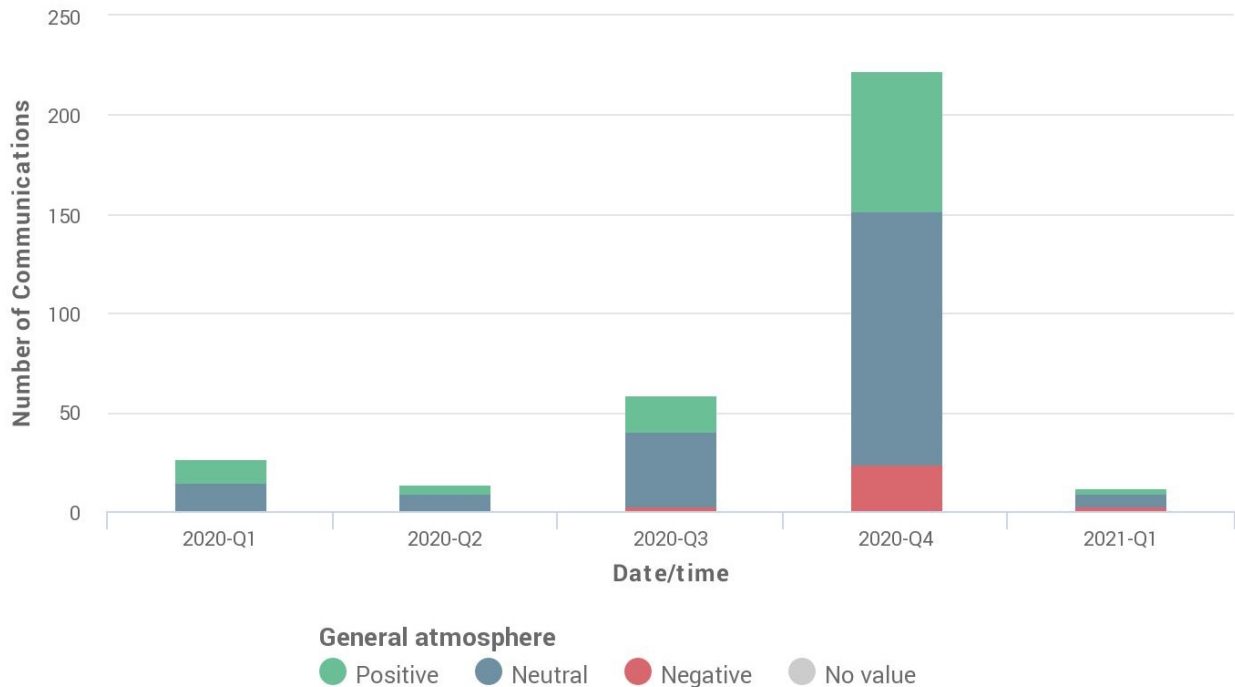


**Table 3.7-1: Summary of Key Concerns Raised During Stakeholder Engagement 2015 to 2020 (continued)**

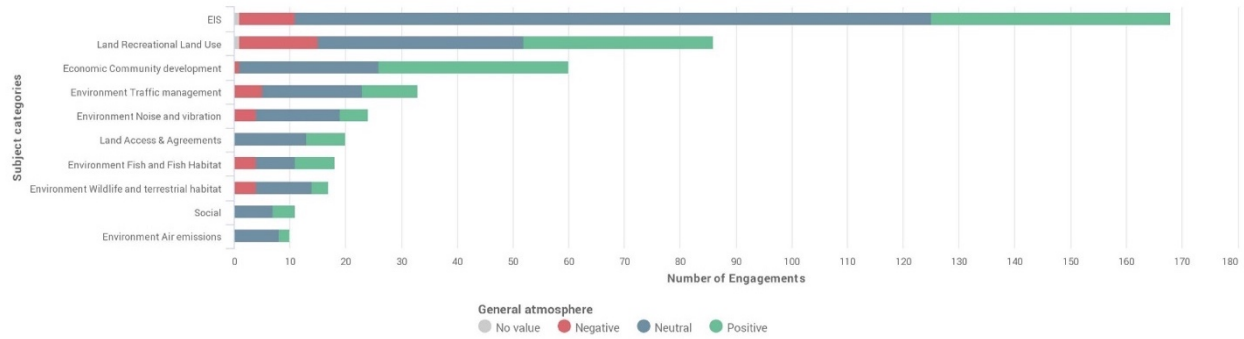
Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding Updated 2021 EIS Section Reference <sup>(a)</sup>	Follow-up/Commitment
Concerns about Impacts on Ferry Lake.	Ferry Lake is not modeled to be impacted by the Beaver Dam Mine Project. Ferry Lake property owners who have expressed interest in the project have been contacted.	Section 3.6 and Appendix F.9 (Response to IR2s, CEEA 2-36, CEEA 2-37, and NSE 2-130 Evaluation of Potential Impacts from Metals COCs to Groundwater and Surface Water from Dust Deposition along the Haul Road)	Implement Engagement Plan
Impacts on NSSA West River Project and fish habitat.	Fish and fish habitat assessment, mitigation and monitoring plans to address ongoing concerns. Develop an Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program.	Section 6.9.8 Mitigation (Fish), Section 6.16.11 Mitigation (Socio-economic) and Section 8 Cumulative Effects Assessment	Implement Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program
Speeding by AMNS vehicles on the Mooseland Road.	Complaints from residents will be investigated. All AMNS vehicles include a GPS so that vehicle speeds can be tracked. AMNS committed to installing digital speed sign as a pilot project.	Section 6.16.8 Consideration of Engagement Results	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee
Concerns about the widening of the Haul Road on private landowners.	The width of the Haul Road right of way is approximately 100 m. The Haul Road and bypass road will remain within this right of way and no additional land is required for the bypass roads.	Section 2.9.2.2 Haul Road for Transporting Ore, Section 2.9 Project Activities	Implement Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee

Notes: NSE = Nova Scotia Environment; SOCI = Species of Conservation Interest; SAR = Species at Risk; VC = Valued Component; EA = Effects Assessment; CLC = Community Liaison Committee; AMNS = Atlantic Mining NS Inc.; CIL = Carbon in Leach.

**Figure 3.7-1: Number of Communication in 2020 by Quarter**



**Figure 3.7-2: Key Subject Categories in 2020 to 2021**



The key subject categories (Figure 3.7-2) show the topics of discussion during 2020 and the atmosphere related to each concern. This kind of tracking helps AMNS identify topics and concerns where additional focus is required. Please note that each engagement may have more than one subject category associated with it (Figure 3.7-2).

In total, AMNS had approximately 322 communications with over 147 individuals or organizations in 2020. Key concerns which arose from the 2020 engagements are shown in Table 3.7-2. Although many of the concerns were previously identified and mitigations proposed in the pre-2020 engagement summary, additional concerns did arise which required additional mitigation and/or analysis. Table 3.7-2 outlines the key concerns heard during this engagement period.

The concerns raised during all the public engagement activities since 2015 were incorporated into the design of the Project and the development of the EIS. Improvements to planning and design as a result of feedback from this engagement includes, but is not limited to, minimizing Project footprint, including limiting direct effects to watercourses and wetlands, and changing the Haul Road to cross Highway 224 rather than travel along Highway 224 to avoid passing by residences and to minimize travel on Highway 224. AMNS commitments and mitigations regarding the construction of bypass roads, using adaptive management principles and identifying crossing of the Haul Road for recreational users are detailed in the Socio-economic Conditions Sections 6.16.5, 6.16.8, 6.16.10 and 6.16.11. The proposed bypass roads are also shown on Figure 3.3-2.

The meetings, site visits, telephone calls, emails, and other correspondence that formed the public stakeholder and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia engagement activities are included in Appendices A.4a and A.5, respectively.

**Table 3.7-2: Key Concerns Raised during 2020 Public Engagement Meetings**

Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding EIS Reference/Appendix
Concerns about access to ATV and snowmobile trails.	Restrictions on usage are required for safety reasons. Alternative access for ATVs, snowmobiles and light vehicles are being considered.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date
Concerns about access to camps, hunting and fishing locations.	Access to camps, hunting areas and fishing areas will be maintained. Camps, hunting and fishing areas have been identified by stakeholders and AMNS will work with stakeholders to allow continued access.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.5.5 Parks and Open Space, Tourism, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date
Concerns about traffic through Mooseland.	Traffic is not expected to impact Mooseland. As AMNS is developing routes for ATVs, snowmobiles and light vehicles, no traffic increases are expected in Mooseland.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date
Concerns about noise in Mooseland.	Noise modeling shows that all residences and receptors in Mooselands meet guidelines.	Section 6.1 Noise, Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation, Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date and Appendices B.1 Beaver Dam Mine Construction Noise Assessment and B.2 Updated Noise Impact Assessment Technical Report
Concerns about safety of the road network and trail network on Haul Road.	AMNS Haul Road Operations and Safety Management Plan will be developed by an ad hoc advisory committee.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous, Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date
Questions and concerns regarding receiving communications and information during the life of the Project.	Draft Public Engagement Plan has been drafted and will be circulated to stakeholders for feedback and comment. Community relations telephone line, email, website and news releases will continue. AMNS is evaluating opportunities to include social media platforms as well.	Section 3.2 Objectives, Section 3.4 Engagement Strategy, and Appendix A.6 draft Public Engagement Plan
Identification of potential mainland moose in the area.	The information provided by a stakeholder is being reviewed as of the updated 2021 EIS.	Section 6.11.4.1.2 Mainland Moose and Appendix A.4a Summary of Public Engagement as Completed for the Beaver Dam Mine Project To-date

**Table 3.7-2: Key Concerns Raised during 2020 Public Engagement Meetings (continued)**

Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding EIS Reference/Appendix
Concerns regarding slurry and dust from the Mooseland Road related to the Touquoy operations.	AMNS has a skid steer with a broom dedicated to cleaning the crossing. AMNS commits improving visibility and removing debris at the Mooseland Road crossing.	Section 2.10.11 The Preferred Approach
Concerns that the original EIS incorrect statements regarding the distances between residents and the Mooseland entrance to the Haul Road (known as the “old dump road”).	Updated 2021 EIS will be corrected as appropriate.	Project Location and History (Section 2.3 and 2.5), Land and Resource Use Section 6.16.4.12, Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic
Requested signage be placed on the “old dump road” to notify non-local residents that AMNS is considering construction of a Haul Road.	It is premature to place signage until project is approved. Also signage would require landowner approval. Business cards are being provided to local residents for them to distribute so that anyone with questions can contact community relations.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.10 Project Activities and Socio-economic Integrations and Effects, and Section 6.16.11 Mitigation
Concerns that the life of the Beaver Dam project use of the Haul Road will extend beyond 5 years.	The life of mine for the Project is 5 years but Fifteen Mile Stream Gold Project and Cochrane Hill Gold Project will also use the Haul Road.	Section 1 Proponent Information and Section 8 Cumulative Effects Assessment
Request to have truck and ATV access between the Mooseland Road and Highway 224.	Truck and ATV access between the Mooseland Road and Highway 224 is accommodated via bypass roads.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic and Appendix A.4a
Request to have the Mooseland Road entirely paved between Touquoy and the entrance to the Highway 224.	The Mooseland Road is a provincially owned road and decisions regarding paving made at the provincial level. This concern has been forwarded to the CLC to assess next steps and possibly providing letter of support for paving.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic and Section 6.16.8 Consideration of Engagement Results
Questions regarding the safety monitoring of the Mooseland road.	AMNS has a close working relationship with NS Department of Public Works and will work collaboratively with an ad hoc advisory committee.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation, and Appendix A.4a
Question regarding if the Haul Road can have blended traffic	AMNS explored this option and determined that for safety and operational reasons, that blended traffic is not the best option and instead is pursuing a dedicated bypass option for ATVs, snowmobiles and light vehicles.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic
Request for a public meeting in Mooseland.	AMNS organized an open house for Mooseland residents on November 27 and 28, 2020. Public Health restrictions issued by the province required that this meeting be cancelled. An open house potentially will occur in post submission of this document, subject to health restrictions due to COVID-19.	Section 3.6 Public Engagement and Section 3.8 Appendix A.6 Ongoing Engagement
Request for input into the operational and safety plan for the Haul Road.	AMNS will seek input in the operations and safety plan for the Haul Road. AMNS may established an ad hoc advisory committee to solicit advice.	Section 6.16.5.6 Roads and Traffic, Section 6.16.11 Mitigation, and Appendix A.4a

**Table 3.7-2: Key Concerns Raised during 2020 Public Engagement Meetings (continued)**

Key Concerns	Summary of Proponent Response	Corresponding EIS Reference/Appendix
Concerns about impacts on hunting near the Haul Road.	Hunting will be governed by provincial hunting requirements, which will restrict hunting near the Haul Road.	Section 6.14.7.1 Project Interactions with Traditional Use/Rights
Concerns about providing access to Marilyn Prest’s land.	Access will be provided to this particular landowner.	Section 6.16.5.4 Land Use, Recreational and Indigenous
Concerns about AMNS is communicating its plan for the Haul Road to the general population outside of the immediate area.	Communication and engagement with this stakeholder will occur as per the draft Public Engagement Plan.	Appendix A.6 draft Public Engagement Plan
Concerns about Impacts on Ferry Lake.	Ferry Lake is not modeled to be impacted by the Beaver Dam Mine Project. Ferry Lake property owners who have expressed interest in the project have been contacted.	Section 3.6 and Appendix F.9 (Response to Information Request Nos. CEAA 2-36, CEAA 2-37, and NSE 2-130 Evaluation of Potential Impacts from Metals COCs to Groundwater and Surface Water from Dust Deposition along the Haul Road)
Impacts on NSSA West River Project and fish habitat.	Fish and fish habitat assessment, mitigation, and monitoring plans to address ongoing concerns.	Section 6.9.8 Mitigation (Fish), Section 6.16.11 Mitigation (Socio-economic) and Section 8 Cumulative Effects Assessment
Speeding by AMNS vehicles on the Mooseland Road.	Complaints from residents will be investigated. All AMNS vehicles include a GPS so that vehicle speeds can be tracked. AMNS committed to installing digital speed sign as a pilot project.	Section 6.16.8 Consideration of Engagement Results
Concerns about the widening of the Haul Road on private landowners.	The width of the Haul Road right of way is approximately 100 m in some locations and 200 metres in others.	Section 2.9.2.2 Haul Road for Transporting Ore

Notes: ATV = all-terrain vehicle; AMNS = Atlantic Mining NS Inc.; EIS = Environmental Impact Statement; GPS = Global Positioning System; CLC = Community Liaison Committee; m = metre; NSSA = Nova Scotia Salmon Association.

### **3.8 Ongoing Public Engagement**

As per the draft Public Engagement Plan, there are many tools to engage stakeholders, including members of the local community, government regulators, NGOs, landowners, and members of the public. AMNS has a broad objective to continue to engage the community and will continue to implement its strategy.

Within the draft Public Engagement Plan specific commitments are made by AMNS to engage during the next steps in the EA processes and beyond, including:

- sharing key aspects of the EIS with interested NGOs and/or CLC members;
- holding meetings with interested NGOs, including ESFWA and NSSA;
- aligning in data collection and mitigation measures with local organizations, specifically with the ongoing field work of NSSA; and
- answering specific questions posed directly to the company by providing additional information where feasible.

As part of the understanding that engagement plans need to be flexible, AMNS will address and respond to additional stakeholders identified or concerns noted as the Project moves forward and into construction, operation and active closure.

The draft Public Engagement Plan (Appendix A.6) is a long-term plan which makes a series of commitments that will be delivered over the life of the Project.