

Springpole Gold Mine – First Mining Gold Corp.**Amendment to the Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012***

March 2022

Overview: This document amends the “Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*” (EIS Guidelines) for the Springpole Gold Mine Project (the Project), originally issued by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) on June 19, 2018.

These amendments (Table 1) along with the June 19, 2018 EIS Guidelines forms the EIS Guidelines for the proponent’s preparation of the EIS for the Springpole Gold Project. The amendments reflect updates to the list of Indigenous groups with which the proponent is expected to engage for the environmental assessment. The amendments also provide updated references to Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Canada and Health Canada’s Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment. Table 2 provides updated internet links to sites included in the original EIS Guidelines.

Table 1. Amendments to the EIS Guidelines. Text bolded and italicised in the right column is text that is added, whereas text bolded and crossed-out is text that is removed.

Row	Page and reference	EIS Guidelines currently reads:	Text of EIS Guidelines should now read:
1	Page 19, Part 2, Section 5	<p>For the groups expected to be most affected by the project, the proponent is expected to strive towards developing a productive and constructive relationship based on on-going dialogue with the groups in order to support information gathering and the effects assessment. These groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cat Lake First Nation - Slate Falls First Nation 	<p>For the groups expected to be most affected by the project, the proponent is expected to strive towards developing a productive and constructive relationship based on on-going dialogue with the groups in order to support information gathering and the effects assessment. These groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cat Lake First Nation - <i>Lac Seul First Nation</i> - <i>Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Consultation Committee⁸</i> - <i>Mishkeegogamang Ojibway First Nation</i> - Slate Falls First Nation
2	Page 19, Part 2, Section 5	<p>For groups that may also be affected by the project, but to a lesser degree, the proponent will, at a minimum, ensure these groups are notified about key steps in the EIS development process and of opportunities to provide comments on key EA documents and/or information to be provided regarding their community. The proponent will still ensure these groups are reflected in the baseline information and assessment of potential effects or impacts in the EIS (see Part 2, Section 7.1.9 of these guidelines). These groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lac Seul First Nation - Wabauskang First Nation 	<p>For groups that may also be affected by the project, but to a lesser degree, the proponent will, at a minimum, ensure these groups are notified about key steps in the EIS development process and of opportunities to provide comments on key EA documents and/or information to be provided regarding their community. The proponent will still ensure these groups are reflected in the baseline information and assessment of potential effects or impacts in the EIS (see Part 2, Section 7.1.9 of these guidelines). These groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lac Seul First Nation - Wabauskang First Nation

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Row	Page and reference	EIS Guidelines currently reads:	Text of EIS Guidelines should now read:
3	Page 19, Part 2, Section 5	In addition, for the purposes of good governance, the proponent should also provide information to and discuss potential environmental effects from the Project, as described under section 5(1)(c) of CEAA 2012, with Mishkeegogamang Ojibway First Nation and Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Consultation Committee. ⁸	In addition, for the purposes of good governance, the proponent should also provide information to and discuss potential environmental effects from the Project, as described under section 5(1)(c) of CEAA 2012, with Mishkeegogamang Ojibway First Nation and Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Consultation Committee.⁸
4	Page 26, Part 2, Section 7.1.8	¹⁷ Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>) in Canada http://sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2253	¹⁷ Amended Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>) in Canada (2020) http://sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2253 https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual_sara/files/plans/Rs-CaribouBorealeAmdMod-v01-2020Dec-Eng.pdf
5	Page 27, footnote 21, Part 2, Section 7.1.9	²¹ The proponent should refer to Health Canada's Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Country Foods (2018). Health Canada can provide a copy of this document upon request.	²¹ The proponent should refer to Health Canada's Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Country Foods (2018). Health Canada can provide a copy of this document upon request. Available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/sc-hc/H129-54-5-2018-eng.pdf
6	Page 34, Part 2, Section 7.3.4	- When risks to human health due to changes in one or more of these components are predicted, the proponent is expected to complete a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) examining all exposure pathways for pollutants of concern to adequately characterize potential risks to human health.	- When risks to human health due to changes in one or more of these components are predicted, the proponent is expected to complete a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) examining all exposure pathways for pollutants of concern to adequately characterize potential risks to human health. The Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Human Health Risk Assessment is available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2019/sc-hc/H129-54-6-2019-eng.pdf

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Table 2. Updated internet links to sites included in the original EIS Guidelines.

Row	Page and reference	Text of EIS Guidelines should now read:
1	Page 15, Part 2, Section 2.2	Footnote 6 – Refer to the Agency’s Operational Policy Statement entitled “Addressing “Purpose of” and “Alternative Means” under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/addressing-purpose-alternative-means-under-canadian-environmental-assessment-act-2012.html
2	Page 23, Part 2, Section 7.1.4	Footnote 14 – The Canadian Wetland Classification System, National Wetlands Working Group, 1997 (Updated Link): https://www.gret-perq.ulaval.ca/fileadmin/fichiers/fichiersGRET/pdf/Doc_generale/Wetlands.pdf
3	Page 26, Part 2, Section 7.1.8	Footnote 16 – Proponents are encouraged to consult COSEWIC’s annual report for a listing of the designated wildlife species (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-annual-reports.html
4	Page 26, Part 2, Section 7.1.8	Footnote 17 – Action Plan for the Woodland Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>), Boreal Population, in Canada: Federal Actions (Updated Link): https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/plans/Ap-WoodlandCaribouBorealPopulationFederalActions-v00-2018Feb-Eng.pdf
5	Page 28, Part 2, Section 7.1.9	Footnote 23 – The proponent should refer to the Agency’s <i>Technical Guidance for Assessing the Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes under CEAA, 2012</i> document in order to include the appropriate baseline information relevant to current use. This document can be obtained at (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/technical-guidance-assessing-current-use-lands-resources-traditional-purposes-under-ceaa-2012.html
6	Page 29 Part 2, Section 7.1.9	Footnote 24 – See section “Gathering data and information on VCs of interest” in the <i>Technical Guidance for Assessing the Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes under CEAA 2012</i> for further guidance (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/technical-guidance-assessing-current-use-lands-resources-traditional-purposes-under-ceaa-2012.html#_Toc015
7	Page 35, Part 2, Section 7.3.4	Footnote 27 – Refer to <i>Technical Guidance for Assessing Physical and Cultural Heritage or any Structure, Site or Thing</i> (March 2015) (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/technical-guidance-assessing-physical-cultural-heritage-or-structure-site-or-thing.html
8	Page 35, Part 2, Section 7.3.4	Footnote 28 – Refer to <i>Technical Guidance for Assessing the Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes under CEAA 2012</i> (December 2015) (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/technical-guidance-assessing-current-use-lands-resources-traditional-purposes-under-ceaa-2012.html

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Row	Page and reference	Text of EIS Guidelines should now read:
9	Page 39, Part 2, Section 7.5	<p>Footnote 29 – Refer to Agency’s Operational Policy Statement, <i>Determining Whether a Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i> (November 2015) (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/determining-whether-designated-project-is-likely-cause-significant-adverse-environmental-effects-under-ceaa-2012.html</p> <p>Refer to Agency’s Interim Technical Guidance, <i>Determining Whether a Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i> (March 2018) (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/determining-project-cause-significant-environmental-effects-ceaa2012.html</p>
10	Page 41, Part 2, Section 7.6.3	<p>Footnote 31 – Refer to <i>Assessing Cumulative Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i> (March 2018) (Updated Link): https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/assessing-cumulative-environmental-effects-ceaa2012.html</p>