



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario  
600-55 rue York  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

September 13, 2021

Sent by email

Chief Wayne Wabie  
26 Station Road North  
P.O Box 1022  
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3L1  
<Email address removed>

Dear Chief Wayne Wabie:

**Subject: Request for Comments on the Potential Impact Assessment of the Proposed Upper Beaver Gold Project**

On July 20, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) sent a letter to Beaverhouse Indigenous Community, providing early notification about the proposed Upper Beaver Gold Project.

On September 13, 2021, the Agency accepted the Initial Project Description for the Project from Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (the proponent) as meeting the requirements of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). As of today, the 180-day planning phase of the impact assessment has commenced, thus we are seeking your views on the potential effects of the Project and on your preferences in engagement approaches.

**The Proposed Project**

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground and open pit gold and copper mine located 20 kilometres northeast of Kirkland Lake, in Ontario. As proposed, the project includes an on-site metal mill and structures for diverting water. The maximum ore production capacity of the mine is approximately 15,000 tonnes per day, and the maximum ore input capacity of the processing plant would be approximately 10,000 tonnes per day, with a mine life of approximately 16 years. The Project would require the diversion of over 90 million cubic meters of water per year from Beaverhouse Lake downstream to the Misema River.

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A summary of the Initial Project Description is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Registry) at:

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/141179?culture=en-CA>

### **Participation in the impact assessment planning phase**

Pursuant to the IAA, the Agency is initiating engagement activities with the public and other participants. A public comment period on the summary of the Initial Project Description is taking place from September 13, 2021, to October 4, 2021.

### **Request for comments**

The Agency is seeking your initial views on the following items:

- Any environmental effects and impacts of the Project that are of concern to your community including any anticipated environmental effects and additional impacts that are not listed in the Initial Project Description.
- How the project and associated environmental effects could result in positive or negative changes to your community's:
  - health conditions (e.g. country foods, drinking water, air quality)
  - socio-economic conditions (e.g. economic development, access to jobs, access to resources);
  - physical and cultural heritage (e.g. ceremonial sites, burial sites, cultural landscapes);
  - current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping); or,
  - structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance (e.g. artifacts, important historical buildings or symbols).

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Comments received by **October 4, 2021**, will inform the development of a Summary of Issues prepared by the Agency, which includes the issues raised by Indigenous groups and other participants. The Agency will provide the Summary of Issues to the proponent and post a copy to the Registry. The proponent will be required to submit a Detailed Project Description to the Agency that outlines how it plans to address the issues raised. The proponent's documents and input from Indigenous communities and other participants will then be considered by the Agency in its decision on whether to require a federal impact assessment for the Project.

Should the Agency determine that a federal impact assessment is required, the Agency will be leading engagement efforts on behalf of the Government of Canada, to ensure a meaningful and responsive two way dialogue takes place with Beaverhouse Indigenous Community in respect of the Project and any potential impacts it may have on your community.

#### **How to provide your comments**

Comments on the Project can be provided to the Agency contact provided below, or submitted via the *Submit a Comment* feature available on the Project's Registry page (Reference #82960 at <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960?culture=en-CA>). If you have any questions or difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency using the contact provided below for assistance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please note that any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file and on the Registry. However, there are certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy<sup>1</sup> determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>

### **Funding Program Grants**

As indicated in the Agency's early notification letter of July 20, 2021, the Agency is able to offer funding to support Beaverhouse Indigenous Community's participation during the planning phase of the federal impact assessment process.

More information on the Agency's funding programs and the federal impact assessment process can be found on the Agency's website.<sup>3</sup> If your community would like to use this funding please contact *iaac.FP-AF.aeic@canada.ca*. Upon confirmation of your community's interest and completion of the appropriate application form, funding will be distributed at two points during the planning phase of the impact assessment process:

- An initial grant of **\$3,000.00** is being offered now to support your community's review of the proponent's Initial Project Description, as the Agency has accepted an Initial Project Description from the proponent; and,
- A second grant of **\$5,000.00** would be offered to support your community's involvement in the development of the Agency's Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, if a federal impact assessment is required.

If a federal impact assessment is required, the Agency will offer additional funding to support the continued participation of Beaverhouse Indigenous Community throughout subsequent phases of the process

### **Contacting the Agency**

Spencer Roth will be coordinating Crown consultation for the Project on behalf of the Agency. Spencer will be in touch with you to confirm your receipt of this letter. Alternatively, you may contact Spencer at 647-355-7318 or by email at *UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>

**COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Agency recognizes that it is challenging to undertake meaningful public engagement and Indigenous consultation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the continuity of its operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency put in place virtual and online mechanisms that have enabled staff to work closely with Indigenous groups and communities, the public, proponents and stakeholders, ensuring that their engagement needs were met as best as possible during this time.

The Agency is continuing to provide virtual options to manage training needs and current public engagement and consultations. Adjustments to assessment timeframes are also being considered on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the authorities under the IAA. Given the public health advice of federal and provincial authorities, the Agency is still temporarily suspending face-to-face meetings with proponents, stakeholders and community members.

The Agency continues to provide flexibility around its engagement, consultation and training activities, and will reassess in-person meetings once it is safe to do so. Any updates or consultation plans will continue to be posted on the Agency's website and on the Registry (attached).

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Sean Carriere  
A/Director, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Agency's commitments regarding consultation during COVID-19 pandemic

c.c.: Annik Birnie, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada