



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

President

Président

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Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

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August 19, 2022

Steve Lines
Vice President, Environment & Community Relations
First Mining Gold Corp.
<Email address removed>

Steve Lines:

On June 27, 2022, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received your request for an extension to the three-year legislated time limit to provide the required information or studies for the environmental assessment (EA) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) of the Springpole Gold Project (the Project).

As per subsection 181(2.1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA), at the proponent's request, the Agency may extend the time limit by any period that is necessary for the proponent to provide the Agency with the required information or studies.

Following a review of available information, including the information submitted in your request, the Agency has determined that it **will extend the time limit**. The Agency is of the view that:

- you have demonstrated progress in the development of the required information and studies and have a realistic work plan to complete them;
- coordination with the provincial EA has affected your ability to meet the legislated time limit; and
- extenuating circumstances contributed to the delay, such as a 2021 forest fire that caused you to defer hydrogeology data collection to 2022.

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The deadline to submit the required information or studies described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines, as amended in March 2022, is now December 31, 2025. Note that no further extension may be granted by the Agency.

The required information and studies to be provided include the EIS and any additional required information or studies that may be identified as a result of:

- the Agency's conformity review of the EIS;
- the public comment period on the EIS Summary;
- the technical review of the EIS by the Agency and federal authorities;
- and
- associated consultation and engagement by the Agency with Indigenous communities.

If the information or studies are not provided within the extension of the time limit that has been granted, the environmental assessment for the Project under CEEA 2012 will be terminated in accordance with section 181(3) of the IAA. If the environmental assessment is terminated, note that, in accordance with subsection 7(1) of the IAA, proponents of a designated project are prohibited from carrying out any act related to the project that may cause one of the effects listed therein. If you wish to continue with the Project after the termination of the assessment, you must submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency in accordance with section 10 of the IAA.

Please note that your request, this determination, and a notice informing the public of the new time limit will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80149.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Anjala Puvananathan, Regional Director for Ontario Region, by telephone at <Personal information removed> or by email at springpolegoldmine-minedorspringpole@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)