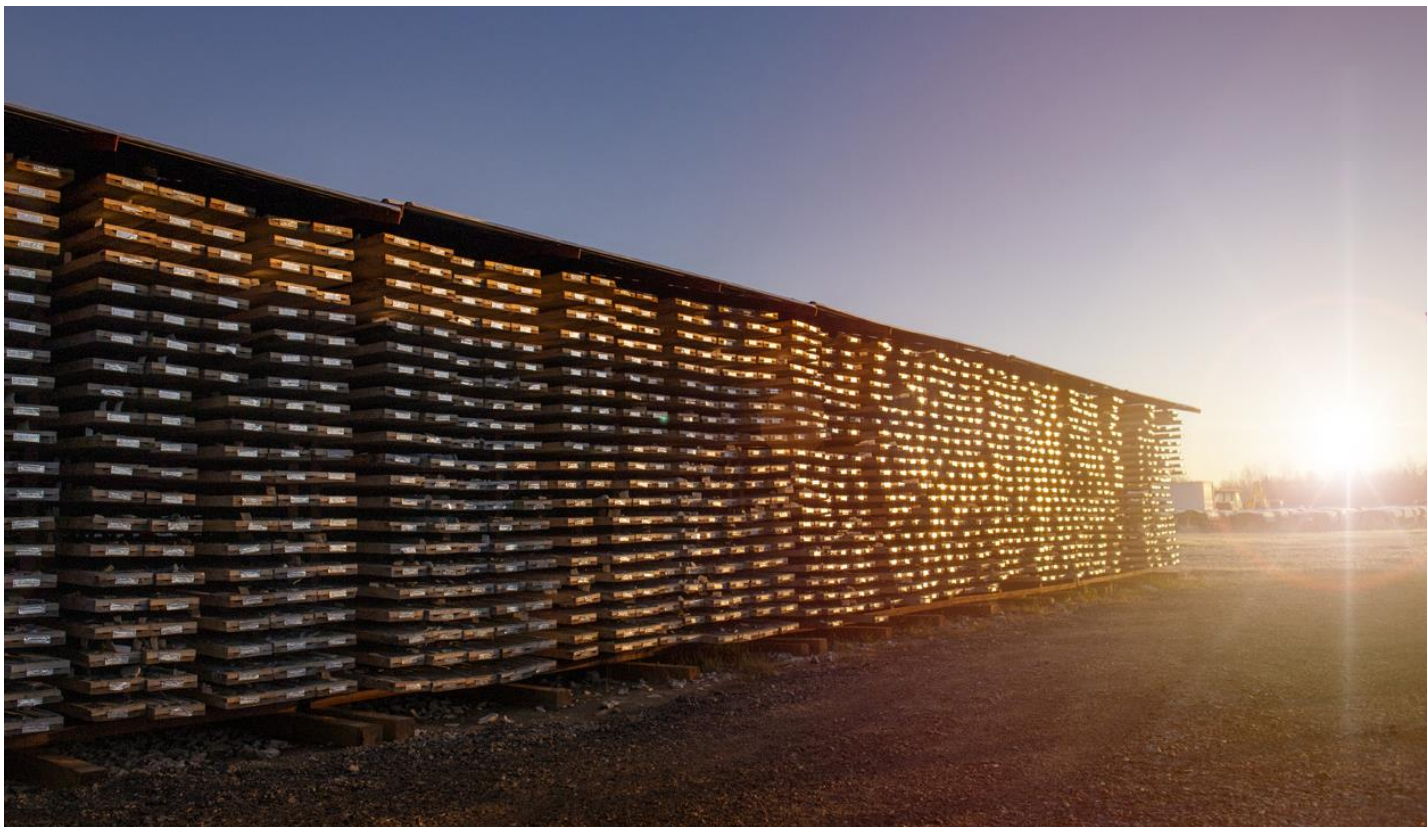




Crawford Nickel Project Impact Statement

Chapter 6 Public Participation and Views



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Class EA	Class Environmental Assessment
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DPD	Detailed Project Description
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
GBA Plus	Gender-Based Analysis Plus
GRT	Government Review Team
IA	Impact Assessment
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
IPD	Initial Project Description
MECP	Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
MINES	Ministry of Mines
MND	Ministry of Northern Development
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MTO	Ministry of Transportation
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
PIC	Public Information Centre
VC	Valued Component

6 Public Participation and Views

6.1 Overview

Canada Nickel Company (Canada Nickel) recognizes the importance of consultation and engagement as an integral aspect of the Crawford Nickel Project ('the Project'). Consultation with Indigenous nations and consultation with stakeholders (including members of the public, community organizations, local businesses, and other interested parties), as well as government agencies, is an integral aspect of the Impact Assessment (IA) process and the Project.

Although Canada Nickel began engaging parties regarding the Project as far back as 2021 on a voluntary basis based on the operating ethos of the Company (Interim Project Description [IPD] Canada Nickel 2022a) and Detailed Project Description [DPD] Canada Nickel 2022b), this chapter outlines Canada Nickel's approach to consultation undertaken since the issuance of the Notice of Commencement of an Impact Assessment, March 31, 2023 to July 4, 2024 with the exception of regulatory consultation, which was considered until the submission of the IS.

This chapter summarizes key engagement activities undertaken, key comments received, responses to concerns and plans for ongoing and future engagement over the life of the Project. Active participation during the planning and preparation of the Impact Statement helped to achieve an open and transparent process, build trust, and enhance awareness and understanding of the Project, while shaping the Project writ-large.

6.1.1 Approach

Consultation refers to two-way communication to share information and viewpoints, understand comments and interest, and address or resolve issues. The term consultation is used to represent the full breadth of the Project communications including activities undertaken by Canada Nickel to fulfill procedural aspects of the *Duty to Consult*, and other engagement activities to connect with parties, provide Project information, and inform them of opportunities to provide input. Canada Nickel's consultation approach has been designed to reflect key requirements from the federal IA process, which provides guidance for consultation with stakeholders, government agencies, and Indigenous nations. Consultation and engagement with Indigenous nations is presented in Chapter 7 of the Impact Statement (Description of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples).

Consultation for the Project has been informed by federal IA guidelines, including:

- Guidance: Public Participation under the Impact Assessment Act (IAAC 2019a)
- Framework: Public Participation under the Impact Assessment Act (IAAC 2019b)
- Crawford Nickel Project Public Participation Plan (IAAC 2023)

The Crawford Nickel Project Public Participation Plan (IAAC 2023) was developed by IAAC to create opportunities for participation during the IA process. IAAC's objectives for public participation include

opportunities for the public to take part in the IA, with the information needed to participate and the capacity to participate in an informed manner. The public was engaged early and often at every stage of the IA process. Canada Nickel incorporated the IAAC objectives into their consultation approach.

Canada Nickel's approach to consultation was to identify and to provide stakeholders, and government agencies, with an opportunity to receive information about, and provide input into, the review and development of the Project. Recommendations or comments shared with Canada Nickel were documented, responded to, and considered for the purposes of the Impact Statement and further considered where appropriate in the ongoing and future development of the conceptual and detailed design.

Consultation opportunities were provided to interested parties so that the Project could be well understood by potentially affected stakeholders, and their feedback and concerns were considered and incorporated into Project planning, to the extent practical. With that in mind, the objectives and methods for consultation for the Impact Statement are to:

- provide consultation opportunities that address the particular interests and needs of interested parties
- provide for timely, open, transparent, effective, consistent, and proactive communications
- foster and maintain positive and constructive relationships with parties that may be affected by decisions regarding the scope of the Project
- coordinate Impact Statement and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) consultation requirements and notification to avoid consultation fatigue and increase efficiency of the process
- provide opportunities for participation and to accommodate those with diverse needs and varying interests of participants (e.g., public comment periods, virtual or in-person information sessions or engagement workshops)

6.1.2 Engaging Diverse Populations

The IAA requires applicants to apply Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) to identify the potential for the Project to disproportionately impact diverse groups of people, including on vulnerable populations and populations identified by gender. GBA Plus is a means of identifying and analyzing how sex, gender, and other identity factors of vulnerable populations (e.g., 2SLGBTQIA+) might result in different groups of people being affected by a project in different ways. Individual and social identity factors can include sex, gender, religion, race, social position, income, age, ability, and education. In accordance with IAAC Guidance: GBA Plus in Impact Assessment (2021), Project-specific engagement activities must be designed to facilitate the effective involvement of all potentially affected diverse groups of people.

To date, Canada Nickel has engaged with diverse population groups in order to support an understanding of unique perspectives and socio-economic conditions. This included efforts to contact organizations which represent these populations in the Project's region and approaching such organizations at community events. This type of engagement supports the GBA Plus framework.

Other methods of engagement were also made available, including the following:

- plain language materials, including summary materials, were made available and distributed in printed and digital format
- holding virtual and in-person Public Information Centres (PICs) (e.g. open houses) in various communities with evening options to provide greater accessibility for those limited in mobility, with time, financial, or other familial constraints
- holding in-person events in accessible venues with facilities to accommodate people with visual, hearing, and mobility impairments
- children’s activities made available at PICs
- providing online or phone-based engagement opportunities as alternatives to in-person meetings to increase participation and accessibility for interested parties or persons
- community meeting minutes made available for online viewing, where appropriate and with the informed consent of the participants
- sharing the Project’s website and contact information to facilitate the provision of information that is considered confidential by the individual or group

6.2 Identification of Project Stakeholders

Project stakeholders include surface rights holders, federal and provincial government agencies, local municipalities, and general public groups and organizations. Through consultation activities undertaken to date by Canada Nickel in support of the Project, and based on IAAC’s planning documents (i.e., Public Participation Plan, Cooperation Plan), a Stakeholder Contact List was established. The Stakeholder Contact List is provided in Table 6.1 below.

Note that consultation with Indigenous nations is described in Chapter 7 of the Impact Statement (Description of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples), which includes a description of the methodology and outcomes of engagement with Indigenous nations.

Table 6.1 Stakeholder Contact List for the Project

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder
Government - Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Timmins • Town of Cochrane • Town of Iroquois Falls • Town of Smooth Rock Falls • Township of Black River-Matheson

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder
Government - Provincial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Mines (MINES) • Ministry of Northern Development (MND) • Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) • Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) • Ministry of Transportation (MTO) • Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport • Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade • Porcupine Health Unit • Ontario Power Generation • Ontario Northland Transportation Commission • Mattagami Region Conservation Authority • Hydro One Networks Incorporated • Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Government - Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada • Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) • Indigenous Services Canada • Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) • Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) • Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) • Transport Canada • Health Canada
Public and Interest Groups - Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Better Living • Anti-Hunger Coalition Timmins • Apatisiwin Employment and Training Program • Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane – Timiskaming Branch • Cochrane District Social Planning Council • Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board • Cochrane Local Citizens Committee • Ellevive • Ininew Friendship Centre Jubilee Centre • Keepers of the Circle • Living Space Timmins • Jubilee Centre • Mattagami Region Source Protection Committee • MICs Group of Health Services • Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario • NORCAT • Northglen Community • Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre • South Cochrane Addiction Services • The Venture Centre • Timmins and Area Women in Crisis • Timmins and District Multicultural Centre • Timmins Community Development Committee • Timmins Local Citizens Committee • Timmins Native Friendship Centre • Timmins Youth Wellness Hub • Porcupine Health Unit • Workplace Safety North – Ontario Mine Rescue

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder
Public and Interest Groups - Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Environmental Law Association • Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Wildlands League • Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed • Northwatch • Northern Claybelt Complex Conservation Reserve • Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Center • Ontario Nature • Ontario Rivers Alliance • Wildlife Conservation Society of Ontario
Public Interest Groups - Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abitibi Institute • Abitibi River Forest Management Inc. • Access Better Living • Black River-Matheson Chamber of Commerce • Boralex • Cochrane Board of Trade • Cochrane Economic Steering Board • Glencore Kidd Mine • H2O Power • Iroquois Falls and District Chamber of Commerce • Mining Watch Canada • Ontario Power Generation • Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association • Smooth Rock Falls Economic Development Corporation • Timmins Chamber of Commerce • Timmins Downtown Association (BIA) • Timmins Economic Development Corporation • Timmins Community Development Committee
Public Interest Groups - Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algoma University • Collège Boréal • Far Northeast Training Board/Commission de Formation du Nord-Est • Northern College • Université de Hearst
Public Interest Groups – Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic Riders of Smooth Rock Falls • Big Water Campgrounds • Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Wildlands League • Cochrane Classic Vintage Riders Snowmobile Club & Museum • Cochrane Fur Council • Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Association • Fierté Timmins Pride • Hardwood Lake Hunt Camp • Iroquois Falls Cross Country Ski Club • Jackpine Snowmobile Club • Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hungers (Northeastern) • Polar Bear Riders (Cochrane) Snowmobile Club • Porcupine Ski Runners • Timmins ATV Club • Timmins Fur Council • Timmins Snowmobile Club

6.3 Summary of Engagement Activities

Since 2023, Canada Nickel has undertaken a series of consultation and engagement activities to inform the Impact Statement. Active consultation to engage with the public began when the Project formally kicked off in 2021. A summary of voluntary consultation activities completed from 2021 to 2022 is described in the IPD (Canada Nickel 2022a) and DPD (Canada Nickel 2022b). This chapter reports on the consultation activities occurring since 2023.

Various methods of communication and engagement have been used to date. Information has been shared via email, newsletters, and the Project website. An email address (community@canadanickel.com) is consistently monitored by Canada Nickel. Individual and group meetings have been held, and following the meetings, minutes were shared with meeting participants and on the Project website. Anonymous feedback surveys, factsheets, and a summary of the IPD and DPD have been shared on the Project website, in addition to materials on the Impact Statement. Several community committees, the Socio-economic Committee, Environmental Committee, and Workforce Planning Committee, have been established. A virtual PIC and three in-person PICs have been held during the Impact Statement phase.

6.3.1 Project Website

Canada Nickel maintains a Project website, which will continue to act as a central hub to distribute Project information. The Canada Nickel website provides a widely accessible venue for interested parties to obtain and download Project information and reports in a timely manner. Canada Nickel website's Sustainability page (2024) includes Project information pertaining to:

- Community Committees
- Community Newsletters
- Contributions Program
- Engagement Resources
- Impact Assessment Process
- Indigenous Nations
- Procurement and Employment

A feedback submission form is available on the Project website, as well as the contact information for Canada Nickel's Sustainable Community Coordinator.

6.3.2 Community Relations Email

Canada Nickel established a community relations email address linked to the Project website to provide an additional forum for interested parties to dialogue with Canada Nickel representatives regarding the Project. The email address was also used to send notices and updates to Canada Nickel's email subscription list, including newsletters. The community relations email address is community@canadanickel.com.

6.3.3 Public Notices

Canada Nickel issued a number of notices during the Impact Statement process. These notices were related to consultation opportunities and key Project milestones. Notices were published in English and French. Notices were published in local newspapers, on the Project website, emailed to Canada Nickel's email subscription list. A copy of all notices can be found in the Record of Consultation (Appendix D of the Impact Statement).

6.3.3.1 Virtual PIC

The Notice of Virtual PIC provided information about the PIC, including the purpose and dates the website would be available online for public and stakeholder review. The Notice was shared by email on January 31, 2024, to the Socio-Economic Committee, Environmental Committee, and the Workforce Planning Committee, and Indigenous nations engaged on the Project. Notices to advise the public of the virtual PIC were also published in print in Timmins Today on January 31, 2024.

6.3.3.2 In-Person PIC

The Notice of In-person PICs in Timmins and Cochrane provided information about the format of the PICs, including purpose, dates, and locations. The Notice of the in-person PICs were posted online, LinkedIn, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and in print in the Timmins Daily Press on May 30, 2024, and June 6, 2024, and Cochrane Times-Post newspapers on May 30, 2024, and June 13, 2024. The notice for the Cochrane PIC was shared in 40 public locations and business, and one roadside sign was posted next to Highway 11 outside of the Westway Motel in Cochrane. The notice was also shared on LinkedIn, Facebook, and X by Canada Nickel. The notice for the Timmins PIC was shared as flyers handed out at the Canadian Mining Expo (Timmins), public hard copy postings at the local library on upcoming community events board, multiple grocery stores, and malls on community event boards in Timmins. The notice was also shared on LinkedIn, Facebook, and X by Canada Nickel. Notice of the in-person PIC for Smooth Rock Falls was posted online, on LinkedIn, Facebook, X, and was mailed in hard copy to each residence of Smooth Rock Falls by the Smooth Rock Falls Economic Development department.

6.3.4 PICs

Canada Nickel held a series of PICs during the preparation of the Impact Statement to present Project information and provide opportunities for input. These are summarized in the following sections.

6.3.4.1 Virtual PIC

Canada Nickel hosted a virtual PIC on their website from January 31 to February 22, 2024. This PIC was intended to present an overview of the Project, baseline conditions and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback that would be considered during the preparation of the Impact Statement. Specifically, the virtual PIC provided a Project overview, including information on the Impact Assessment and Class EA processes, Project purpose and need, assessment methodology, baseline conditions, and additional resources. The following pages were presented on the virtual PIC webpage:

- Welcome
- Project Overview
- IA/Class EA Process
- About the Project
- Project Purpose and Need
- Assessment Methodology
- Baseline Conditions
- Additional Resources
- Share Your Thoughts (including Questionnaire)

The virtual PIC also included an interactive map whereby stakeholders could provide comments and feedback on specific points of interest. On the “Share Your Thoughts” page, a questionnaire was posted for the virtual Open House webpage visitors, and additional consultation opportunities were advertised, such as the upcoming in-person PICs, Canada Nickel’s mailing list, and an invitation to participate in the federal IA process and review of the Class EA.

The virtual PIC content pages are available in the Record of Consultation (Appendix D of the Impact Statement).

Visitors to the virtual PIC had the opportunity to provide their contact information for the Project distribution list, provide general feedback. Approximately 880 visits were made to the virtual PIC website. In total, three completed questionnaires and seven emails were received following the virtual PIC review period. Comments and responses/action taken are presented in Section 6.4.

6.3.4.2 In-Person PIC

Three in-person PICs took place in Timmins, Cochrane, and Smooth Rock Falls:

- Timmins PIC, Wednesday, June 19, 2024, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Canada Nickel Core Shack.
- Cochrane PIC, Thursday, June 20, 2024, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Tim Hortons Event Centre, Cochrane Pavilion.
- Smooth Rock Falls PIC, Friday, 26, 2024 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Smooth Rock Falls Golf Course.

The Timmins and Cochrane PICs offered a meet-and-greet with Project team and experts, a complimentary BBQ, and were family friendly (i.e., kid’s activities were available), while the Smooth Rock Falls offered a similar meet-and-greet with Canada Nickel staff.

Canada Nickel provided a series of poster boards to attendees. Large poster boards were presented on the following topics at the in-person PICs:

- The Project and Environmental Assessments
- Engagement & Consultation to Date
- Project Alternatives
- Anticipated Project Impacts & Associated Mitigation Measures

- Conceptual Closure Plan
- Next Steps

Consultation materials were provided in English with bilingual team members present for francophone attendees. The Project team kept records of questions or comments raised during the PICs, as well as any additional input provided. Approximately 52 participants attended the Timmins PIC, approximately 145 participants attended the Cochrane PIC, and approximately 100 participants attended the Smooth Rock Falls PIC. In total, 129 verbal comments/questions were documented from 197 participants during the in-person PICs. Comments and responses/actions taken are presented in Section 6.4. Content from the In-Person PIC boards is included in the Record of Consultation (Appendix D of the Impact Statement).

6.3.5 Government Agencies Consultation and Engagement

Since 2023, Canada Nickel has engaged with representatives from various government agencies regarding the Project. Activities for engagement were conducted with the goal of providing the opportunity for issues, concerns, and interests relative to the Project to be addressed as they related to federal and provincial policies and legislation. Canada Nickel has also engaged with government agencies with regards to baseline studies by seeking advice and guidance for study approaches. Engagement with government agencies has taken various forms:

- Calls and meetings focused on Project related information
- Scheduled calls
- Agency specific calls
- Virtual and in person PICs

Canada Nickel also attended two Technical Working Group sessions hosted by IAAC (March 27 and June 18-19, 2024). Additional details on the Technical Working Groups can be found in Section 7.1.4.1. While these sessions were tailored towards engagement with Indigenous Nations, the following agencies were in attendance to participate in discussions with the Project Team:

- ECCC
- DFO
- IAAC
- NRCan
- MECP
- MINES
- MNR

Further details about meetings with government agencies are provided in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2 Meetings with Government Agencies

Government Agency	Date	Meeting Purpose
Federal Agencies		
ECCC	November 7, 2023	Boreal Caribou Presentation
	November 28, 2023	Carbon Storage Presentation
	January 25, 2024	Project Government Review Team (GRT) Call
	March 27, 2024	Technical Working Group Meeting #1
	June 17, 2024	Site Tour
	June 18-19, 2024	Technical Working Group Meeting #2
Employment and Social Services Canada	January 25, 2024	GRT Call
DFO	January 25, 2024	GRT Call
	March 27, 2024	Technical Working Group Meeting #1
	June 10, 2024	<i>Fisheries Act</i> Authorization Roadmap
	June 17, 2024	Site Tour
	June 18-19, 2024	Technical Working Group Meeting #2
	July 17, 2024	Baseline Data
	August 16, 2024	Baseline Data
Health Canada	January 25, 2024	GRT Call
IAAC	May 3, 2023	Follow-up
	May 11, 2023	Follow-up
	August 29, 2023	Update
	October 12, 2023	Monthly Call
	October 27, 2023	Meeting
	October 28, 2023	Planning Call
	November 2, 2023	Caribou Information Sharing
	November 9, 2023	Monthly Call
	November 7, 2023	Boreal Caribou Presentation
	November 15, 2023	Monthly Meeting
	November 28, 2023	Carbon Capture Briefing
	December 5, 2023	Abitibi River Forest Management Plan and Caribou
	December 14, 2023	Monthly Call
	January 19, 2024	Monthly Call
	January 25, 2024	GRT Call
	February 8, 2024	Project Overview
	March 11, 2024	Monthly Call
	March 27, 2024	Technical Working Group Meeting #1
	April 11, 2024	Monthly Call
	May 9, 2024	Monthly Call
May 31, 2024	TWG Planning Meeting	
June 13, 2024	Monthly Call	
June 17, 2024	Site Tour	
June 18-19, 2024	Technical Working Group Meeting #2	
July 11, 2024	Monthly Call	

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Government Agency	Date	Meeting Purpose
	August 8, 2024 July 8, 2024 August 16, 2024	Monthly Call Monthly Call Baseline Data
Indigenous Services Canada	January 25, 2024	GRT Call
NRCan	November 28, 2023 March 27, 2024 June 18-19, 2024	Carbon Storage Presentation Technical Working Group Meeting #1 Technical Working Group Meeting #2
Transport Canada	January 25, 2024	GRT Call
Provincial Agencies		
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade	October 23, 2023	Meeting with Minister
MECP	May 8, 2023 June 22, 2023 August 15, 2023 October 19, 2023 November 7, 2023 January 25, 2024 February 8, 2024 May 14, 2024 March 27, 2024 June 18-19, 2024	MECP Mobile ECA Meeting One Window Advanced Exploration Project Preliminary Water Quality Assessment Boreal Caribou Presentation GRT Call MINES One-Window Meeting Assimilative Capacity Strategy and Discharge Criteria Technical Working Group Meeting #1 Technical Working Group Meeting #2
MINES	April 18, 2023 June 22, 2023 July 24, 2023 August 3, 2023 October 26, 2023 November 30, 2023 January 24, 2024 January 25, 2024 February 8, 2024 February 28, 2024 March 11, 2024 March 27, 2024 May 8, 2024 May 24, 2024 June 17, 2024 June 18-19, 2024 August 27, 2024	Catch-up meeting Provincial One-Window Meeting Planning Call Crawford Project – Update Meeting Introduction, Catch-up meeting Consultation Report Review GRT Call Provincial One-Window Meeting Project Update Provincial EA Discussion Interpretation of the <i>Mining Act</i> Technical Working Group Meeting #1 TMF Design for Closure Plan Potential Fish Habitat Compensation Projects Site Tour Technical Working Group Meeting #2 Catch-up Meeting

Government Agency	Date	Meeting Purpose
MNR	May 9, 2023 June 22, 2023 July 27, 2023 December 5, 2023 January 25, 2024 February 8, 2024 February 28, 2024 March 27, 2024 June 17, 2024 June 18-19, 2024 August 16, 2024	Project Update Provincial One-Window Meeting Crawford Nickel Project Update Abitibi River Forest Management Plan and Caribou GRT Call Provincial One-Window Meeting, Project Update Provincial EA Discussion Technical Working Group Meeting #1 Site Tour Technical Working Group Meeting #2 Baseline Data
MTO	June 22, 2023 November 28, 2023 January 25, 2024 February 8, 2024 February 28, 2024 May 2, 2024 May 16, 2024 May 30, 2024 June 13, 2024 June 27, 2024 July 11, 2024 July 25, 2024 August 8, 2024 August 22, 2024 September 5, 2024	One Window Meeting Request MTO GRT Call Provincial One-Window Meeting, Project Update Project Discussion Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications Proposed Highway 655 Modifications
Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sports	June 22, 2023 January 25, 2024 February 8, 2024	Provincial One-Window Meeting GRT Call Provincial One-Window Meeting, Project Update
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	June 22, 2023 January 25, 2024 February 8, 2024	Provincial One-Window Meeting GRT Call Provincial One-Window Meeting, Project Update
Ontario Northland Transportation Commission	June 22, 2023 January 25, 2024	Provincial One-Window Meeting GRT Call

6.3.6 Canada Nickel Community Committees

Three committees have been formed by Canada Nickel including an Environmental Committee, Socio Economic Committee, and Workforce Planning Committee, with each committee comprised of local subject matter expert representatives. Canada Nickel has actively engaged the committees, holding regular meetings (e.g., annually, quarterly) with the committees since 2022. Meetings focused on providing, explaining, discussing, and receiving feedback on key Project information the committees identified to be of interest. Further information is provided in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3 Canada Nickel Community Committee Meetings

Committee	Date	Meeting Purpose
Environmental Committee	August 15, 2023 September 27, 2023 June 13, 2024	Bulk Sampling & Baseline Studies Updates & Water Management Plan Effects / Mitigation Measures
Socio-Economic Committee	October 24, 2023 February 7, 2024 June 12, 2024	Updates & Social Impacts on VCs Valued Components – Socio-Economic Valued Component - Health

6.3.7 Newsletters

Canada Nickel has been sharing a community newsletter since October 2021. Copies of the newsletter is available on Canada Nickel’s website¹ and is emailed to newsletter subscribers. The newsletter presents an opportunity to further inform interested stakeholders of the IS and other regulatory progress and is also used to highlight upcoming consultation opportunities. Newsletter content since the start of the Impact Statement is summarized in Table 6.4 below.

Table 6.4 Canada Nickel Community Newsletters

Newsletter	Content
March 2023	Announced that the IAAC decided on January 5, 2023, that the Project would require a federal IA and that an Impact Statement would be prepared using the baseline studies. This edition describes the activities of the three community committees including the formation of the Workforce Planning Committee. Information provided on key IA milestones: IAAC announced requirement of Impact Assessment on January 5, 2023.
June 2023	Announced that as of April 2023, the Project has entered the second phase of the IA process (i.e., the Impact Statement). This edition also introduces the Project’s new Community Relations and Communications Coordinator. Information provided on key IA milestones: Commencement of Impact Statement phase.
November 2023	Announced the completion of the Project’s Feasibility Study and discusses the highlights of the results of the study. This newsletter discusses the release of the first Environmental, Social, and Governance report in early September which discloses challenges, opportunities, and achievements of the Project to date. This edition announces that bulk sampling will begin in early 2024, discusses the proposed closure plan, and preliminary environmental monitoring measures. Information provided on key IA milestones: Impact Statement ongoing.

¹ Canada Nickel’s Sustainability page available at: <https://canadanickel.com/sustainability/>

6.3.8 Ad-Hoc Technical Meetings

Formal and informal meetings were held with several stakeholders and interest groups throughout the preparation of the Impact Statement. Table 6.5 summarizes these meetings.

Table 6.5 Meetings with Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Date	Meeting Topic
Timmins Fur Council	April 7, 2023	Introductory meeting
Cochrane Board of Trade	April 13, 2023	Cochrane Board of Trade AGM
Land User	April 18, 2023	Meeting to discuss lake sturgeon
Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)	April 21, 2023	Introductory meeting
Keepers of the Circle – Circle of Knowledge	April 24, 2023	Keepers of the Circle Presentation
Timmins Economic Development Corporation	July 18, 2023	Introductory meeting with Core5
Anti-Hunger Coalition Timmins	July 25, 2023	Meeting Anti-Hunger Coalition
Timmins and District Hospital	July 26, 2023	TDH Foundation Meeting re: Legacy Fund
Northeastern Ontario Family & Children's Services	November 3, 2023	Volunteer Opportunities for Canada Nickel Staff

6.4 Analysis and Response to Questions, Comments and Issues Raised

6.4.1 Summary of Public and Interest Group Comments

Table 6.6 provides a summary of key comments received from stakeholders and members of the public and how Canada Nickel considered these comments. More extensive detail about how the comments were addressed are available in the corresponding chapters. For the purposes of the VC chapters, comments and responses are also provided from the DPD (Canada Nickel 2022b). The following components are included in the table:

- Topic/VC
- Comment, issue, or concern
- Location where the comment, issue, or concern is addressed in the Impact Statement

Table 6.6 Summary of Comments from Public and Other Stakeholders

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
Geology and Geological Hazards	Members of the public and other stakeholders commented about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surficial geology, including mineralogy, the presence of chrysotile in rock, and applicable mitigation measures • Geotechnical studies completed to date • Brucite and carbonation process • Range of recoveries anticipated for Canada Nickel 	Chapter 10 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Geology and Geologic Hazards), Sections 10.2, 10.4
Acoustic Environment	Change in Noise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding noise from traffic and equipment from the Project Area and methods to monitor noise emissions, and thresholds beyond which additional measures would be implemented to manage noise Land and Resource Use, and Sense of Place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding potential effects from increased noise levels and vibration from the Project on recreational activity, including camping areas, such as Big Water Campgrounds 	Chapter 13 (Assessment of Potential Effects on the Acoustic Environment), Section 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.10.
Groundwater	Change in Groundwater Quantity Members of the public and/or other stakeholders expressed concern regarding groundwater drawdown related to Project activities.	Chapter 14 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Groundwater), Section 14.4
Surface Water	Risk of Contamination/Tailings Ponds Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increased levels of iron, mercury, arsenic, and cobalt in surface water due to Project activities • Potential effects of seepage and runoff from ore, mine, rock, tailings, and overburden on ground water quality and surface water quality • Potential effects of effluent discharge in the Mattagami River • The proximity of tailings to waterbodies and potential contamination from any tailing's seepage • Water-crossings being potential inputs of contamination • Additional information about how trailing's storage facilities will be isolated from surface and groundwater sources, on land and in the Open Pit, during operations and after closure • Water storage capacity in the water storage ponds and whether it will be necessary to discharge untreated contact water to the environment at any point 	Chapter 15 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Surface Water), Section 15.4

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for information on water management facilities and drainage works for all phases of the Project, including how and where seepage and mine contact water will be collected, monitored, and treated as necessary • Increased risk of mercury mobilization in selected source-water intake locations • Need for further information on how the release of nitrogen into the aquatic environment from the use of explosives will be minimized • Water used for dust control, and whether it would be sources from the natural environment or recycle from site. Apply more conservative water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life at the point of effluent discharge, with no mixing zone • Provide additional information on source of water supply at seasonal-use properties near the proposed tailings management facility, and potential water quality effects • Potential changes to water quality at the Big Water Campgrounds <p>Members of the public and other stakeholders recommend Canada Nickel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop receiver-based effluent discharge criteria, taking into account the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the receiving waterbody, the receiver’s assimilative capacity, mixing zone requirements, the identification of contaminants of concern, and potential impacts to other water uses • Developing a receiving environment water quality model to identify mitigation needs • Plan sediment control and identify the potential residual effects of sedimentation downstream of Project activities • Provide further information on how tailings storage facilities will be isolated from surface water sources, on land and in the Open Pit, during operations and after closure • Characterize temporal variability and trends in surface water quality in areas that might be affected by the Project <p>Effects from Site Draining/ Effluent Discharge:</p> <p>Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The locations of site draining/effluent receiver and water discharge pipe • Information on water management facilities and drainage works for all phases of the Project, including how and where seepage and mine contact water will be collected, monitored and treated as necessary • Develop receiver-based effluent discharge criteria, taking into account the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the receiving waterbody, the receiver’s assimilative capacity, mixing zone requirements, the identification of contaminants of concern, and potential impacts to other water users • Request for the most conservative water quality criterion to be applied for the protection of aquatic life at the point of effluent discharge, with no mixing zone 	

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<p>Quality and Quantity of Surface Water</p> <p>Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of pumping effluent on water systems (water levels, flow rates), quantity of effluent • Changes to water levels and how they might affect fish, amphibians, emergent plants, and forests • Receiving environment water quality model to help identify mitigation needs • Additional information on source of water supply at seasonal-use properties near the proposed tailings management facility, and potential water quality effects • Potential for changes to water quality at Big Water Campgrounds • Characterize temporal variability and trends in baseline surface water quality and quantity in areas that might be affected by the Project • Planned sediment control and the potential residual effects of sedimentation downstream of Project activities <p>Regulatory Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding regulatory standards and requirements based on impacts to surface water <p>Interactions between Surface and Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding potential disturbances to the waterbed <p>Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns about a Water Management Plan 	
Vegetation, Riparian, and Wetland Environments	<p>Plant SAR, rare vegetation communities and SOCC:</p> <p>Members of the public and/or stakeholders expressed concern about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on black ash, which is widespread and common, but in decline due to an invasive beetle • The location of black ash, how the species would be managed, and how it is regulated <p>Members of the public and/or stakeholders recommend additional information on provincially rare plant species identified in the Project area, and measures to preserve and protect them.</p> <p>Effects of Pollution, Pesticides and Fugitive Dust on Vegetation:</p> <p>Members of the public and/or stakeholders expressed concern about potential effects on vegetation from metals in fugitive dust.</p> <p>Members of the public and/or stakeholders recommend information sharing on mitigation measures, follow-up program to manage uncertainty, and monitoring plans to prevent adverse effects of metal exposure in fugitive dust.</p>	Chapter 16 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments), Section 16.4, 16.10

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
Fish and Fish Habitat	<p>Fish Habitat and Spawning Sites: Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the potential loss of fish habitat in tributaries, lakes, and ponds that support many different fish species, including those that are culturally important to Indigenous nations, or that support these culturally important fish species • the potential negative effects of the proposed diversion channel and disruption of natural flow on fish migrations, fish populations, and habitat (including riparian habitat) used by fish, including lake sturgeon <p>Fish Health, Contamination, and Potential Effects on Consumption and Harvest: Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding the potential effect of bioaccumulating substances on fish health and community members who eat fish</p> <p>Project Interactions with Fish and Fish Habitat: Members of the public and/or stakeholders expressed concern about potential Project interactions with fish and fish habitat including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for information about the potential watercourse diversion route including impacts to North Driftwood River watershed • Potential effects of blasting and seismic activity on fish and other aquatic biota • Potential effects to fish and other aquatic biota from changes in water quality due to sediment releases, nitrogenous wastes from blasting, and seepage and run-off from ore, mine rock, tailings, and overburden • Potential effects of new watercourse crossings required for realignment of the highway and rail line <p>Change in Fish Habitat Members of the public and/or stakeholders expressed concern about potential effects on fish habitat including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects of fish and fish habitat from the destruction of watercourses, flow reductions in watercourses downstream of the mine, and use of waterbodies for mine waste disposal • Need for fish population data that corresponds to habitat potentially affected by the Project • Potential effects on lake sturgeon, suckers, and spawning areas in the Mattagami River from construction and operation of the effluent discharge pipeline • Need for detailed mapping and habitat characterization of each watercourse and waterbody potentially affected by the Project • Need for assessment of potential changes to flow regimes and its effect on fish that are dependent on flow for their life history 	Chapter 17 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat), Section 17.4

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of alternative for mine waste disposal as it relates to effects on fish habitat • Potential effects of fugitive dust on fish • Potential impacts to walleye spawning habitat in the North Driftwood River <p>Mitigation Measures: Members of the public and/or stakeholders expressed concern about potential mitigation measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for standard and fish and fish habitat-specific mitigation measures and a strong support for a plan to offset unavoidable habitat losses • Need for information on the current and historical distribution of lake sturgeon in the North Driftwood River and information on potential mitigation measures that may be needed to prevent impacts to lake sturgeon in the North Driftwood River • Potential effects of fish relocations and methods used for fish relocations 	
Birds and Bird Habitats	<p>Change to Habitat Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on migratory birds and their habitat, including habitat loss, habitat alteration or fragmentation, mortality, or disturbance due to site alteration, vegetation clearing, vehicle operation, accidents and spills, and increased noise levels and light pollution, during all Project phases • Potential effects to the existing northern flyway for geese and ducks • Potential effects on Bald Eagle (including stick nests), Canada Warbler, Common Nighthawk, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Yellow Rail, Whip-poor-will, Evening Grosbeak, Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Red-headed Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon and Bank Swallow <p>Bird Health and Mortality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding potential for increased bird mortality 	Chapter 18 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Birds and Bird Habitats), Section 18.4
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<p>Species at Risk and/or Conservation Concern Members of the public and/or other stakeholders expressed concern about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to species at risk and their habitats, and that some species are unlikely to be in PA and therefore may not require further study (boreal caribou, Blanding’s turtle) • Impacts to bats of conservation concern • Impacts to boreal caribou <p>Wildlife Habitat: Members of the public and/or other stakeholders expressed concern about:</p>	Chapter 19 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat), Sections, 19.2, 19.4

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss outside of the PA • Methods for site clearing and potential use of wildlife trapping and relocation <p>Species of Cultural Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and/or other stakeholders expressed concern about impacts to species culturally significant to Indigenous nations. <p>Wildlife Abundance and Distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and/or other stakeholders expressed concern about the timing of wildlife surveys. <p>Wildlife Injury and Mortality Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public and/or other stakeholders expressed concern about impacts of road construction on wildlife. 	
Climate Change	<p>Assessment Techniques: Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concerns regarding Best Management Practices (in the context of other countries).</p> <p>Residual Effects on Climate Change: Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of the Project on climate change (i.e., GHG emission) • Use of diesel-fired generation during various mine phases how the Project will be carbon neutral and how the In-Process Tailings carbonation works • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding how forest fire risk will be incorporated into the impact assessment • Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed support for increased carbon capture/storage. 	Chapter 20 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Climate Change)
Human Health	<p>Physical Health: Members of the public and/or stakeholders expressed concern regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impacts on human health from Project emissions • biophysical pathways of exposure such as air, water, food, and noise • health impacts of effluent discharge to Mattagami River upstream of water intake structures for the Town of Smooth Rock Falls • potential effects on human health from accidents and malfunctions such as spills and accidental releases 	Chapter 21 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Health), Section 21.4.

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impacts of health outbreaks at the Project site on limited medical capacity in the region 	
Social Conditions	<p>Transportation Infrastructure: Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern about the potential social impacts of an influx of workers on transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>Housing and Accommodation Availability: Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern about impacts on housing, lack of available housing, and need for low-income housing for workers (acquiring and accommodating a sufficient workforce).</p> <p>Health and Medical Services: Members of the public and/or stakeholders expressed concern about potential social impacts of an influx of workers to the area on community safety, childcare access, health care access, social services, and infrastructure, especially pertaining to vulnerable populations. Commentors recommend need for prevention and mitigation measures and early engagement with service providers on the need to increase capacity.</p> <p>Recreational and/or Land and Resource Use, Cultural Activities: Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern about impacts to recreational trails (e.g., snowmobile trails). Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern about the recreational experience for campers and seasonal businesses such as Big Water Campgrounds. Need to provide information about the extent of noise, vibrations, air quality, and water quality changes at Big Water Campgrounds (if any) and any similar receptors identified. Encouraged to engage the business owner(s) and interested seasonal campers on the analysis.</p> <p>Social and Economic Benefits of the Project: Public and/or stakeholder recommendations for details on any commitments to enhance positive socio-economic outcomes for local communities (employment, educational opportunities).</p> <p>Engagement with and Effects on Sub-populations: Public and/or stakeholder recommendations that women, youth, Elders, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people be included in engagement.</p> <p>Effects on Navigable Waters Members of the public and other stakeholders have suggested to engage Transport Canada on all requirements under the <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i> to avoid Project delays.</p>	Chapter 22 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Social Conditions), Section 22.4 22.10

VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Location Where Addressed in Impact Statement
Economic Conditions	<p>Employment and Training Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding the cost of living and worker retention. Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed interest in the potential positive economic effects through employment. <p>Business and Contracting Opportunities:</p> <p>Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need for information on the Project’s costs, and if Canada Nickel would include procurement from local sources. the need for further information on any potential impacts to the existing economic activity and business in the region (such as tourism), beyond the Project footprint, including mitigation for negative impacts, as identified by nearby communities. <p>Economic Development:</p> <p>Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed concern regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> economic and infrastructure development in Northern Ontario access to mine-starting up and mine-closure funding (e.g., funding for closure monitoring/planning) the need for further information on projected baseline economic conditions in the region, and any incremental effects from the Project. Include projections of baseline labour availability the need for further information on tax revenue generation by carrying out the Project during all Project phases <p>Members of the public and other stakeholders expressed interest in the potential positive economic effects through tax revenues.</p>	Chapter 23 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Economic Conditions), Sections 23.3, 23.5, 23.9

6.4.2 Summary of Government Consultation and Engagement

Table 6.7 provides a summary of key comments received from government agencies and how Canada Nickel considered these comments. More extensive detail about how the comments were addressed are available in the corresponding valued component (VC) chapters. The following components are included in the table:

- Agency
- Topic/VC
- Comment, issue or concern
- Location where the comment, issue or concern is addressed in the Impact Statement

Table 6.7 Summary of Agency Comments

Agency	VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
Federal Agencies			
ECCC	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Boreal Caribou <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of baseline conditions of boreal caribou in determining range-level recovery goals and appropriate mitigation measures (e.g., habitat compensation). Influence of provincial conservation efforts such as Abitibi River Forest Management Plan on impacts to boreal caribou habitat. 	Chapter 19 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat), Sections 19.2, 19.4
DFO	Fish and Fish Habitat	Fish and Fish Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on methodology for baseline assessment, including quantifying fish habitat, deciding on study area, sampling effort, and monitoring plans Impacts to Lake sturgeon Considerations for potential fish habitat offsetting measures 	Chapter 17 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat) Conceptual Fish Habitat Offsetting Plan (Appendix M)
NRCan	Climate Change	Carbon Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on increasing the validity of Canada Nickel’s Carbon Storage Plan Best Available Technologies / Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) A credible net-zero plan that uses and builds off the BAT/BEP determination to describe mitigation measures that will be taken to minimize GHG emissions Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of the Project on Canada’s efforts to reduce GHG emissions Predicted GHG emissions of the Project 	Chapter 20 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Climate Change) Chapter 30 (Assessment of Potential Effects of the Environment on the Project) Chapter 31 (Accidents and Malfunctions) Greenhouse Gases Following the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (Appendix C.6 of the Impact Statement), Sections 4, 5, 6.1, 9, 10

Agency	VC/Topic	Comment, Issue or Concern	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
Provincial Agencies			
MECP	Surface Water	Surface Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accuracy and promote clarity on methodology used to assess impacts to water quality at Smooth Rock Falls in the Mattagami River and Island Falls Generation Station in the Abitibi River • Compare quality of all effluent streams released from the site to applicable standards • Compare worst case scenario changes to surface water quality • Present predicted mixing zone extent from each final effluent discharge point to receiver 	Chapter 15 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Surface Water), Sections 15.2, 15.4. Surface Water Resources Assessment
MNR	Fish and Fish Habitat	Fish and Fish Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to lake sturgeon from regional development • Location of fisheries sanctuary 	Chapter 17 (Assessment of Potential Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat), Sections 17.2, 17.4, 17.9

6.5 On-going and Future Engagement

Canada Nickel remains committed to continuing to actively consult with the public and stakeholder organizations following submission of the Impact Statement. Consultation was sought from the public, agencies, and interest groups for the purposes of the Impact Statement for the Project, and anticipate that interested parties will be involved in IAAC's public comment period for the review of the Impact Statement

Canada Nickel will continue to conduct consultation activities related to the Project as it progresses throughout the next phases, such as continued engagement through the Socio-Economic Committee, Environmental Committee, and Workforce Planning Committee. In addition, Canada Nickel will participate in future Technical Working Group sessions, which will be initiated by IAAC following the submission of the Impact Statement.

6.6 References

Canada Nickel. 2022a. Crawford Nickel Project Initial Project Description. Available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/155387>. Accessed August 15, 2024.

Canada Nickel. 2022b. Detailed Project Description Crawford Nickel Project. Available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p83857/145854E.pdf>. Accessed August 15, 2024.

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IAAC. 2019a. Guidance: Public Participation under the Impact Assessment Act. <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guidance-public-participation-impact.html>.

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