



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

Chris Wray, Township of Black River-Matheson
Cindy Welsh, City of Timmins
Jon Beadow, Town of Kapuskasing
Kim Lauzon, Town of Iroquois Falls
Kory Hautcoeur, Town of Hearst
Sophie Hautot, Town of Cochrane
Veronique Dion, Town of Smooth Rock Falls

Dear All,

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

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 and a mill ore input capacity of 120,000 tonnes per day. The Project would operate for about 41 years.

Invitation to submit comments by September 7, 2022

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

- Has the Proponent appropriately characterized the existing health, social and economic conditions that you consider relevant to the Project? Does your municipality have any community plans or written objectives¹ that could provide additional context?
- What are your key concerns for the municipality with the Project in place? Consider key positive or negative effects on the environment and on health, social, and economic conditions. Consider how the Project may support or hinder your community plans and objectives.
- Has the Proponent identified relevant municipal bylaws, authorizations, or guidelines from your municipality 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 municipality would like to be engaged throughout the potential assessment process.

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.

.../3

¹ An example would be the Timmins Community and Safety Well-being Plan, 2022: https://www.timmins.ca/find_or_learn_about/community_safety_and_well-being

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 required².

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 Policy³ 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.⁴

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 Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca, or 416-659-0765 **before** submitting the information. This will ensure that your submission is handled appropriately.

.../4

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

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

⁴ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>

Invitation to public information sharing and discussion sessions

The Agency invites you to attend a virtual public information session via Zoom. This session will be an opportunity to learn more about the Project and the impact assessment process. Each session will include a question and answer period with representatives from the Agency. Interested participants can select one of the following sessions to join:

- Thursday, August 18, 2022, 1:00-2:30pm EDT (English)
- Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 6:00-7:30pm EDT (English)
- Thursday, August 25, 2022, 6:00-7:30pm EDT (French)

We invite you and your staff to register at SimpleSurvey⁵ at least 3 hours prior to the session you want to attend. Those that register will receive a calendar invite and the link to participate.

Notice to members of the public

In addition to the Registry, the Agency uses print, web, radio and social media to advertise public comment periods. We would appreciate your support in making residents aware of the opportunity to comment. If you routinely send notices to residents, please consider posting or forwarding the following message:

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is holding a public comment period from August 8, 2022 to September 7, 2022, on the proposed Crawford Nickel Project. Information is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at: <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857>

Comments can be submitted at the above link. Other inquiries may be directed to Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

The Agency will host virtual information-sharing and discussion sessions. For more information on how to register and attend, please see the Agency's public notice⁶.

Please feel free to contact me at Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or by phone at 416-659-0765.

Sincerely,

Harry Keess
Project Manager

⁵ <https://iaac-aeic.survey-sondage.ca/f/s.aspx?s=156b6de6-06e9-481b-8835-7cc3f0ae6b2b>

⁶ <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/144714?culture=en-CA>