



July 29, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Barbara Markovits
Chair of Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association
info@forestwatch.ca

Dear Ms. Markovits,

Thank you for your letter dated July 23, 2021, concerning the Touquoy Gold Mine Expansion (the Project) proposed by Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia Inc. You have requested that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) designate the Project under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

Under subsection 9(1) of IAA, the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond to your request with reasons for their decision by October 21, 2021.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review information about the Project; any concerns expressed from the public (that the Agency is aware of) and Indigenous groups; and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether the Project should be designated. If designated, to proceed with the Project Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia Inc. would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the designation request process can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

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In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project (Reference 82837) will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. To provide further information, please use the following email address touquoymine-minetouquoy@iaac-aeic.gc.

Important Note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – are considered public and may be released. If you have provided any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency as soon as possible. The Agency does not accept information marked as confidential without prior contact with the Agency.

Further questions regarding this request can be directed to Kathryn MacCarthy at 902-399-8834 or touquoymine-minetouquoy@iaac-aeic.gc.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Mike Atkinson
Regional Director, Atlantic Region