



March 20, 2023

Ms. Janna Switzer
Director, HSE Regulatory Compliance
Denison Mines Corp.
jswitzer@denisonmines.com

Subject: Results of the Federal-Indigenous Review Team technical review of the October 21st, 2022 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Submission for the proposed Wheeler River Project

Dear Mrs. Switzer,

On October 21, 2022, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) submitted a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Executive Summary, as well as Technical Support Documents (in the form of Appendices) for the proposed Wheeler River Project [1]. On November 18, 2022, CNSC staff found the submission [1] to contain the required information to proceed with the Federal-Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) technical review of the draft EIS [2].

Outcome of the EIS Technical Review

The FIRT has completed the technical review of the submission and has found that the information provided does not fully address the regulatory requirements for the environmental assessment (EA). The technical review of the submission [1] has resulted in 238 information requests (IRs) [3], found in Annex 1 attached, as well as 49 advice to proponent comments [4], found in Annex 2, also attached. Comments in the advice to proponent table contain additional guidance and advice that Denison should take into consideration when responding to IRs and when revising the draft EIS.

Expectations and Next Steps

On March 21, 2023 or shortly thereafter, CNSC staff will post information request tables and advice to proponent comments on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry for the [Wheeler River Project](#) ([Reference number: 80178](#)).

CNSC staff expect Denison to submit complete responses to all IRs and advice to proponent comments and to re-submit a revised EIS. CNSC staff also request that Denison provide a document revision history with the revised EIS, in order for reviewers to locate the changes that have been made to revised documents. It is expected that Denison clearly indicate how the revised EIS incorporated changes that take into account the responses to the IRs. CNSC staff as well as members of the FIRT are available and willing to meet with Denison to discuss the path forward and to clarify expectations for the IR responses.

Commitments Report

At this time, CNSC staff are also formally requesting that Denison submit, as part of its revised EIS documentation, a Commitments Report in order to capture all the mitigation measures, follow-up program measures and commitments that have been referenced in the EA documentation in a single location for completeness and traceability. This report should include a listing of all commitments made by Denison based on all of the documentation submitted to date including:

- the EIS
- correspondence with the public and Indigenous Nations and communities
- responses to IRs
- additional commitments Denison has made in any documentation to members of the public and Indigenous Nations and communities and to whom these commitments apply

These commitments should be triaged based on whether they are within the scope of regulatory requirements or beyond (e.g., good governance, social responsibility), and indicate how each of these commitments will be tracked into Denison programs, for example, environmental monitoring programs.

It would be helpful if Denison could organize this information in tabular format providing the following information:

- details of the commitment
- which phase(s) of the project will the commitment be carried out (e.g., all phases)
- where the commitment is referenced (which document, table, etc. and where it can be found)
- how this commitment will be tracked (project EA follow-up program, site-wide programs, etc.)

This report would remain an evergreen document that would continue to be updated, during the remainder of the regulatory review process, as well as if the project is approved, after the public hearings and Commission decisions, to capture any additional commitments made by Denison staff during public hearings and any actions directed by the Commission to Denison.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, directly by phone at 343-540-6213 or by email at Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Jessica Way
Environmental Assessment Officer
Environmental Assessment Division

c.c.: CNSC: N. Kwamena, P. Burton, K. Gorzkowski, W. Yen
Denison: K. Himbeault, C. Inglis-McQuay, R. Nagel

References:

- [1] Letter, K. Himbeault and J. Switzer (Denison) to J. Way (CNSC), Wheeler River Project - Submission of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, October 21, 2022 (e-doc 6991484)
- [2] Letter, J. Way (CNSC) to J. Switzer (Denison), CNSC Conclusions: Outcome of the Wheeler River Conformity Review, November 18, 2022 (e-doc 6943662)
- [3] Annex 1, Federal and Indigenous Review Team, Wheeler River Project – Information Requests, March 20, 2022 (e-doc 6858049)
- [4] Annex 2, Federal and Indigenous Review Team, Wheeler River Project – Advice to Proponent, March 20, 2022 (e-doc 6858048)