



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

August 8, 2022

Sent by email

David Vallier

General Manager, Mattagami Region Conservation Authority

100 Lakeshore Road

Timmins, Ontario P4N 8R5

<email address removed>

Dear David Vallier:

**Subject: Comments invited on the potential impacts of the proposed
Crawford Nickel Project**

Please submit any comments by September 7, 2022

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) has received an Initial Project Description for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project) proposed by Canada Nickel Company (the Proponent). The Agency has commenced a planning phase for the federal impact assessment process. The Initial Project Description is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Registry) at <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857>.

The Agency is conducting a 30-day comment period on the Initial Project Description from August 8, 2022, to September 7, 2022, inviting the public, Indigenous communities and other jurisdictions to provide feedback related to the Project. Your comments are invited as detailed below.

Feedback will help the Agency prepare a Summary of Issues for the Proponent and inform the Agency's decision as to whether the Project requires an impact assessment. If an impact assessment is required, this same feedback would help the Agency prepare draft planning documents including Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Proponent and a Public Participation Plan.

.../2



Crawford Nickel Project

The Proponent is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an open-pit nickel-cobalt mine and on-site metal mill, located 43 kilometres north of Timmins, Ontario. As proposed, the Project would have a mine ore production capacity of 290,000 tonnes per day and a mill ore input capacity of 120,000 tonnes per day. The Project would operate for about 41 years.

Invitation to provide comments by September 7, 2022

The Agency invites your authority's comments on the Proponent's Initial Project Description. In particular, the Agency seeks your input on the following:

- Describe the mandate of the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority. What **role** do you have for projects of this nature at this location?
- What are your key concerns for the watershed with the Project in place? Consider key positive or negative effects on the environment and on health, social, and economic conditions within your jurisdiction.
- Has the Proponent identified relevant authorizations or guidelines from your conservation authority that are applicable to the Project and its potential effects? If not, list all that may apply. What potential effects would these manage, if any? What engagement or consultation with the public and Indigenous communities would be required, if any?
- Identify any preferences for how the conservation authority would like to be engaged throughout the potential assessment process.
- Do you have any Conservation Authority guidance the Agency should be aware of when contemplating positive and negative effects of the Project?
- Identify any key and relevant positive or negative effects on components of the environment or on health, social, and economic conditions of concern to the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority.

Please submit your comments via the *Submit a Comment* feature available on the Project's Registry page. Letters and comments can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties, please contact the Agency using the information provided below for assistance. The Agency will consider input received **by September 7, 2022**, in the development of the Summary of Issues.

Next steps

The Agency will provide a Summary of Issues to the Proponent. The Proponent will prepare and submit a Detailed Project Description, including a Response to the Summary of Issues to explain how issues will be addressed. After accepting the Detailed Project Description, the Agency will decide whether an impact assessment is required¹.

.../3

¹ In making its decision, the Agency must take into account the factors set out in subsection 16(2) of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

If an impact assessment is required, the Agency would develop draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and plans – including a Permitting Plan, a Public Participation Plan, an Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, and a Cooperation Plan. The Agency would hold a second comment period to invite feedback on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and draft plans. These documents would be finalized and issued to the Proponent with a notice of commencement of the impact assessment.

During the impact statement phase, the proponent would be expected to satisfactorily complete the required information and studies set out in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. At the end of the impact assessment process, a decision is made about whether the adverse effects of the Project are in the public interest.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file, and may be posted online via the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #83857), subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy² describes what 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.³

Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that should be protected from release to the public, please contact Harry Keess at 416-659-0765 or at Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca before submitting the information. This will ensure that your submission is handled appropriately.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Harry Keess, Project Manager, by email at Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or by phone at 416-659-0765.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Marc Leger
A/ Director, Ontario Region

² <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

³ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>