Taseko Yellowhead

Yellowhead Copper Project

Initial Project Description Plain Language Summary

June 23, 2025

Version: 2

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Description
0	June 11, 2025	Issued for Review
1	June 23, 2025	Issued for submission
2	June 23, 2025	Re-Issued for submission

Yellowhead Copper Project

SUBMITTED TO:

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
ALIB	Adams Lake Indian Band
BC	British Columbia
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
BILCR	Birch Island Lost Creek Road
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
CH4	methane
CO2	carbon dioxide
CO2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
COSEWIC	Conservation on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CRD	Cariboo Regional District
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DPD	Detailed Project Description
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAC	Environmental Assessment Certificate
EAO	Environmental Assessment Office
EBA	Eagle Bay assemblage
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EP	Engagement Plan
ENV	BC Ministry of Environment and Parks
FOR	BC Ministry of Forests
FSR	Forest Service Road
GHG	greenhouse gas
Harper Creek Project EA	Harper Creek Project Environmental Assessment
HSRC	Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC
IA	Impact Assessment
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
IPD	Initial Project Description
Kúkpi7	Chief
Kúkwpi7	Simpcw First Nation Chief
LHA	Local Health Authority
LNG	liquefied natural gas
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan

Acronym	Definition
MCM	BC Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals
MDMER	Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulation (under the *Fisheries Act*)
ML/ARD	metal leaching and acid rock drainage
MYAB	multi-year area-based (permit)
N2O	nitrous oxide
N/A	not applicable (generally used in tables/figures only)
NAG	non-acid generating
Noranda	Noranda Exploration Company
NSTC	Northern Shuswap Tribal Council
NStQ	Secwépemc te Qelmucw
OGMA	Old Growth Management Areas
OLTC	Occupant License to Cut
PAG	Potentially acid generating
the Project	Yellowhead Copper Project, a Critical Minerals project that will produce a copper concentrate with payable amounts of gold and silver.
QCM	Quebec Cartier Mining Company
RDEA	Regional district electoral area
ROW	Right-of-Way
RUP	Road Use Permit
SAG	semi-autogenous grinding
Secwépemc	Secwépemc Nation, sometimes known as Shuswap Nation
Secwepemcúl̓ecw	the unceded territory of the Secwépemc Nation, sometimes known as Shuswap Nation
Sexqeltqin	Sahhaltkum Reserve #4
Simpcw	Simpcw First Nation
Simpcw Process	Simpcw Assessment Process
Simpcwúl̓ecw	territory of Simpcw First Nation

Units

Unit	Definition
°	degrees
/	per *or* divide
%	percent
GWh	gigawatt hour
ha	hectare
kg	kilogram
kg/L	kilograms per litre
km	kilometre
km^2	square kilometre
kt	kilotonne (equivalent to 1,000 metric tonnes)
kV	kilovolt
L	litre
m	metre
m^3	cubic metre
Mt	million tonnes
MVA	mega-volt amperes
t	tonne
tpd	tonnes per day
$ktCO_2e$	kilo-tonne carbon dioxide equivalent
tCO_2e	tonne carbon dioxide equivalent
tCU_{eq}	tonne per copper equivalent

Definitions

Term	Definition
Application	The material prepared to meet the information requirements of the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, and Simpcw assessment processes to apply for First Nation and provincial and federal regulatory approvals.
Critical Mineral(s)	Mineral(s) that are essential to modern-day technologies, including renewable electricity, batteries, electronics, and electric vehicles.
sulphide concentrator	Refers to typical process flowsheet for copper sulphide ores widely used in the industry (as opposed to novel flowsheet or other ore types). Includes using three stages of particle size reduction using a crusher, followed by semi-autogenous and ball mill grinding circuits, followed by three stages of flotation to produce a copper sulphide concentrate, which is dewatered using filters.
First Nation(s)	People whose ancestors are indigenous to the North American continent, particularly Canada, and who are defined as “Indians” under the Indian Act. Does not typically include Inuit or Métis people.
Full service camp	Includes the required facilities such as dormitories, washrooms, kitchen, and dining facilities to enable workers to remain onsite for the duration of their work rotations.
Indigenous groups	First Nations, Indigenous governments and organizations.
Project Phases and Activities	**Commencement of primary Project development activities would occur following issuance of regulatory and First Nation approvals.** **Construction:** approximately 2–3 years in duration, and will include site preparation and construction to ready the Project for operations. Involves Environmental Assessment, Permit, and compliance monitoring. **Operations:** approximately 25 years in duration, and will include mining, ore processing, and concentrate transport to market. Involves Environmental Assessment, Permit, and compliance monitoring. **Closure:** approximately 7 years in duration, and will include decommissioning and reclamation. Considered complete when the open pit fills with water and water discharge restarts. **Post-Closure:** Decades+ in duration; will continue until permit conditions are met and the company is released from legal obligations.
Tailings supernatant	The water that sits on top or on the surface of the tailings, often reused in processing or treated before release.

1. Introduction

This document is the plain language summary of the Initial Project Description (IPD) for the Yellowhead Copper Project (the Project), a Critical Minerals project that will produce a copper concentrate with payable amounts of gold and silver (the Project). Taseko Mines Limited (Taseko) is proposing to construct, operate, and eventually reclaim an open pit mine in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) in south-central British Columbia (BC). The Project is located approximately 150 kilometres (km) northeast of Kamloops, BC, along Highway 5, near the community of Vavenby, BC. To supply power during operations, a transmission line approximately 110km long is proposed, following an approximate west to east orientation to interconnect the existing BC Hydro substation at 100 Mile House, BC to a new substation at the Project site.

The Project is a proposed, open pit copper mine that has been designed with a production capacity of 90,000 tonnes per day (tpd) of ore over a 25-year mine life. Copper ore will be processed at the Project site, producing a copper concentrate with payable amounts of gold and silver. The copper concentrate is proposed to be trucked to a rail load-out facility near Vavenby, BC, and transported via rail to the Port of Vancouver or to other North American markets. From the Port of Vancouver, the copper concentrate will be shipped to overseas markets.

The Project is required to undergo the Environmental Assessment (EA) processes set out by the provincial Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and the federal Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC). Taseko will request a substituted process for the Project as allowed by the *Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement between Canada and British Columbia* (Government of Canada and BC Government 2020). If approved, the Project will go through a single Impact Assessment (IA) process led by the EAO. This streamlined process will still require decision-making as to whether the Project should proceed by each of the provincial and federal governments.

The Project is situated in the unceded territory of the Secwépemc Nation (Secwepemcúl̓ecw), and primarily within the territory of Simpcw First Nation (Simpcwúl̓ecw). The Secwépemc Nation (Secwépemc) are sometimes known or referred to as the Shuswap Nation. Therefore, the Project will also meet the requirements of the Simpcw Assessment Process (Simpcw Process), developed by Simpcw First Nation (Simpcw).

In preparing the Initial Project Description (IPD) and Engagement Plan (EP), the documents were shared with Simpcw for collaborative review and feedback. Simpcw has reviewed the documents and identified comments as they relate to issues of concern to the Simpcw Process. Simpcw and Taseko have worked together to address Simpcw's comments. Before formally submitting the IPD and EP, Taseko has already shared components of the documents with:

- Simpcw;
- the EAO;
- the IAAC;
- Neskonlith Indian Band;
- Skwlāx te Secwepemcúl̓ecw (formerly Little Shuswap Lake Band) (SteS); and,
- The Adams Lake Indian Band (ALIB).

With this submission of the IPD and EP, the early engagement and planning phases of the provincial (BC) and federal (Canada) assessment processes are initiated.

2. Proponent Information

Taseko is the Proponent for the Project. Taseko is a North American focused mining company headquartered in Vancouver, BC. Taseko acquired the Project (formerly the Harper Creek Project) in 2019. Taseko, through its wholly owned subsidiary Yellowhead Mining Inc. (YMI), is planning to construct and operate the Project. The Taseko management team has a proven track record in developing and operating similar projects in BC.

In addition to its operating Gibraltar Mine, Taseko has other projects at different stages of development, including Florence Copper in Arizona, United States of America (USA), and Aley and New Prosperity in BC, Canada.

Taseko is committed to responsible resource development and to developing and sustaining meaningful working relationships with Indigenous groups and the communities in which we operate.

2.1 Contact Information

The corporate contact information for Taseko is:

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The primary contact for the Project is:

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3. Project Overview

3.1 Project Purpose and Need

Copper is a Critical Mineral that is both an essential metal for everyday life and increasingly important for the global transition to a low carbon future. The production, transmission and distribution of renewable, low-carbon energy requires the responsible production of copper. Currently, there is no viable alternative to copper in many electrification applications.

The Project will provide a responsible, and ethically produced source of copper to the global market to support the rapid electrification of modern economies globally.

The Project will also contribute to:

- Advancing provincial and federal economies in Canada through the development of Critical Minerals, as emphasized in Canada's and BC's Critical Minerals strategies. Taseko may apply for, or be eligible for, funding through federal programs such as the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund;
- Boosting local economies in BC, which have been depressed by job losses in the forestry sector and completion of pipeline construction activities in the Project region, through provision of local jobs and business expenditures;
- Supporting provision of social and community services, and other societal benefits to local and First Nation communities in BC and Canada, through payment of royalties and taxes; and
- Generating value and return on investment to Taseko shareholders.

3.2 Project Location

The Project is in the TNRD in south-central BC (Figure 3-1). The TNRD is about 44,000 square kilometres (km^2) and has a population of more than 143,000 people (TNRD 2023). Kamloops is the largest community in the area and is a regional mining hub. The Project is also in Secwepemcúl̓ecw and primarily within Simpcwúl̓ecw, the territory of Simpcw (Figure 3-2). Chu Chua is the closest Simpcw community to the Project site.

The Project is about 150 km northeast of Kamloops, BC along Highway 5, near the community of Vavenby, BC. The center point of the Project site is approximately 51° 30' 00"N latitude, 119° 48' 00"W longitude. From Vavenby, the Project is accessed by about 20 km of existing Forest Service Roads (FSRs) (Figure 3-1). When needed, oversized and heavy truck loads will use a secondary access route. The secondary access route will be from Highway 5 at Birch Island Lost Creek Road (BILCR) until it connects with the primary access route.

The concentrate will be trucked from the Project site to the rail load-out facility near the community of Vavenby. Coordinates for the rail load-out facility are approximately 51°35'6N latitude, 119°46'14"W longitude.

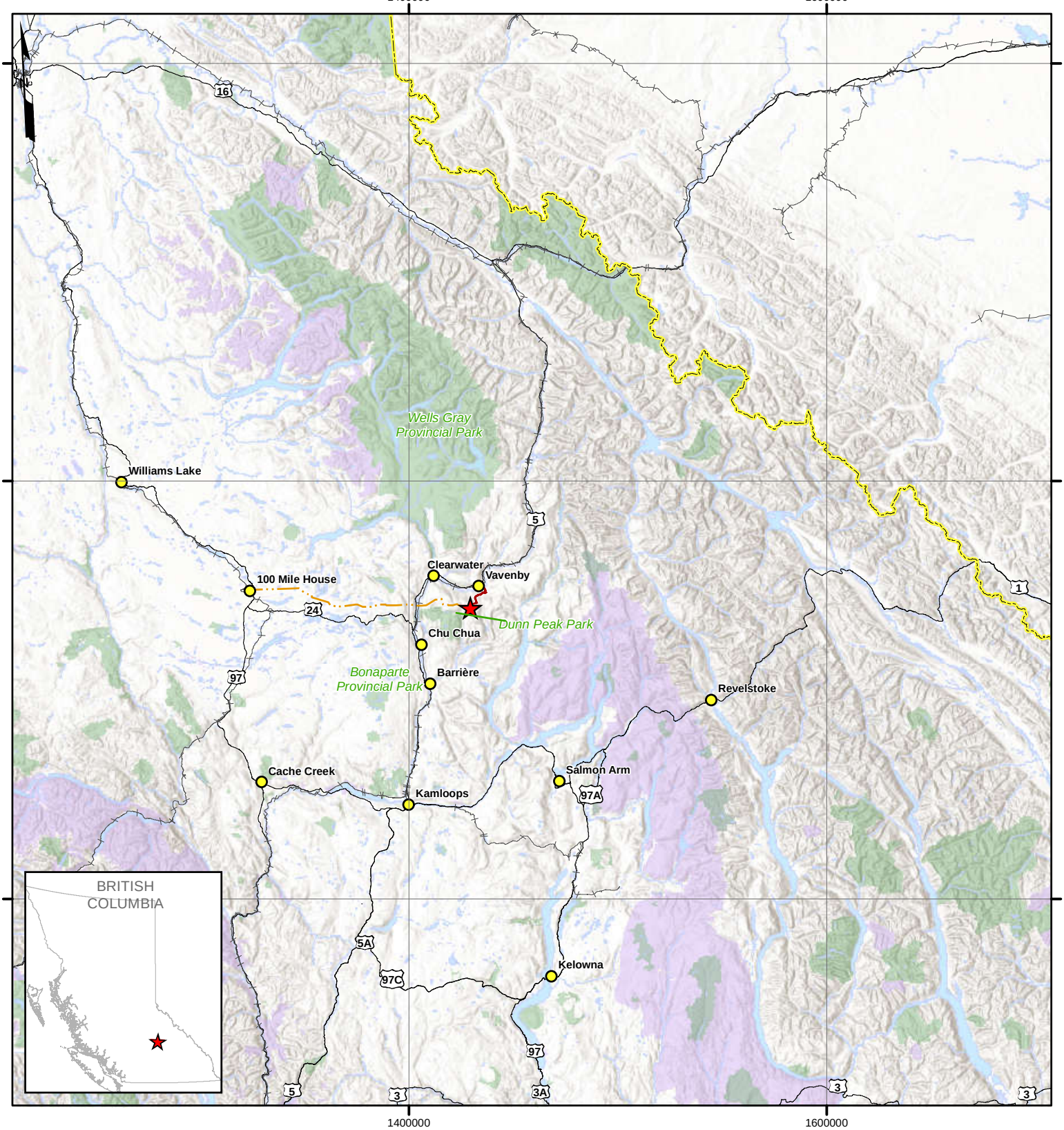
The two closest communities to the Project are Vavenby and Birch Island, BC. Vavenby is an unincorporated community located on the north bank of the North Thompson River, about 20 km by road from the Project site. Vavenby has a population of about 240 (Statistics Canada 2024). Birch Island is a smaller community located on the south bank of the North Thomspon River, about 10 km directly northwest of the Project site and 20 km west of Vavenby by road. There are private land holders with farms and houses on the south bank of the North Thompson River between Birch Island and Vavenby.

Other communities along the Highway 5 corridor between Kamloops and Vavenby:

- Clearwater, which is located about 27 km west of Vavenby.
- Little Fort, which is located about 30 km south of Clearwater.
- Blackpool, which is located about 15 km south of Little Fort.
- Barriere, which is located about 30 km south of Little Fort.
- Avola, which is located 45 km north of Vavenby.
- Blue River, which is 85 km north of Vavenby.

The Project is approximately 170 km to the BC-Alberta provincial border, and approximately 278 km from the United States border at their closest distances.

The transmission line will follow an approximate west to east orientation between the two substations; an existing BC Hydro substation at 100 Mile House (Figure 3-1), and a new substation that will be constructed on the Project site. The western portion of the transmission line will be within the Cariboo Regional District (CRD), and the eastern portion will be within the TNRD.



Legend

- Yellowhead Copper Project
- Communities
- Waterbodies
- Parks & Protected Areas
- Protected Wildlife Habitat
- Transmission Line
- Primary Access Route
- BC-Alberta Boundary
- Railway
- Highways/Roads

Notes

1. 119.807937W, 51.502588N
2. NTS Map Sheet 082M12
3. Base data from BC Data Catalogue
4. Base topographic layer from Esri
5. Project components and mine data provided by Taseko Mines Limited, 16 May 2025
6. Updates prepared by SLR

Taseko Yellowhead

1:2,500,000

0 30 60 120 km

Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

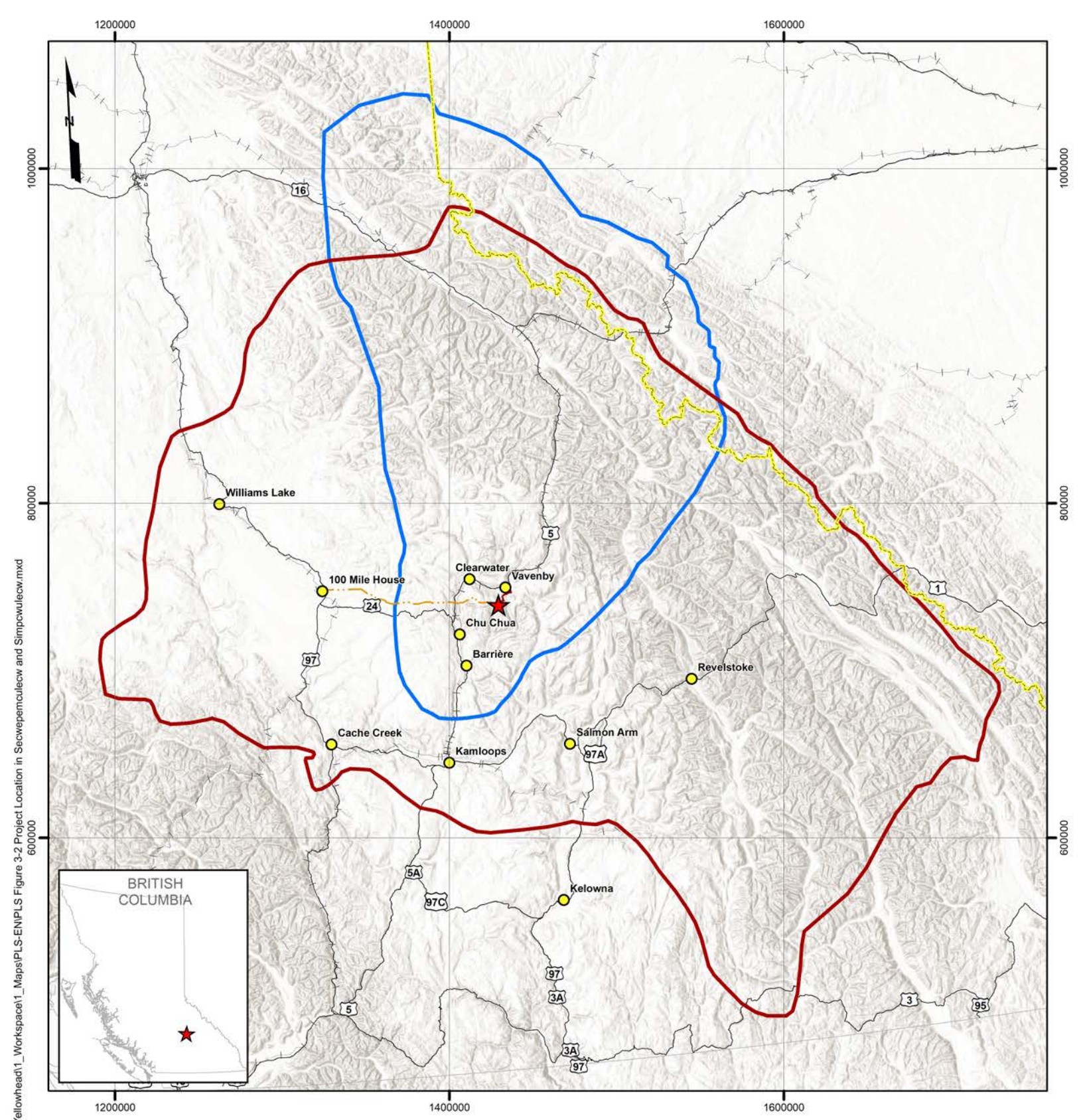
Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Project Location

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 3-1

Document Path: G:_Projects\201\201_089535_Taseko_Yellowhead\1_Workspace\1_Maps\PLS-ENPLS Figure 3-1 Project Location.mxd



Document Path: G:_Projects\2011201_089535_Taseko_Yellowhead\1_Workspace\1_Maps\PLS-ENP\LS Figure 3-2 Project Location in Secwepemculecw and Simpcwulecw.mxd

Legend

- Yellowhead Copper Project
- Communities
- Secwepemcúlecw (Secwépemc Territory)
- Simpcwúlecw (Simpcw Territory)
- Transmission Line
- Primary Access Route
- BC-Alberta Boundary
- Railway
- Highways/Roads

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Taseko Yellowhead

1:3,000,000

0 37.5 75 150 km

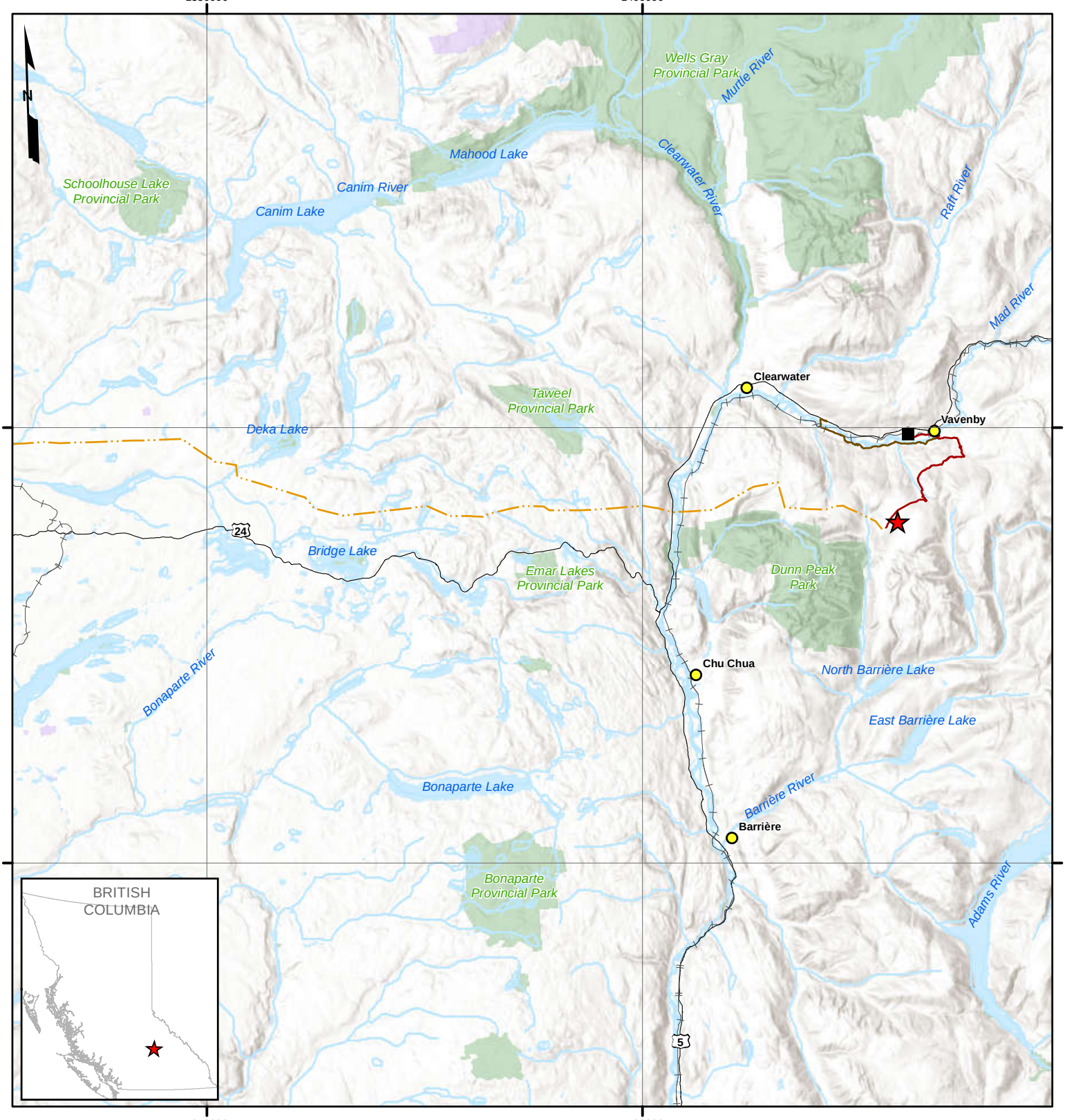
Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Project Location in Secwepemcúlecw and Simpcwúlecw

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 3-2



Document Path: G:_Projects\201\201_089535_Taseko_Yellowhead\1_Workspace\1_Maps\PLS-ENPLS Figure 3-3 Parks and Protected Areas.mxd

Legend

- Yellowhead Copper Project
- Rail Load-Out
- Communities
- Parks & Protected Areas
- Protected Wildlife Habitat
- Waterbodies
- Transmission Line
- Primary Access Route
- Secondary Access Route
- BC-Alberta Boundary
- Railway
- Highways/Roads

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Taseko Yellowhead

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0 5 10 20 km

Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Parks and Protected Areas

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 3-3

3.3 Project History and Status

Copper was discovered in the area in the mid-1960s. In 1965, claims were staked by Noranda Exploration Company (Noranda) and Quebec Cartier Mining Company (a subsidiary of US Steel) (QCM). In 1966. Noranda and QCM worked on their individual properties where they staked their claims from 1966 to 1970. In the early 1970s, the companies formed a joint venture partnership to explore the combined properties, which they did until 1974. Exploration activities also occurred in 1986 and 1996.

In 2005, Yellowhead Mining Inc. (YMI) formed as a private, BC-based company that that acquired subsurface rights to the Project through a combination of claim staking, purchase, and option agreements. YMI continued exploration on the properties from 2006 to 2013. In 2014, YMI conducted a feasibility study for a project with a production capacity of 70,000 tpd of ore, which was called the Harper Creek Project.

Harper Creek Mining Corp., a subsidiary of YMI, prepared an EA application based on the feasibility study. In 2015, the Harper Creek Project EA Application was accepted for review by the Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. The application was put on pause by these regulators in 2015 for the following reasons:

- They wanted more information on alternative options for tailings management.
- They wanted the Harper Creek Project EA to engage more with local Indigenous groups.

The concerns from these regulators were because of a tailings dam failure that happened at another mine site in 2015.

The provincial Harper Creek Project EA process was terminated by the EAO three years later because of inactivity on the file. YMI was invited to submit a new application that would address the full scope of the application requirements.

In February 2019, Taseko acquired a 100% interest in YMI and, over the course of that year, withdrew from the federal EA process and completed an updated Technical Report on the Project (Taseko 2020). The concerns raised in the 2015 Harper Creek Project assessment process have informed improvements in the tailings and water management approaches and design for the Project. The Technical Report forms the basis of the Project described in this IPD.

3.4 Existing Permits and Approvals

Taseko was issued a multi-year area based (MYAB) Notice of Work Permit (No. 1620527-2022-01) under *Mines Act* permit MX-4-429 to conduct geotechnical and hydrogeological investigation work. This MYAB is currently valid until May 23, 2028.

The BC Ministry of Forests (FOR) has given Taseko a Road Use Permit (RUP) for sections of the Vavenby Mountain, Avery-Jones, Barriere Mountain, and Saskum West FSRs. There may be other RUP holders for the same service roads. Using and maintaining FSRs is shared by RUP holders that actively use these roads. The user with the highest level of use is designated as the Primary User, who then holds primary accountability for road use and maintenance. Taseko has entered into Road Use Agreements with Primary Users to clarify responsibilities for road use in accordance with the RUPs.

3.5 Land Use Plans

Land use, community, or stewardship plans that may be relevant to the Project are provided below. This list will be updated to include any plans that are identified through the EA process or engagement, if they are amended, or if new land use plans are published.

- Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) (BC Government 1995)
- North Thompson Official Community Plan (TNRD 2020)
- TNRD Strategic Plan 2023-2026 (TNRD 2023)
- Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan (BC Government 1994)
- 100 Mile House Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) (CRD 2005)
- Simpcw Interim Stewardship Plan (Simpcw 2024).

Land use planning in BC supports preserving cultural values, healthy ecosystems, and opportunities for economic activities (BC Government 2024a). BC's Land and Water Planning Partnership Projects website (BC Government 2024b) was reviewed in January 2025. Currently, there are no active planning projects where the Project is located.

There are also no rezoning or changes in land designation requirements that will be needed before the Project can be constructed or operated.

4. Project Description

This section provides a summary of the scope of the Project, including project components and activities for the various Project phases. Included in this section are activities, project design and siting constraints, and other information relevant to understanding the scope of the Project.

The basis of the Project design includes:

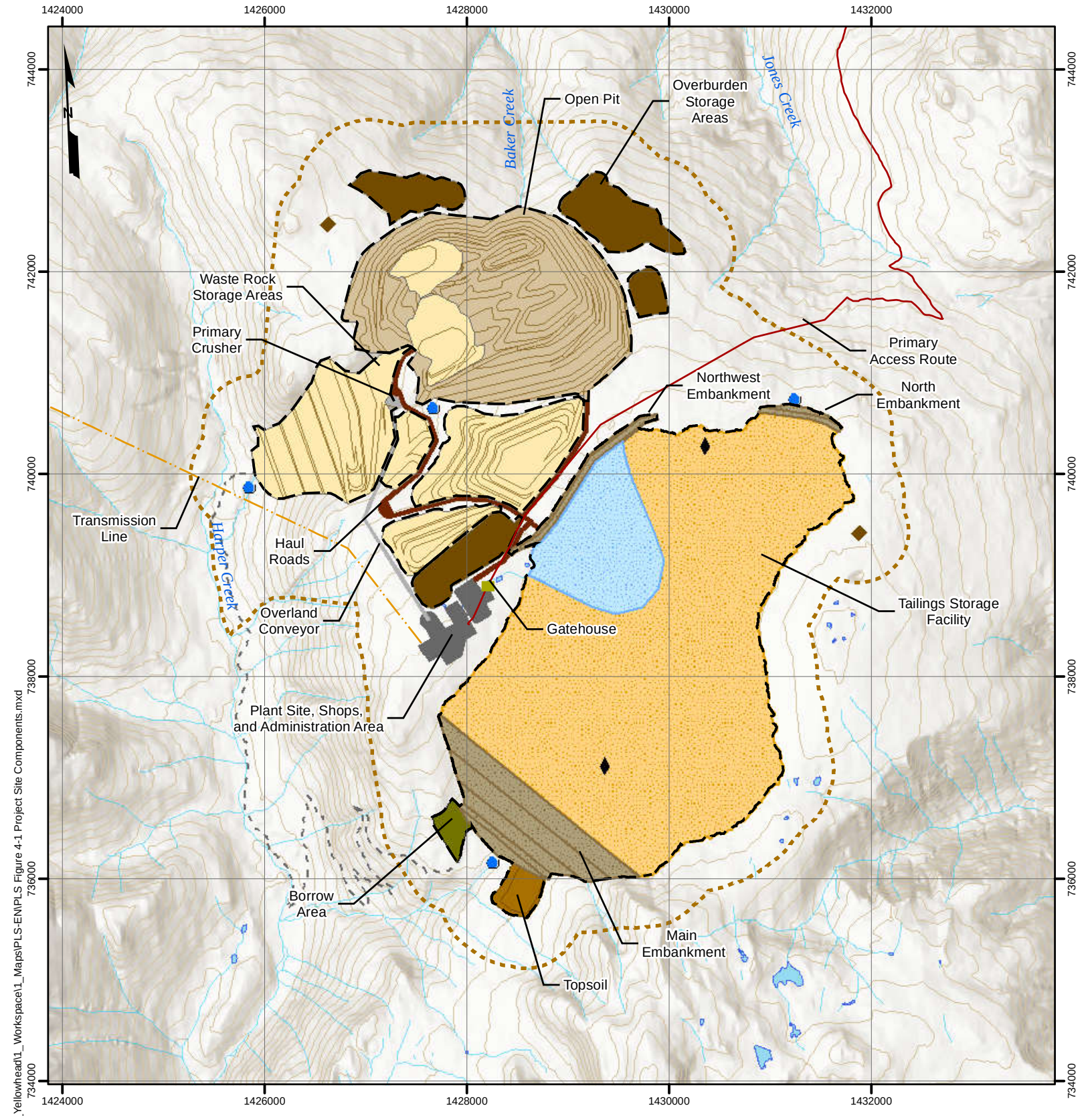
- Approximately 100,000 metres (m) of exploratory and geotechnical drilling.
- Results from batch, lock cycle, and pilot scale metallurgical test work.
- Pre-Feasibility level engineering, as summarized in Taseko (2020).
- Feedback received through the Simpcw-Taseko Yellowhead Project Design Working Group (Working Group) on Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) alternatives.
- Information and feedback reviewed from the Harper Creek Project EA (HCMC 2015).

The Project design is not finalized. The Project design will be refined after technical studies, baseline studies, and assessment work are done. Consultation with Indigenous groups, government, and engagement with the public may also influence the project design. Refinement to project design will be presented in project documentation for the Simpcw Process, and the provincial and federal EA processes.

4.1 Overview

The Project is a proposed, open pit copper mine that has been designed with a production capacity of 90,000 tonnes per day (tpd) of ore over a 25-year mine life. At the Project site, the copper ore will be processed to produce a copper concentrate with payable amounts of gold and silver.

The Project site and offsite project components are shown on Figure 4-1 and Figure 4-2. Project components are discussed in Section 4.2, and Project phases and activities in Section 4.3.



Legend

- Simpcw Culturally Significant Site
- Gatehouse
- Explosives Storage Areas
- Water Management Ponds
- Project Footprint
- Extent of Project Components
- Open Pit
- Overburden Storage Areas
- Waste Rock Storage Areas
- Beach
- Embankment
- Supernatant Pond
- Borrow Area
- Topsoil
- Overland Conveyor
- Road
- Plant Site, Shops, and Administration Area
- Waterbodies
- Transmission Line
- Primary Access Route
- Existing Forest Service Road

Notes

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2. NTS Map Sheet 082M12
3. Base data from BC Data Catalogue
4. Base topographic layer from Esri
5. Project components and mine data provided by Taseko Mines Limited, 16 May 2025
6. Updates prepared by SLR

Taseko Yellowhead

1:50,000

0 0.5 1 2 km

Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

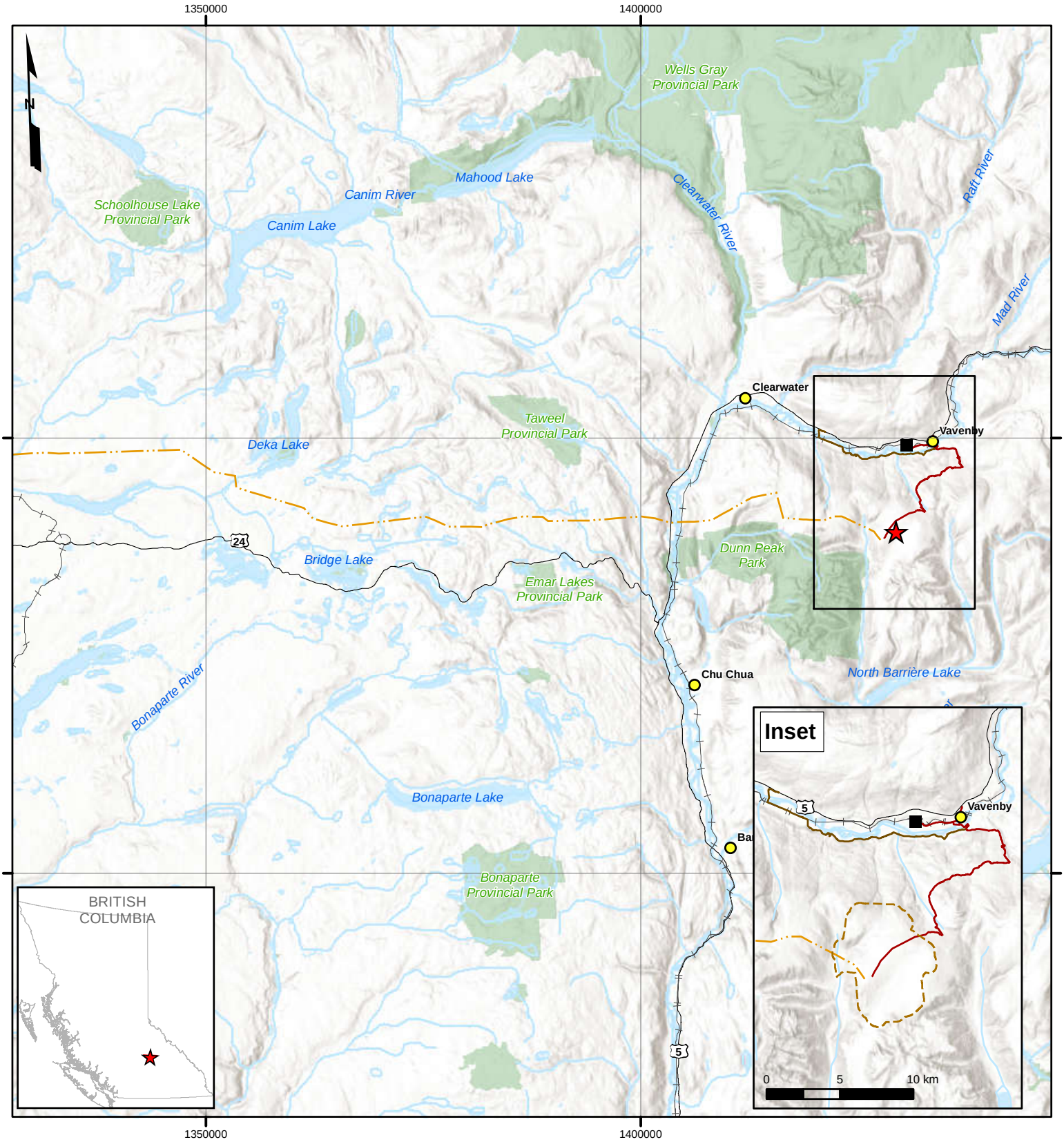
Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Project Layout, Project Site Components

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 4-1

Document Path: G:_Projects\201\201_089535_Taseko_Yellowhead\1_Workspace\1_Maps\PLS-ENPLS Figure 4-1 Project Site Components.mxd



Legend

- Yellowhead Copper Project
- Rail Load-Out
- Communities
- Project Footprint
- Parks & Protected Areas
- Waterbodies
- Transmission Line
- Primary Access Route
- Secondary Access Route
- BC-Alberta Boundary
- Railway
- Highways/Roads

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Taseko Yellowhead

1:600,000

0 5 10 20 km

Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Project Site, Offsite Components

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 4-2

Document Path: G:_Projects\201\201_089535_Taseko_Yellowhead\1_Workspace\1_Maps\PLS-ENPLS Figure 4-2 Offsite Components.mxd

4.2 Project Components and Activities

A summary of the primary Project components, as illustrated on Figure 4-1 and Figure 4-2, are identified in Table 4-1. Descriptions of the Project site and offsite project components are described in the sections that follow.

Table 4-1: Summary of Project Components

Project Components	New	Existing
Project Site Components		
• Open pit	X	
• Haul roads (for heavy and light mobile equipment and vehicles)	X	
• Overburden, waste rock, and ore storage areas	X	
• Primary crusher and overland conveyor (from crusher to coarse ore stockpile at the plant site)	X	
• Diesel fuelling station (at crusher site)	X	
• Plant site, concentrator and associated infrastructure, gatehouse, shops, administration area, and other ancillary buildings	X	
• Tailings storage facility (tailings discharge pipelines, reclaim barge / pipelines, pumping system)	X	
• Borrow area / quarry	X	
• Explosives facility	X	
• Site water management (e.g., collection ponds, pump back systems, pipes and ditching)	X	
• Water treatment plant and discharge pipelines	X	
• Construction camp (near plant site)	X	
• Primary access route extension (2.5 kilometre (km) new route extension from end of Vavenby Mountain and Avery Jones Forest Service Roads)	X	
Offsite Components (Figure 4-2)		
• Primary access route from Highway 5 at Vavenby to the Project site		X
• Secondary access route from Highway 5 at Birch Island Lost Creek Bridge		X
• Transmission line (~110 km from 100 Mile House substation to Project site)	X	
• Rail load-out facility (employee parking and bus pick up at this location)		X

The Project site has been designed to minimize new disturbance requirements to the extent possible. Disturbance estimates may be updated as the project design is refined for the Detailed Project Description (DPD) and/or the Yellowhead Copper Project's Environmental Assessment Application (Application).

4.2.1 Project Site Components

4.2.1.1 Open Pit

Open pit mining is the industry standard method for extracting mineral reserves from near surface deposits. The Project will use open pit mining methods that will involve a combination of drilling, blasting, loading, and hauling of materials. During mine operations, the Project has been designed with a production capacity of 90,000 tpd of ore over a 25-year mine life. Ore will be hauled to the primary crusher for processing. Overburden and waste rock will be hauled to storage areas near the open pit, within the TSF, or used as construction material. Stockpiling of mined ore will initially be within the open pit footprint during the construction phase.

4.2.1.2 Ore Processing

A concentrator with a production capacity of 90,000 tpd of ore will produce a copper concentrate with payable amounts of gold and silver. Mined ore will be hauled to the primary crusher located at the southwest edge of the ultimate pit rim. The crusher will be equipped with dust suppression to manage dust generated during operations. Crushed ore will be transported by overland conveyor to a coarse ore stockpile located at the plant site.

Ore from the stockpile will be fed to two parallel semi-autogenous grinding (SAG)-ball mill circuits for processing. The final concentrate will be dried before being sent to the concentrate shed by a conveyer. The rougher and first cleaner flotation tailings will be transported separately to the TSF. Process water from the TSF will be reclaimed and recycled back to the process plant for reuse.

Components of the concentrator include:

- Reagent facility;
- Assay and metallurgical laboratory;
- Process water pond with barge and water pumping system; and
- Fixed plant maintenance shop.

4.2.1.3 Overburden and Waste Rock Storage

The Project will need to store overburden, waste rock, and ore materials throughout operations. Storage will be constructed to capture and collect contact water through ditching and drainage into collection ponds. Collected contact water will be pumped to the process water pond to be reused in ore processing, or will overflow to the TSF through spillways and ditches.

Overburden may be re-used for reclamation purposes. In this case, quality overburden will be separated from NAG waste rock and stored near the open pit. Suitable NAG waste rock will be used for TSF embankment construction. NAG waste rock not used for embankment construction will be stored at one of four areas located near the open pit. PAG waste rock will be placed within the TSF.

Once the final pit walls are exposed later in the mine life, PAG and NAG waste rock will also be stored in-pit.

During operations, the mining process will produce approximately:

- 50 million tonnes (Mt) of overburden waste;
- 560 Mt of NAG waste rock; and
- 500 Mt of PAG waste rock.

4.2.1.4 Tailings Storage Facility

The TSF will be located south of the concentrator and will store a total volume up to 780 million cubic metres (m^3) (710 Mt of tailings and 470 Mt PAG waste rock). Tailings will be gravity fed from the concentrator to the TSF through two pipelines:

- One pipeline for NAG tailings, which will make up 95% of the total tailings volume; and
- One pipeline for PAG tailings.

Process water from the TSF will be reused at the plant site.

The glacial till liner, made up of clay, gravel, and sand, will be used to control groundwater seepage from the TSF.

4.2.1.5 Explosives Facility

A bulk explosives facility will be located on the southern end of the TSF. An explosives magazine will be located on the north side of the open pit to store explosives accessories. Final site location will apply appropriate buffer zones to facilitate protection and safety of onsite infrastructure and personnel.
It is anticipated that the explosives facility will be operated by an explosives supplier.

4.2.1.6 Site Water Management

Contact and non-contact water will be kept separate through site infrastructure. Precipitation that falls as contact water will be redirected to the water collection ponds, then pumped to the process water pond. The collection ponds will manage sediment through Project construction and operations. Excess water pumped to the process water pond will be diverted to the TSF for storage. The contact water will be used for ore processing. Non-contact water will be discharged to the environment through a ditches and pipes.

Surface water runoff and groundwater that may collect in the open pit will be pumped out using a dewatering system. The water will be pumped to the process water pond and to the TSF through the concentrator.
At closure, the tailings supernatant pond water will be drained to the open pit through a spillway.
Tailings supernatant is the water that sits on top or on the surface of the tailings, often reused in processing or treated before release. Mine contact water will also be directed to the open pit. Contact water will be treated prior to discharge to the receiving environment.

4.2.1.7 Water Treatment in Operations

A standalone water treatment plant (WTP) will be used to treat contact water from the process water pond at the Project site during operations. Water quality modelling and assessment, along with future technical studies, will inform the requirements for water quality treatment, technology selection and design. The WTP will be modular to allow for scalability over the life of the mine. Treated water will be discharged by pipeline to Harper Creek.

Water treatment technologies may be evaluated for the closure and post-closure phases of the Project if water quality assessments indicate treatment after operations is required.

4.2.1.8 Power Supply and Electrical Distribution

Two 2-megavolt-amperes (MVA) diesel generators will be the main source of power at the Project site during the construction phase. Once the construction phase is finished, the two generators will remain on standby, located near the substation, to provide emergency power supply during operations.

During operations, power will be supplied to the Project site by a transmission line that interconnects the existing BC Hydro substation at 100 Mile House to a new substation at the Project site.

An electrical distribution system from the on-site substation will be put in place to provide power to Project site components, buildings, and equipment. There will be an electrical distribution system installed to provide power from the new substation to other Project site components, buildings, and equipment. The transmission line will be fully commissioned when the mine starts operating.

4.2.1.9 Construction Camp

A full-service camp to house the construction workers will be located near the plant site. The camp will house up to 540 personnel that will be expected to be onsite during construction. It will be a single-story, prefabricated, modular building with services such as dormitories, washrooms, kitchen, and dining facilities. The camp design is planned to be self contained with any domestic wastes being transported offsite for disposal.

4.2.2 Offsite Components

4.2.2.1 Primary Access Route and Secondary Access Route

The primary access route will be from Highway 5 at the town of Vavenby and then continue for approximately 20 km along the existing Vavenby Mountain FSR and Avery Jones FSR. To support Project traffic, there may be some upgrades required to the FSR, like road widening, alignment improvements, and surface reparation. A new 2.5 km road extension from the end of the existing FSRs will be required to reach the main Project site area.

Oversized and heavy loads will use an existing secondary access route during construction and operations. The secondary access route crosses the North Thompson River at the Birch Island Lost Creek Bridge. The secondary access route has been designed for heavier loads. This route follows the BILCR until it intersects with the primary access route to the Project site. It is anticipated that the secondary access route may also require upgrades.

4.2.2.2 Transmission Line

To supply power during operations, a transmission line approximately 110 km long is proposed, following an approximate west to east orientation to interconnect the existing BC Hydro substation at 100 Mile House, BC to a new substation at the Project site. There is a maximum 40 m ROW that may be less in areas of existing linear features and/or disturbance areas.

The transmission line routing may change based on feedback from engagement, field data or results of technical studies and related information. Generally, the principles followed in defining the current route involved:

- Selection of the shortest route;
- Parallel to existing linear features or disturbance where possible, while minimizing impacts through environmentally sensitive areas;
- Avoiding terrain constraints (e.g., steep valley slopes, wetlands, waterbodies), and
- Maximizing distances from residences and / or populated areas.

Alternatives considered for the current routing are in Section 4.7.5.2.

4.2.2.3 Rail Load-out Facility and Concentrate Transport

Taseko also owns a decommissioned sawmill property, located 2.5 km west of Vavenby and about 25 km by road from the Project site. The property includes a rail siding, buildings, offices and statutory rights of way associated with past sawmill operations. Development activities at the property will include construction of the rail load-out facility at the rail siding, which would be contained within a building with truck ramps and equipment access doors. The rail load-out facility will include a truck dump area, concentrate storage area and railcar loading area with a railcar scale and crane for handling railcar lids. The extent to which existing infrastructure will be refurbished, replaced or demolished will be confirmed in subsequent engineering phases. This area will also include a parking area for daily bus pickup of Project personnel.

Concentrate will be transported to the rail load-out facility from the Project site using the primary access route, with an average of 24-round trips made per day. The concentrate will then be transferred to a rail car at the rail load-out facility and transported by rail to the Port of Vancouver or to other North American markets. From the Port of Vancouver, the copper concentrate will be shipped to overseas markets.

4.3 Project Phases and Activities

The major mine development phases are summarized in Figure 4-3, along with planned durations. Key activities associated with each phase are summarized in Table 4-2. Project development activities can only occur once required approvals are obtained from the Simpcw Process, and the provincial and federal EA process decisions are finalized.

Figure 4-3: Summary of Mine Development Phases and Durations

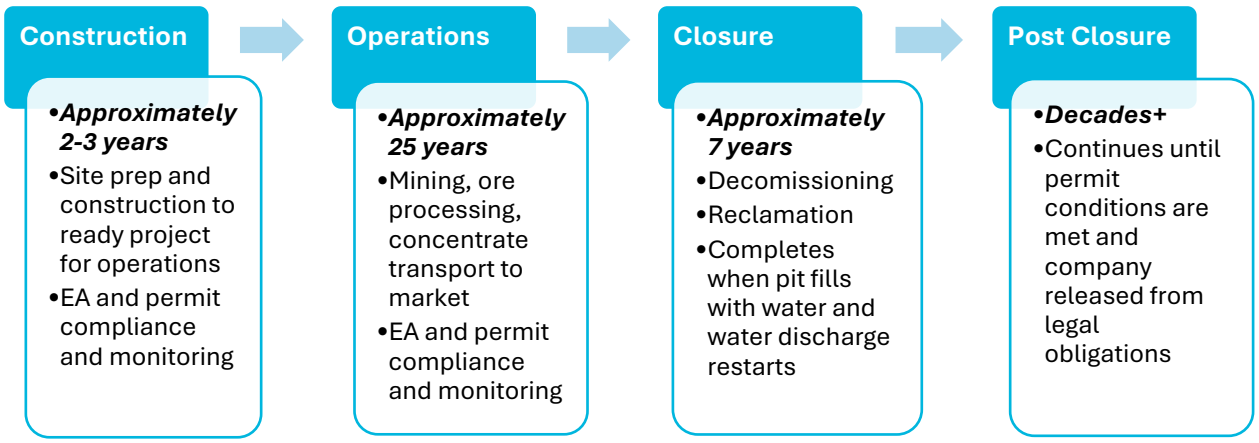


Table 4-2: Primary Project Activities by Mine Development Phase

Project Phase	Activities
Construction	• Upgrades to and use of primary access route and secondary access route. • Construction of new road extension to access Project site. • Site clearing and grubbing. • General earthworks, site grading, and levelling. • Transport of equipment, supplies, and personnel. • Establishment of haul roads and storage areas. • Excavation and stockpiling of overburden materials. • Initial open pit development, drilling, blasting, loading, and hauling of materials. • Initial Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) starter dam construction, including initial water capture to commission the concentrator. • Construction of foundations, buildings, and supporting infrastructure for Project site components. • Commissioning of major site components including crusher, conveyors, concentrator, and supporting infrastructure. • Operation of diesel generators for power supply until electrical supply is available at the Project site. • Transmission line clearing, access development, and installation. • Installation and commissioning of substation and electrical distribution system at the Project site. • Drilling and installation of potable water wells. • Construction and commissioning of potable water treatment plant (WTP). • Construction and commissioning of sewage treatment plant. • Install, operate and house workforce at the construction camp. • Refurbishment of sawmill property for use as rail load-out facility, personnel parking / bus pickup, and other uses to support the Project. • Environmental monitoring and reporting.
Operations	• Transport of equipment, materials, and personnel to/from/around the Project site via access and/or haul roads. • Mining of open pit, including drilling, blasting, loading, and hauling of ore, and overburden and waste rock materials to designated areas. • Crushing of ore at the primary crusher and transport by overland conveyor to a coarse ore stockpile at the plant site. • Construction and use of TSF (see Section 4.2.1.4). • Construction, commissioning, and operating WTP. • Processing of crushed ore at the concentrator using grinding, flotation, and dewatering circuits, and storage of concentrate for transport. • Operation of site water management system, including the recycle and reuse of contact water during mining and processing. • Construction and operation of the WTP for use during operations phase.

Project Phase	Activities
Operations (cont'd)	• Evaluation of alternative treatment options for closure and post-closure phases, should it be required. • PAG cleaner and NAG rougher tailings transported by pipeline to the TSF. • PAG waste rock hauled to TSF for subaqueous storage. • Diesel generators on standby to provide emergency power supply, and operate as needed over life of mine. • Decommission and remove the construction workforce camp. • Operate electrical distribution system to supply power to Project site. • Maintenance activities for mine infrastructure and equipment. • Haulage of final concentrate to rail load-out facility. • Operation of the rail loadout facility, loading of concentrate to rail car. • Transport concentrate by rail to Port of Vancouver and/or other North American markets. • Progressive reclamation where feasible over life of mine. • Environmental monitoring, compliance, and reporting.
Closure	• Cessation of mineral processing and tailings deposition. • Decommissioning and removal of processing and mine support facilities. • Deactivation of select Project site roads and other supporting infrastructure no longer required for closure and post-closure activities. • Stabilization and revegetation of TSF embankments and beaches. • Recontouring and revegetation overburden and waste rock storage areas, select roads, Project site buildings, and supporting infrastructure sites. • Redirect TSF supernatant pond flow through spillways to open pit. • Direct site-wide contact water to open pit. • Water treatment to be discontinued while open pit filling with water. • Maintenance of water treatment plant and water management structures. • Environmental monitoring, compliance, and reporting.
Post-Closure	• Once the open pit has filled with water, if required, restart water treatment until no longer required for discharge to the environment. • Continue TSF supernatant pond flow through the spillway to open pit until TSF water quality allows for direct discharge to the environment. • Continue contact water flow through open pit until water quality allows direct discharge to the environment. • Conduct maintenance and repairs on facilities, infrastructure, and equipment remaining onsite, as required. • Decommissioning, recontouring, and revegetation of transmission line and supporting roads once water treatment is no longer required or alternate power source is provided. • Other activities that are required to release compliance and legal obligations related to final closure of the site. • Environmental monitoring and reporting for water quality, reclamation success, and other requirements as defined under permits.

4.4 Workforce

The estimated workforce for the Project by phase are summarized in Table 4-3. It is expected that the region can support a skilled and experienced workforce. It is expected that people hired for the Project will be mostly from local and regional communities.

Table 4-3: Estimated Project Workforce by Phase

Project Phase	Duration (years)	Workforce Estimate (jobs)	
		Direct	Indirect and Induced
Construction	Approximately 2-3	2,180	1,120
Operations	Approximately 25	590	1,120
Closure	Approximately 7	30	-
Post-Closure	Decades+	1 full-time; 4 part-time	-
Source: BCStats (2020)			

A full-service camp will be established at the Project site to house construction phase personnel (see Section 4.2.1.9). It is expected that operations personnel will live and integrate with local communities.

4.5 Emissions, Discharges, and Wastes

4.5.1 Air and Dust Emissions

Air and dust have the potential to be generated during construction and operations. Fugitive dust and particulate matter or fine particulate matter are expected to be generated through activities at the Project site during the defined Project phases.

Particulate air emissions generated from diesel-powered equipment and gas-powered vehicles will be minimized to the extent practical through engineering controls and standard operating procedures. Road maintenance and dust suppression will be implemented to minimize fugitive dust at the Project site and during onsite transportation activities.

4.5.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Project has the potential to contribute more than 10,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e) emissions per year. The Project includes several features to limit the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions footprint of the Project, where possible, including:

- Proposed use of electrified stationary and semi-mobile equipment.
- Location of the primary crusher adjacent to the open pit and conveying crushed ore using electric-powered overland conveyors.
- Proposed construction of the TSF main embankment using cycloned tailings sand.

Evaluation of other emission reduction technologies will be explored as the Project advances.

Estimates of direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions (diesel and gas consumption) and acquired energy (Scope 2; electric power) for the current Project design have been calculated for construction and operations and include the following emission factors:

- Direct Emissions: Diesel, Construction
- Direct Emissions: Diesel, Operations
- Acquired Energy: Electric Power

Net GHG emissions are anticipated to be highest during construction Year -1 (approximately 300 ktCO_2e). Emissions Intensity is anticipated to be highest in operations Year 1 (1.54 tCO_2e/tonnes per copper equivalent [tCu_{Eq}])

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) captured and stored, avoided domestic GHG emissions, offset credit data, and additional GHG reduction measures are not available at this time.

Direct emissions include contributions from stationary and mobile diesel and gas-powered sources at the Project site and from offsite transportation of concentrate, including truck transport and rail load-out facility operations. Construction assumes that diesel and gasoline will be the main source of energy until the transmission line is constructed and commissioned, and electricity to power the site is available. Operations phase emissions include sources from mine operations, mill and site services, tailings and water management, and offsite transportation of concentrate to the rail load-out facility.

The total net GHG emissions over the 28-year construction and operations period are estimated at approximately 3,119 kilotonnes CO_2 equivalent (kt CO_2e), comprising approximately 545 kt CO_2e during the construction phase and approximately 2,574 kt CO_2e over the 25-year operations phase.

Updated emissions estimates, including for those data not currently available, will be refined as information becomes available for the DPD, and the GHG and Climate Change Assessment for the Application.

4.5.3 Mine Wastes and Discharges

Mining of ore, overburden and waste, and other activities at the Project site have the potential to cause changes to the flow and quality of surface and groundwater at the Project site. To minimize the potential for impacts from mine contact water discharge to receiving environment waters, contact and non-contact water will be separated. Non-contact water will be diverted to the receiving environment for direct discharge. Contact water will be directed to the process pond for use as process water and/or directed to a WTP for discharge. A single point of discharge following treatment is proposed for the Project. A water management plan will be developed for the Project and will identify site water management and water treatment for the Project. Discharges related to the Project will meet regulatory requirements and approved water quality discharge limits, as defined in relevant permits.

4.5.4 Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Wastes

The currently identified possible waste streams identified for the construction and operations phases of the Project include:

- Mining waste materials (e.g., overburden, waste rock).
- Material and product wastes generated from construction (e.g., wood, steel, plastics, and other materials generated through site construction).

- Domestic garbage and waste products (e.g., food waste and garbage) from camp operations, administration and plant site buildings, and other activities.
- Domestic grey and black water (e.g., construction camp, administration and plant site buildings).
- Hazardous wastes (e.g., oils, lubricants, fuels, paints, reagents, chemicals, contaminated filters or spill pads, batteries) used in servicing of fixed plant, mobile equipment and vehicles, operation of the concentrator, and undertaking of other activities at the Project site.
- Contaminated soils due to spills of fuels or other hazardous materials to ground (during construction and operations, or historically at existing rail load-out facility location).
- Waste byproducts generated as part of water treatment (e.g., biosolids or brine; to be confirmed based on future water treatment technology selection).
- Abandoned buildings, infrastructure, and materials left onsite at the existing rail load-out facility location that are unsuitable for reuse or refurbishment to support the Project.

Hazardous, non-hazardous, and domestic wastes will be collected and separated onsite for offsite disposal at appropriately licensed facilities. Recyclable wastes, such as batteries, will be collected for offsite disposal at a licensed facility. Domestic grey and black water will be collected for treatment onsite.

A Construction Management Plan and Waste Management Plan for operations will be developed for the Project. A management plan will be developed to address waste management for the WTP, if required.

4.5.5 Noise, Vibration, and Light Emissions

Noise and vibration may be generated from construction and operation activities. Offsite activities along access routes, at the rail load-out facility, or construction of the transmission line may also generate noise and vibration and have the potential to affect nearby residences and wildlife. Onsite activities that could generate noise or vibration include drilling, blasting, operation of mobile equipment, and vehicle use. The Project will implement engineering technology, standard operating procedures, and other mitigations to reduce the noise and vibration associated with the Project.

Light may also be generated, mostly during dusk, dawn, and nighttime activities. Light sources will mostly be from equipment, vehicles, and lighting installed in operational areas for health and safety. Light design and installation that consider direction, height, and intensity of lighting are examples of mitigations to control lighting impacts.

4.6 Alternatives to the Project

Ore bodies have a fixed location that requires a proponent to mine the ore body at its location. Therefore, the only alternatives to the Project are:

- **Alternative 1:** Proceed with the Project.
- **Alternative 2:** Abandon the Project and invest in a Project in another location or jurisdiction.

The Project will only be built if it is technically feasible to do so.

4.7 Alternative Means of Carrying Out the Project

The different technically and economically feasible ways of carrying out the Project and its activities, along with the environmental and socioeconomic acceptability of those alternatives, has been completed for the following Project components:

- Mining method
- TSF
- WRSAs
- Project site access
- Power supply and transmission line
- Personnel accommodations.

Alternatives that were not considered to be technically or economically feasible were not carried forward for further evaluation of environmental and socioeconomic acceptability.

Performance rankings of Preferred, Acceptable, Challenging, or Unacceptable were applied to each alternative, as described in the IPD. An alternative was rejected in the assessment if it attained an Unacceptable rating for any single performance objective.

4.7.1 Mining Method

Three mining method alternatives were considered for the Project including open pit (Alternative 1), underground (Alternative 2), and a combination of open pit and underground mining (Alternative 3). Alternative 1, Open Pit Mining, is the only alternative that is technically and economically feasible for the Project.

4.7.2 Tailings Storage Facility

A TSF is the proposed tailings management option to securely and safely store tailings and PAG waste rock originating from the Project. TSF alternatives and management have been evaluated by both the:

- Harper Creek Project EA; and
- Simpcw-Taseko Working Group.

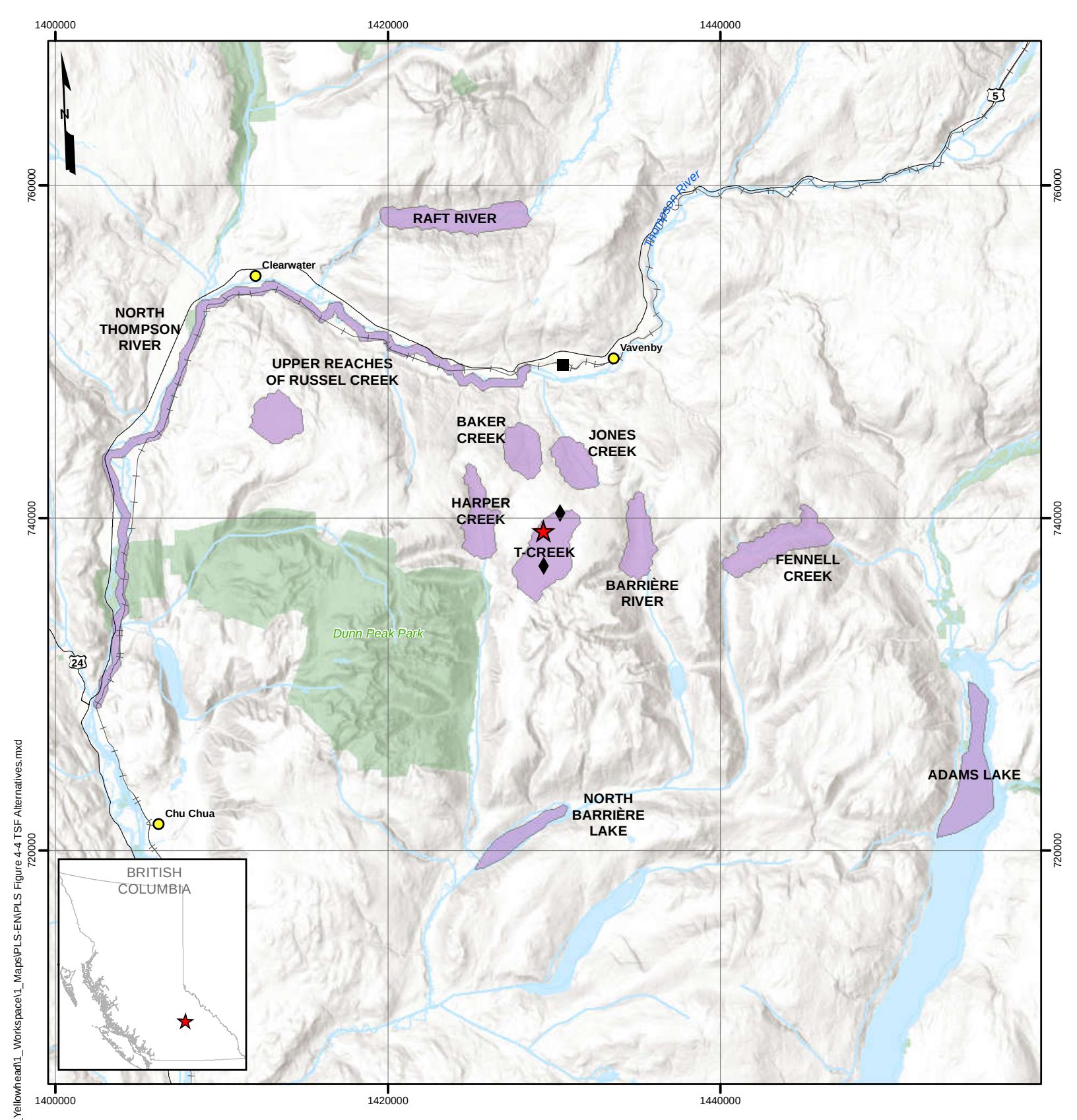
Each are discussed in the sections that follow.

4.7.2.1 Candidate Sites: Harper Creek Project EA

In 2015, after the EAO accepted the Harper Creek Project EA for review, additional information was requested for tailings alternatives and management. The Harper Creek Project EA review was put on hold in 2015, while Harper Creek Mining Company conducted a TSF alternatives assessment using a multiple accounts analysis for the Harper Creek Project EA. Early analyses were presented to regulators in 2017 (HCMC 2017) and are summarized below.

There were 11 candidate sites identified in the Harper Creek Project EA, with seven candidate sites advanced to high level risk assessment and four candidate sites removed from consideration based on a critical flaw assessment. Potential candidate sites are shown on Figure 4-4.

Of the 11 candidate sites, Candidate 1 (T-Creek) was identified for the Harper Creek Project EA as the preferred TSF site.



Legend

- Yellowhead Copper Project
- Rail Load-Out
- Simpcw Culturally Significant Site
- Communities
- Alternative Tailing Storage Sites
- Parks & Protected Areas
- Waterbodies
- BC-Alberta Boundary
- Railway
- Highways/Roads

Notes

1. 119.807937W, 51.502588N
2. NTS Map Sheet 082M12
3. Base data from BC Data Catalogue
4. Base topographic layer from Esri
5. Project components and mine data provided by Taseko Mines Limited, 16 May 2025
6. Updates prepared by SLR

Taseko Yellowhead

1:300,000

0 3.75 7.5 15 km

Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Harper Creek Project Environmental Assessment - Tailing Storage Facility Alternative Candidate Sites

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 4-4

Document Path: G:_Projects\201\201_089535_Taseko_Yellowhead\1_Workspace\1_Maps\PLS-ENPLS Figure 4-4 TSF Alternatives.mxd

4.7.2.2 Alternatives: Simpcw-Taseko Yellowhead Project Design Working Group

In 2018, after announcing an agreement to acquire the Project, Taseko started engagement and relationship-building with Simpcw. Through this engagement, Taseko learned that the location of the TSF for the Harper Creek Project impacted two culturally significant sites of Simpcw. Before agreeing to accept the Project for review, Simpcw required more information to understand what the alternative locations were. This led to the development of a joint Simpcw-Taseko Working Group in early 2022.

As part of the Working Group process with Simpcw, Taseko prepared conceptual level designs for eight TSF alternatives, which were then presented to the Working Group with supporting details about each alternative, including drawings and qualitative and quantitative information.

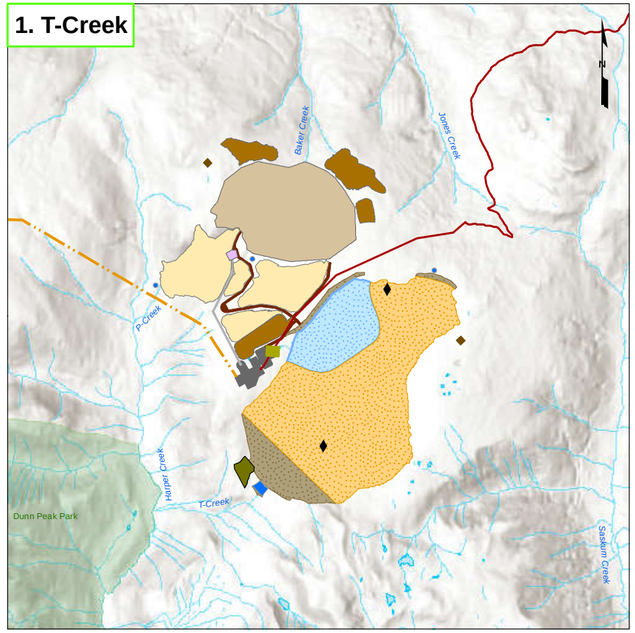
Eight TSF alternatives were identified and evaluated over the course of the Working Group process (Figure 4-5).

- **Alternative 1:** T-Creek
- **Alternative 2:** T-Creek North Avoidance
- **Alternative 3:** Harper Creek
- **Alternative 4:** T-Creek and Harper Creek Split by Mine Life
- **Alternative 5:** T-Creek and Harper Creek Split by Material
- **Alternative 6:** T-Creek East Expansion
- **Alternative 7:** Saskum Creek
- **Alternative 8:** Saskum Creek and T-Creek Split by Material Type.

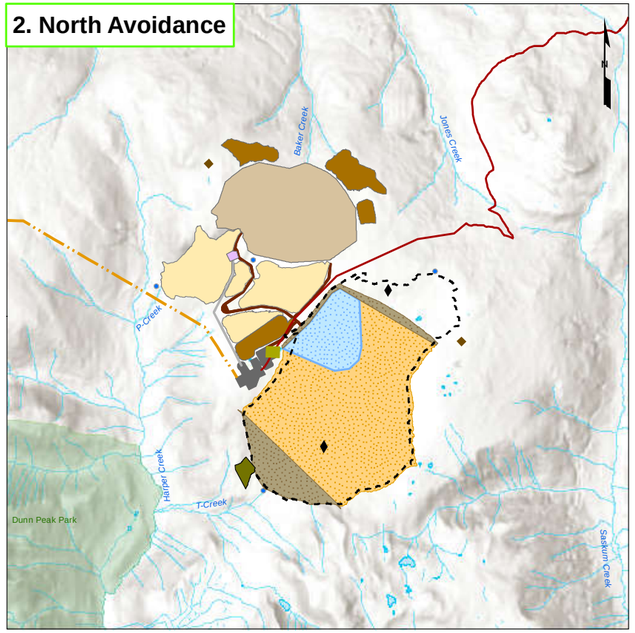
A priority weighting system was developed jointly by Simpcw and Taseko.

Criteria developed by Simpcw were based on the ‘Six Environmental Directives of the Simpcw’, which include – Séwllkwe (water), Melámen (medicine) Plants and Fauna, Ckwnémten (Cultural Uses), Wildlife (Tmesmescén, Spyu7), archaeological sites, and the Simpcw People (Simpcwemc). Additionally, criteria that had the potential to impact the viability of the Project were developed by Taseko and scored independently from the Simpcw criteria. Over the course of more than a year, workshops were conducted among Working Group members from Simpcw and Taseko.

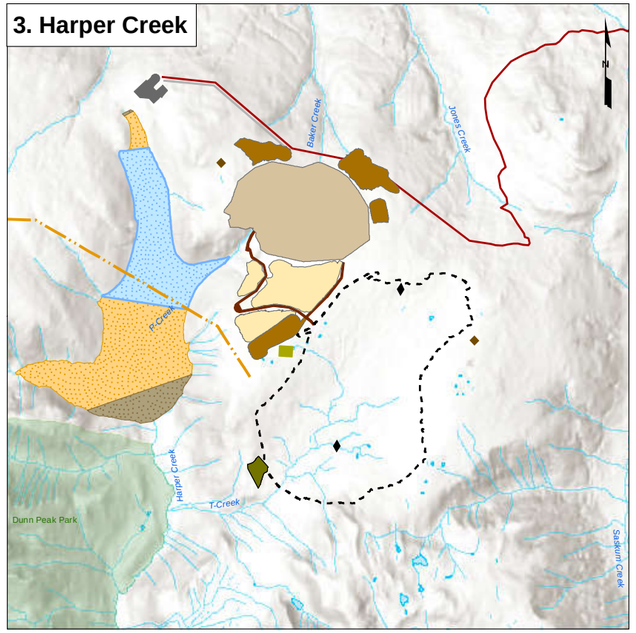
1. T-Creek



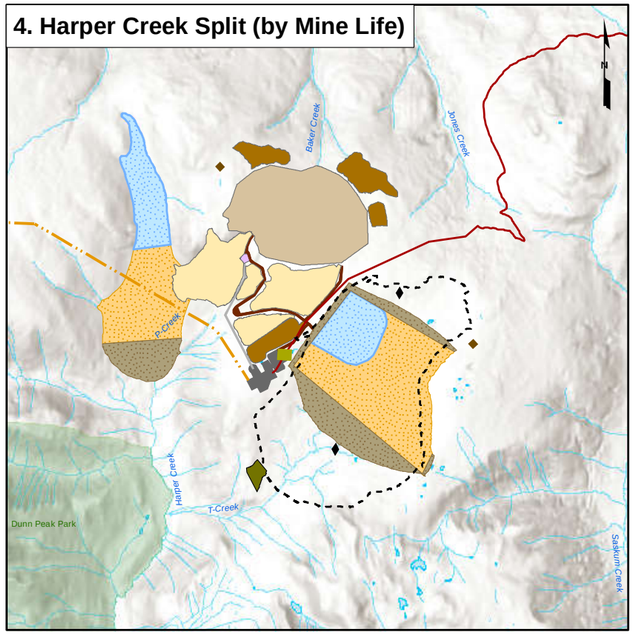
2. North Avoidance



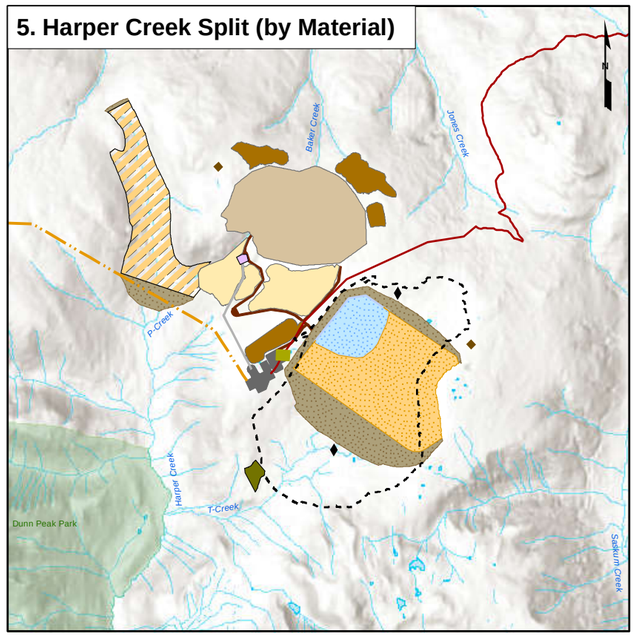
3. Harper Creek



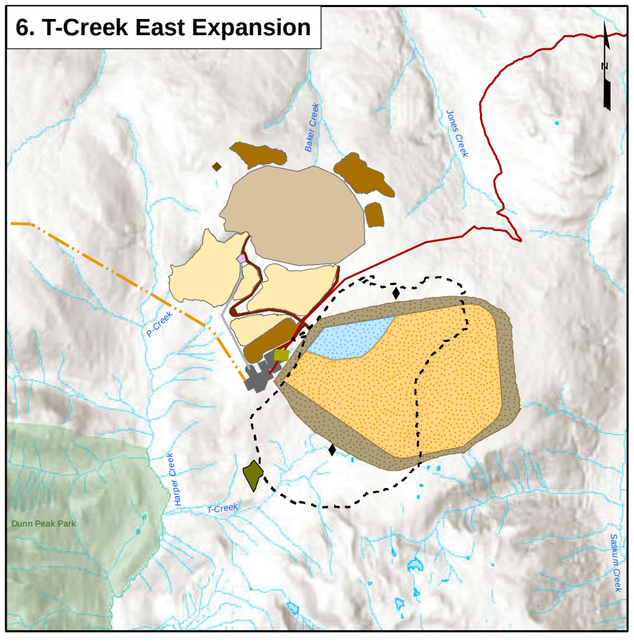
4. Harper Creek Split (by Mine Life)



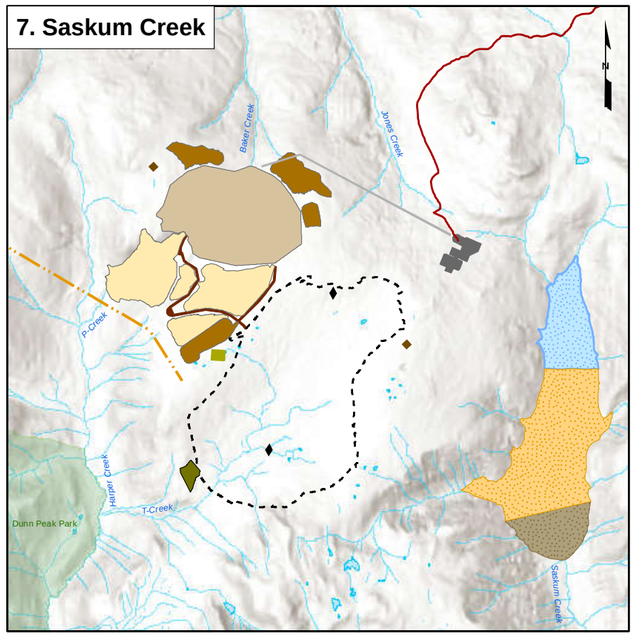
5. Harper Creek Split (by Material)



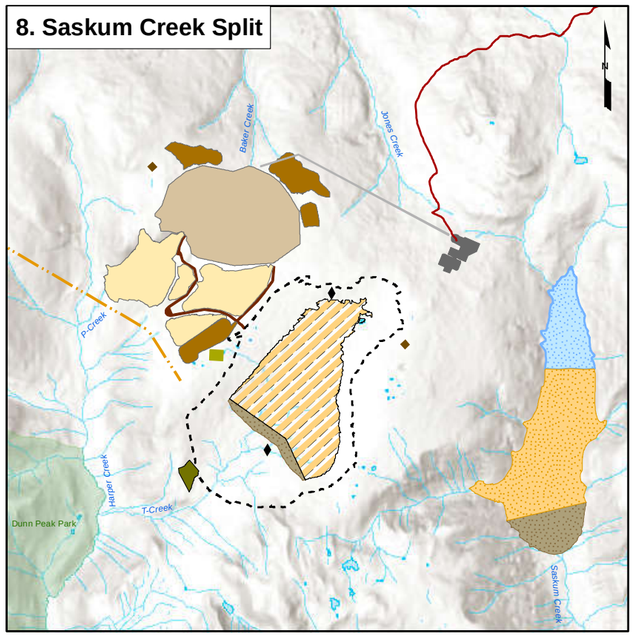
6. T-Creek East Expansion



7. Saskum Creek



8. Saskum Creek Split



Legend

- Simpcw Culturally Significant Site
- Gatehouse
- Explosives Storage Areas
- TSF Alternative
- Overland Conveyor
- Primary Crusher
- Open Pit
- Overburden Storage Areas
- Embankments
- PAG Waste Rock Storage Areas
- Supernatant Pond
- Beach
- Borrow Area
- Waste Rock Storage Areas
- Plant Site, Shops, and Administration Area
- Haul Roads
- Dunn Peak Park
- Preferred Alternative
- Transmission Line
- Primary Access Route
- Waterbodies

Notes

1. 119.807937W, 51.502588N
2. NTS Map Sheet 082M12
3. Base data from BC Data Catalogue
4. Base topographic layer from Esri
5. Project components and mine data provided by Taseko Mines Limited, 16 May 2025
6. Updates prepared by SLR

1:110,000
0 1.25 2.5 5 km
Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

Taseko Yellowhead

Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Tailing Storage Facility Alternatives for the Project as Identified by the Simpcw-Taseko Working Group

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 4-5

At the end of the Working Group process, a joint letter signed by Simpcw and Taseko Working Group representatives presented the following recommendations to their respective leadership on the potential TSF alternatives:

> *"In summary, after applying all criteria, the Working Group identified two potential TSF alternatives that have among the lowest (most favourable) rankings and meet Taseko's project viability criteria. They are, in priority order:*
>
> - ***Alternative 2:** North Avoidance TSF*
> - ***Alternative 1:** T-Creek TSF"*

Both alternatives were technically and economically viable. Alternative 1 was slightly better in terms of economics, embankment height, water management, and future storage capacity.

Following completion of the Simpcw-Taseko Working Group process, Taseko selected Alternative 1 T-Creek as its preferred TSF alternative.

4.7.3 Waste Rock Storage Areas

Waste rock has metal concentrations below the cut-off grade and cannot be processed economically. Determining the location and method of waste rock storage is a key decision for open pit metal mines.

Taseko reviewed four waste rock management strategies, and identified the preferred strategies below:

- Storage of PAG waste rock in the TSF; and
- Storage of NAG waste rock in upland surface waste rock stockpiles near the open pit.

4.7.4 Project Site Access Routes

Various construction and operational access routes are available for the Project. In addition to identifying necessary upgrades to existing FSRs, two route alternatives for operational access from the rail load-out facility in Vavenby were identified and assessed for the Project. The route identified as the preferred option is Alternative 2: East then South from the Rail Load-out Facility (Access to East Side of Harper Creek Project):

- **Segment 1:** Leaving the rail load-out facility, the access route heads east (McCorvie Road to Vavenby Bridge Road);
- **Segment 2:** Use of Vavenby Bridge to cross the North Thompson River; and
- **Segment 3:** Immediate access to the Project site from Vavenby Mountain FSR to Saskum Plateau FSR and Vavenby-Saskum FSR.

4.7.5 Power Supply and Transmission Line Route

4.7.5.1 Power Supply

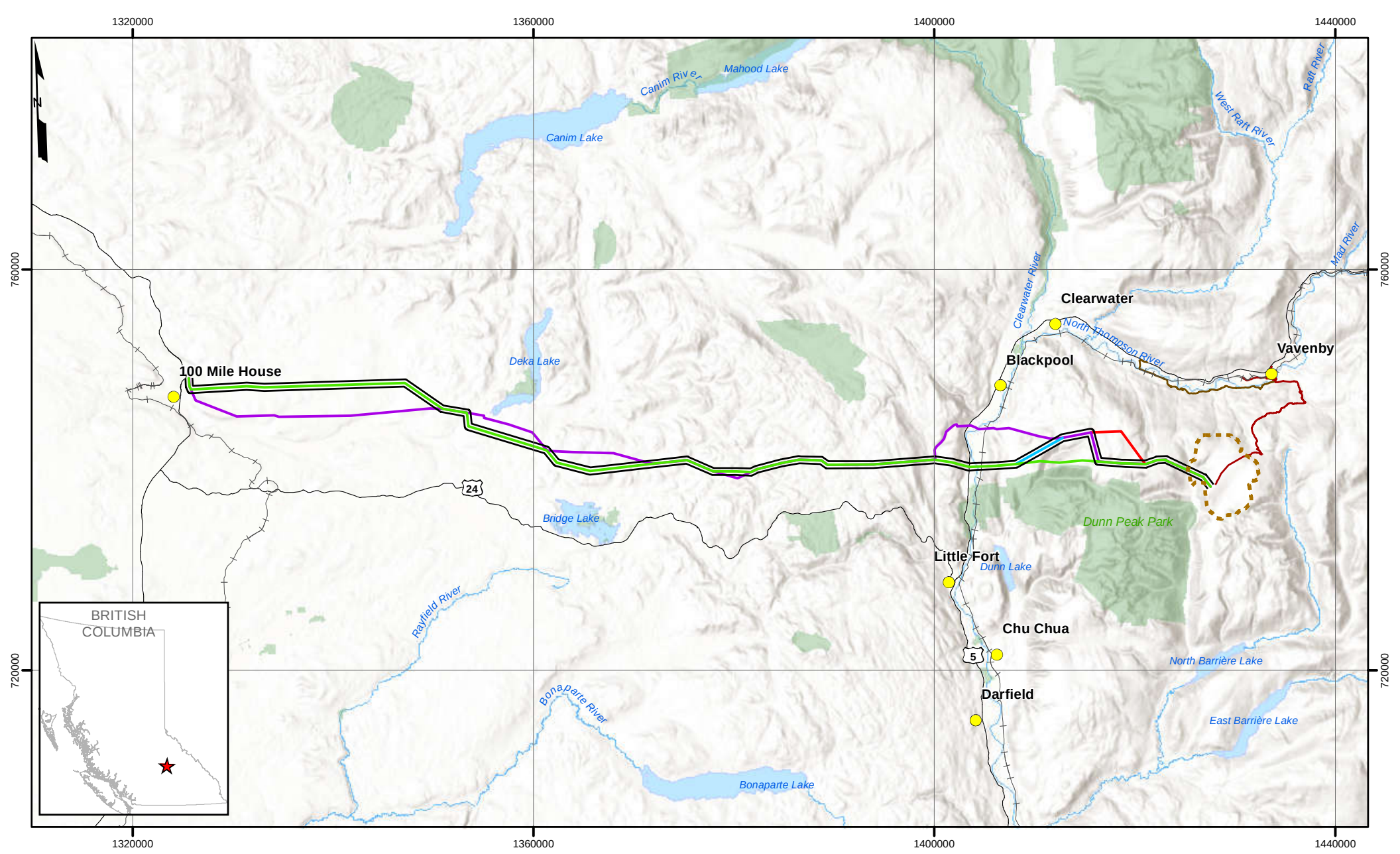
Taseko examined a range of power supply alternatives to identify the preferred alternative for the Project. Three power supply alternatives were reviewed for the Project including:

- Long term use of diesel generators;
- Liquefied natural gas (LNG) turbine generator; and
- Transmission line.

Based on the assessment, a transmission line for mine power supply is the preferred alternative. To meet Project operational requirements, a new 230 kV transmission line will be required to support the Project. Alternative transmission line routes were assessed, as described in the section below.

4.7.5.2 Transmission Line Route

Two transmission line route alternatives from 100 Mile House, BC to the Project site were assessed (Green Route option, Alternative 1, and Purple Route option, Alternative 2, in Figure 4-6). In addition to the two alternatives, for crossing the North Thompson River, a Blue Route option (Alternative 2a) and a Red Route option (Alternative 2b) were assessed. The alternatives assessment identified the Green Route from 100 Mile House and across the North Thompson River using the southern crossing, then following the Blue Route alternative in a northeast direction, joining the eastern portion of the Purple Route to the Project site as the preferred transmission line route.



Legend

- Project Footprint
- Communities
- Preferred Option
- Alternative 1 (Green Route Option)
- Alternative 2 (Purple Route Option)
- Alternative 2a (Blue Route Option)
- Alternative 2b (Red Route Option)
- BC Hydro Existing Transmission Line
- Railway
- Primary Access Route
- Secondary Access Route
- Highways/Roads
- Parks & Protected Areas
- Waterbodies

Notes

1. 119.807937W, 51.502588N
2. NTS Map Sheet 082M12
3. Base data from BC Data Catalogue
4. Base topographic layer from Esri
5. Project components and mine data provided by Taseko Mines Limited, 16 May 2025
6. Updates prepared by SLR

1:500,000

0 5 10 20 km

Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

Taseko Yellowhead

Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

Transmission Line Route Alternatives

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 4-6

4.7.6 Employee Accommodations

An evaluation of the onsite and offsite scenarios during both construction and operations phases of the Project was undertaken by Taseko, and it was determined that during construction of the Project, personnel will be housed in a temporary camp on the Project site. During operations, however, it is anticipated that personnel will reside privately within daily commuting distance from the Project.

5. Regulatory and Policy Framework

Provincial and federal regulatory frameworks identify criteria and thresholds for various types of projects and activities that may trigger the EA and associated regulatory review.

The Project as proposed will have a production capacity of 90,000 tpd of ore, or 32,850,000 tonnes (t) of ore per year. The footprint of the Project site is estimated to be up to 4,000 hectares (ha) of disturbance. The transmission line is estimated to be 110 km in length, or approximately 440 ha of disturbance associated with a 40 m ROW.

5.1 British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*

The Project meets criteria for an EA of a proposed metal mine project under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*, Reviewable Projects Regulation (BC Government 2018). The Project exceeds the transmission line length criteria and the production capacity criteria under Section 4(1)(c) and Section 10(1)(a) of the Reviewable Projects Regulation, respectively.

There is no trigger under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act* Reviewable Projects Regulation for refurbishment of an existing rail load-out facility or upgrades to the primary and secondary access routes.

5.2 Canada *Impact Assessment Act*

The Project also meets criteria for an IA under the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (Government of Canada 2019a), Physical Activities Regulations (Government of Canada 2019b), for Mines and Metal Mills. Under Section 18 of the Physical Activities Regulations, the Project exceeds two thresholds. The Project is a new metal mine that exceeds ore production capacity of 5,000 tpd and has a new mill that has an ore input capacity over 5,000 tpd.

Although a new transmission line and rail loadout facility will be required for the Project, neither meet thresholds under the federal *Impact Assessment Act* Physical Activities Regulations.

5.3 Substituted Process

Taseko intends to request a substituted process under the *Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement between Canada and British Columbia* (Government of Canada and BC Government 2020). It is expected that the EAO and IAAC will coordinate the initial phases of their processes. This streamlined process will still require decisions by both the provincial and federal governments as to whether the Project should proceed.

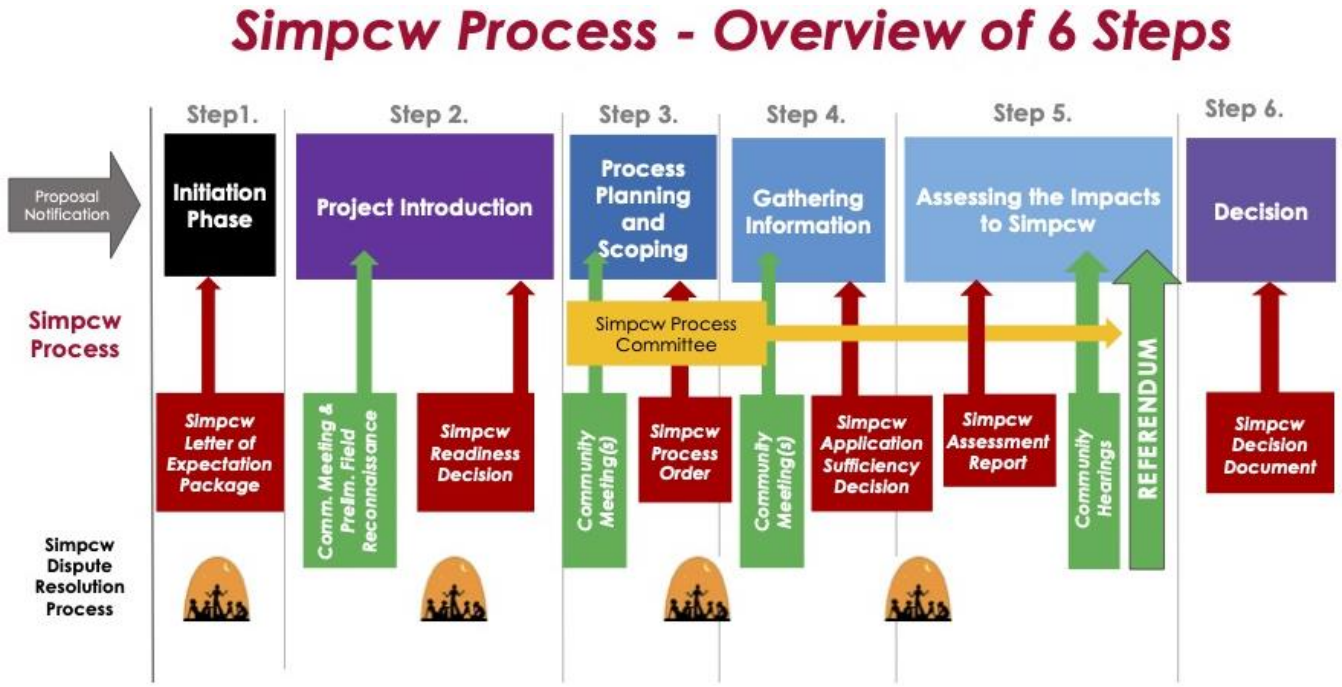
5.4 Simpcw Assessment Process

The Project site and transmission line are primarily situated within Simpcwúl̓ecw. Taseko has been engaging with Simpcw since announcing an agreement to acquire the Project in late 2018.

Following the termination of the Harper Creek Project EA, Simpcw concluded that any future proposal to develop the project would undergo the Simpcw Process.

The Simpcw Process is a “six-step review process that establishes protocols for relationship[s], expectations for information collection and sharing, and a structure for decision-making specific to Simpcw” (Figure 5-1; Simpcw 2024).

Figure 5-1: Simpcw Assessment Process, Overview of Six Steps



The *Simpcw Assessment Process Policy* (2023) describes the Simpcw Process as:

> *"… a consent-based process Simpcw will use to make a decision regarding a Proposed Activity and ensures that project assessments appropriately consider and respect Simpcw Rights, Interests, laws, values, priorities and culture. These Simpcw Rights, values and laws have been passed down from Tqaltkúkwpi7 (Creator) and Simpcw ancestors and continue to be maintained by Símpcwemc." (Simpcw 2023).*

The Project is currently in Step 2 of the Simpcw Process. The Simpcw provided Taseko with a *Letter of Expectations* package in May 2024, which provided notification that the Project would be reviewable under the Simpcw Process and subject to the *Simpcw Assessment Process Policy* (2023). Shortly thereafter, Taseko confirmed its intent to participate in the Simpcw Process, led by the Simpcw, by signing the *Letter of Expectations*.

Under the *Letter of Expectations*, which governs Step 1 to 3, Taseko has agreed to the required engagement guidelines and expectations assigned under the Simpcw Process. Taseko will continue to collaboratively work with and engage Simpcw community and leadership on the Project. This will continue throughout the Simpcw Process, and provincial (BC) and federal (Canada) EA processes.

Collaboration will always be conducted in a manner that is respectful and transparent, and informed by the preferences, values, and interests shared by the Simpcw through regular and ongoing engagement. Since entering the Simpcw Process, Taseko has completed Step 1 Project Initiation, and has made progress under Step 2 Project Introduction for the Project. These steps represent early steps in a multi-year process that would complete in Step 6 with a decision by the Simpcw on the Project.

Even though Simpcw's intent is to exercise its decision-making authority within the Simpcw Process, it is possible that Simpcw may also choose to participate in the provincial and federal EA processes, and initiate Section 19(4) Indigenous-Led Assessment under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*. Taseko will take the lead from Simpcw on how they want to advance the Simpcw Process in parallel with the assessment being undertaken by BC and Canada.

5.5 Permits, Licenses, and Approvals

Permits for activities for construction, operation, and closure of the Project are listed in Table 5-1. The list of permits may change. Permitting decisions can only be made after positive decisions under the Simpcw Process, and provincial and federal assessment processes.

The Project is a Critical Mineral project and compatible with relevant provincial government policies.

Table 5-1: Preliminary List of Provincial Authorizations

Legislation	Responsible Authority	Authorization	Purpose
Environmental Assessment Act (2018)	Minister of Environment and Parks Administered by the EAO	Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC)	Review of major projects to assess potential impacts and ensure environmental, economic, and social sustainability goals are met. EAC must be issued before other permitting and approval decisions can be made.
Mineral Tenure Act (1996)	Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM)	Mineral Claims	Mineral tenure required for exploration and resource development. 94 mineral claims are currently held by Taseko in good standing.
		Mining Lease	Production tenure required for mining. Mining lease 1076941 is valid to at least June 2050.
Mines Act (1996)	MCM	Notice of Work	New or amendment, single or multi-year, to allow for exploration, site investigations, and/or development.
		Mines Act Permit	Major approval to authorize the mine plan, work systems, including construction, operation, and closure activities. Mines Act Permit also required for construction, operation, and closure of an industrial camp. Requires compliance with the Health, Safety, Reclamation Code (HSRC) for Mines in BC.
Environmental Management Act (2003)	Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV)	Waste Discharge Permits (effluent, waste, and air)	Approve the discharge of effluent, waste management / disposal, and air emissions discharges.
		Registration of hazardous wastes	Registration may be required under Hazardous Waste Regulations.
		Registration of sewage treatment plant	Registration may be required under Municipal Wastewater Regulations.
		Registration of fuel storage areas	Registration may be required under Petroleum Storage and Distribution Facilities Storm Water Regulation.
		Special Waste Generator Permit	Permit may be required under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation.

Legislation	Responsible Authority	Authorization	Purpose
Heritage Conservation Act (1996)	Ministry of Forests (FOR)	Section 12 Alteration Permit	Permit may be required to allow for land-altering activities within an archaeological site to ensure its care.
		Section 14 Inspection Permit	Permit may be required to determine if there is an archaeological site and to assess how development would impact it.
		Section 14 Investigative Permit	Permit may be required to allow for more significant excavations to learn about an archaeological site and inform mitigation of impacts.
Forest and Range Practices Act (2002)	FOR	Occupant License to Cut (OLTC)	Permit would be required to clear 50 cubic metres (m^3) or more of timber for mineral exploration or mining activities on mineral title areas. OLTC would also be required for timber removal associated with upgrades to access routes and transmission line construction.
		Road Use Permit (RUP)	RUP may be required to use and maintain sections of FSRs required for the Project. This may be superseded by a Special Use Permit in Operations.
		Special Use Permit (SUP)	For upgrade, maintenance and use of Forest Service Road (FSR) used for Project site access and concentrate transport to rail load-out facility location. Assumes that SUP will supersede any RUP for use of FSR.
Land Act (1996)	FOR	Investigative Use Permit	Permit may be required to complete site investigation activities on Crown Land for the transmission line.
		License of Occupation	License of Occupation may be required for construction and operation of the transmission line on Crown Land. May also be required for construction camp and staging area.
		Statutory Right of Way	This approval may be required for construction and operation of the transmission line on Crown Land.
Water Sustainability Act (2014)	Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	Water License	License would be required to divert, use, or store surface water or groundwater for industrial purposes under Section10.
			License would be required for watercourse crossings under Section 39.
			License would be required to make changes in and about a stream under Section 11.

Legislation	Responsible Authority	Authorization	Purpose
		Registration of groundwater wells	Groundwater well registration may be required under the Groundwater Protection Regulation.
Drinking Water Protection Act (2001)	ENV	Waterworks Construction Permit	Permit would be required to construct potable water supply system.
		Waterworks System Operations Permit	Permit would be required to operate potable water supply system.
Public Health Act (2008)	Ministry of Health (Regional Health Authority)	Filing of Certification Letter	Filing required for industrial camps greater than 100 persons under the Sewerage Systems Regulation.
		Onsite Sewage Certification/Permit	Permit required for a sewage treatment plant under the *Public Health Act* and *Environmental Management Act* Municipal Wastewater Regulation (see above).
		Food Premises Permit	Approval to construct and operate a food premises (i.e., onsite catering facilities at the construction camp).
Agricultural Land Commission Act (2002)	Agricultural Land Commission	Decision Letter	Decision letter would be required to remove land from the Agricultural Land Reserve for construction and operation of the transmission line.
Transportation Act (1985)	Ministry of Transportation and Transit (TranBC)	Works on Right-of-Way Permit	Permit would be required to authorize primary and secondary access routes improvements.
		Access Permit	Permit may be required to use the secondary access for industrial purposes originating at Highway 5 and Birch Island Lost Creek Road. This permit may also be required for primary access from Highway 5 at Vavenby along the FSRs.
		Utility Permit	Permit may be required to commission and operate the transmission line and supporting infrastructure.
Railway Safety Act (2004)	TranBC	Permit	Permit required to authorize the rail load-out operation.

Legislation	Responsible Authority	Authorization	Purpose
Wildlife Act (1996)	ENV	Wildlife Act Permit	Permit required to authorize surveys of wildlife and wildlife habitat, wildlife, and fish salvages, including bird nest removal or relocation should it be required and destruction of a beaver or muskrat den or dam should it be required.

Table 5-2: Preliminary List of Federal Authorizations

Legislation	Responsible Authority	Authorization or Approval	Purpose
Impact Assessment Act (2019)	Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) or cabinet Administered by IAAC	Decision Statement	To determine if the Project is in the public interest and should receive federal approval; positive decision required before other federal approvals can be issued. This decision will consider the climate change-related information requirements throughout the federal impact assessment (IA) process as described in the federal Strategic Environmental Assessment of Climate Change (Government of Canada 2020).
Fisheries Act (2019) Section 34 and/or Section 35	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	Authorization	An authorization under Section 34 may be required if works proposed to be carried out may cause death to fish. An authorization under Section 35 may be required if works proposed to be carried out may cause harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction to fish habitat.
Metal and Diamond Mining Effluents Regulation (MDMER) (SOR/2002-222)	ECCC	Mine Effluent Discharge Authorization	An authorization under MDMER (under the *Fisheries Act*) may be required if there is a discharge of effluent or mine waste to water frequented by fish in accordance with Schedule 2 of the MDMER. Authorization would set effluent discharge limits, requirements for testing, monitoring, and reporting in accordance with Schedule 4 of the MDMER.

Legislation	Responsible Authority	Authorization or Approval	Purpose
Migratory Birds Convention Act	ECCC	Authorization	Required for vegetation clearing or deposit of substance harmful to migratory birds during the nest season (Zone A2: early-April to mid-August; Zone A3: mid-April to mid-August (ECCC 2024).
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999	ECCC	Response requirements under Section 95(1)	In the case of an unintended release of toxic substances.
Species At Risk Act (SC 2002)	ECCC, DFO and/or Parks Canada	Permit and/or agreement under Section 73	A permit or agreement under Section 73 may be required to allow an activity that may affect a wildlife species at risk, part of its critical habitat, or a residence of its individuals.
Explosives Act (RSC 1985)	Natural Resources Canada	Explosives Magazine License	Required for storage, manufacture, transport, and use of explosives at Project site.
Aeronautics Act (RSC 1985) Canadian Aviation Regulation (SOR/96-433)	Transport Canada	Letter of Review	Transmission line (tower) crossing of the North Thompson River may require authorization under the Aeronautics Act.
Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (1992)	Transport Canada	Permit	A permit may be required for the transport, handling, and storage of dangerous goods by road or rail.
Radiocommunications Act (RSC 1985)	Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada	Radio License	Required to approve radiocommunications system for the Project.
-	Major Projects Management Office (MPMO)	Pre-Application project description for review	Government of Canada organization to provide overarching project management and accountability for major resource projects in the federal regulatory review process. Applies to projects over $50 Million Capital Cost.

5.6 Federal Matters

The Project is not located on or close to federal lands, nor are federal lands being used for the Project. The Project is not expected to result in changes to interprovincial or international waters.

No federal financial support is expected to be required for the Project. Under section 95 of the Impact Assessment Act, the Project will undergo a Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC 2021). To Taseko's knowledge, no other strategic assessment or regional assessment are being carried out in proximity or within the Project area. A list of federal authorizations that may be required for the Project is available in Section 5.4.

5.7 Regulatory Timelines and Project Milestones

The proposed regulatory timelines and Project milestone schedule is provided in Table 5-3. The schedule is subject to change based on the Simpcw Process and reviews, and the provincial and federal EA process and reviews.

The permitting strategy for the Project will also be defined based on future discussion with the EAO, IAAC, and Simpcw.

Table 5-3: Proposed Regulatory Timelines and Project Milestones

Regulatory/Project Activity / Milestones	Proposed Schedule
Regulatory Activity/Milestones	
• Pre-Early Engagement	2024/2025
• Early Engagement and Planning	2025
• Readiness Decision/Impact Assessment Decision	2026
• Process Planning (assumes substitution from this point forward)	2026
• Application Development and Review	2026/2027
• Environmental Assessment Office - Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Review (180-day legislated timeline)	2027
• Revised Application Development	2027/2028
• Effects Assessment and Recommendation (150-day legislated timeline)	2028
• Final Ministers Decisions	2028
• Permitting Decisions	2028
Project Activity/Milestones	
• Site Investigations, Baseline Studies, Technical Studies	Ongoing
• Construction, including site clearing and preparation	Approximately 2–3 years (following issuance of relevant permits and approvals)
• Operations	Approximately 25 years
• Closure	Approximately 7 years
• Post-Closure	Decades +

6. Indigenous Groups Interests and Engagement

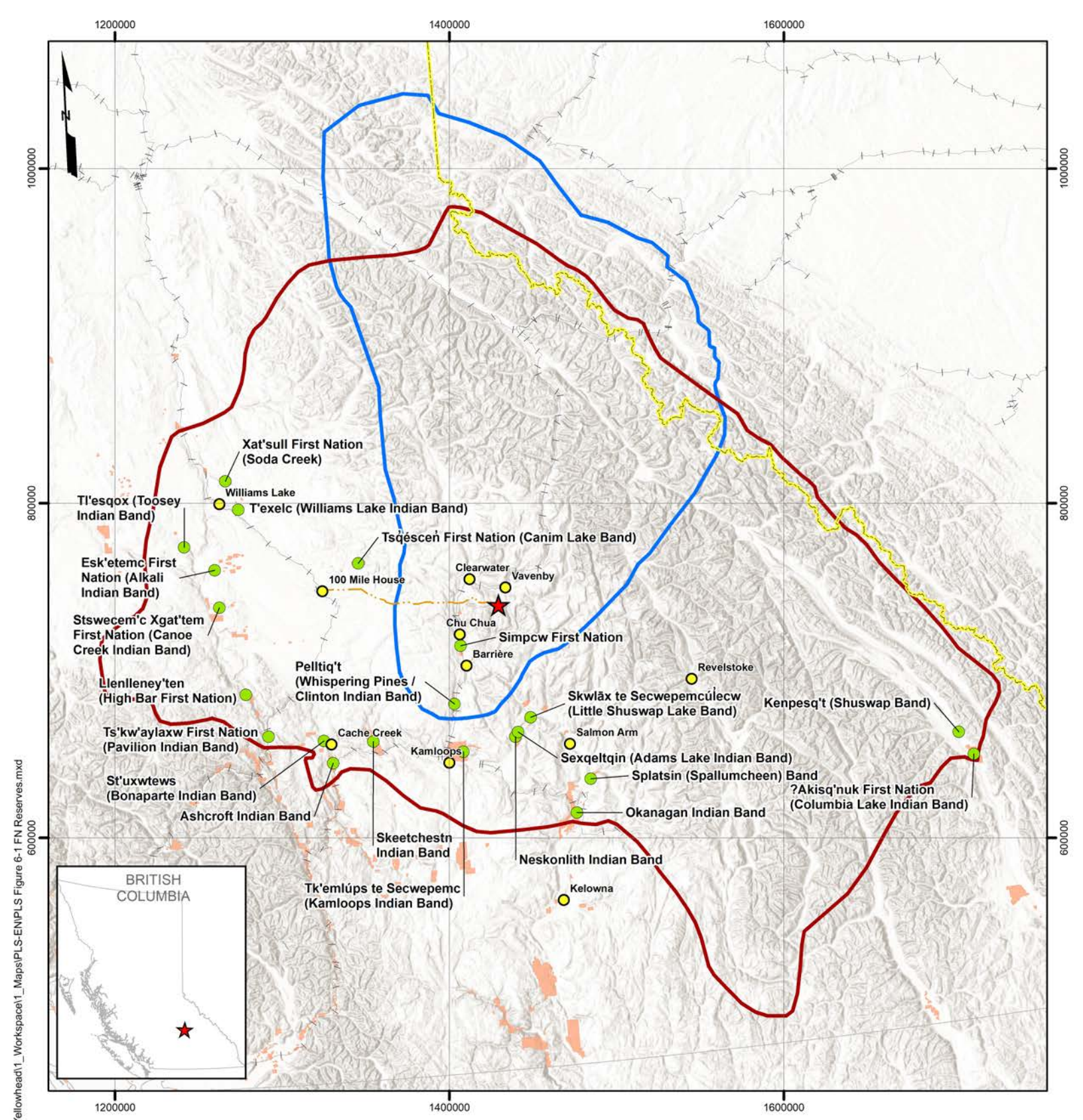
The Secwépemc is comprised of 17 campfire areas, with approximately 17,000 members. The Project is in Secwepemcúl̓ecw (Figure 3-2). Secwepemcúl̓ecw stretches from the Columbia River valley along the Rocky Mountains, west to the Fraser River, and south to the Arrow Lakes (Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc n.d.). The territory is approximately 145,000 km^2 of the central interior of BC. Within Secwepemcúl̓ecw, the Project is located primarily within Simpcwúl̓ecw, the territory of Simpcw (Figure 3-2). The locations of Indigenous communities and Reserves in proximity to the Project are shown on Figure 6-1.

The Indigenous groups identified for engagement on the Project are:

- Simpcw – the Project is situated in Simpcwúl̓ecw, Simpcw territory.
- Neskonlith Indian Band – potentially affected by the Project.
- SteS – potentially affected by the Project.
- ALIB – potentially affected by the Project.
- Tsq̓éscen̓ – potentially affected by the transmission line component of the Project.
- Two additional Indigenous groups have been identified for notification on the Project and may require further engagement: Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band (Pellt'iq't) and Stswēcem̓c Xgāt'tem First Nation (formerly Canoe-Dog Creek Indian Band).

The transmission line route in this document is not final. Feedback received through engagement during the EA early engagement phase and the planning phase will inform the final route selection. Feedback from the Harper Creek Project EA has already influenced the Project design.

A more detailed summary of the engagement is provided in the EP, which is an appendix to the IPD, and being submitted to the EAO and IAAC. The IPD will be available on the EAO's electronic Project Information Center (ePIC) and the Canadian Impact Assessment Project Registry.



Legend

- Yellowhead Copper Project
- First Nation Community
- Communities
- First Nation Reserve
- Secwepemcúlecw (Secwépemc Territory)
- Simpcwúlecw (Simpcw Territory)
- Transmission Line
- BC-Alberta Boundary
- Railway

Notes

1. 119.807937W, 51.502588N
2. NTS Map Sheet 082M12
3. Base data from BC Data Catalogue
4. Base topographic layer from Esri
5. Project components and mine data provided by Taseko Mines Limited, 16 May 2025
6. Updates prepared by SLR

Taseko Yellowhead

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0 37.5 75 150 km

Coordinate System: BC Environmental Albers

Yellowhead Copper Project
Plain Language Summary

First Nation Communities and Reserves

Date: 23 June 2025
Rev: 1

Figure 6-1

Document Path: G:_Projects\2011201_089535_Taseko_Yellowhead\1_Workspace\1_Maps\PLS-ENP\LS Figure 6-1 FN Reserves.mxd

6.1 First Nations Potentially Affected by the Project

6.1.1 Simpcw First Nation

The Project is situated in Simpcwúl̓ecw, the territory, campfire and stewardship area of Simpcw. Simpcw is identified as a key participant for Project.

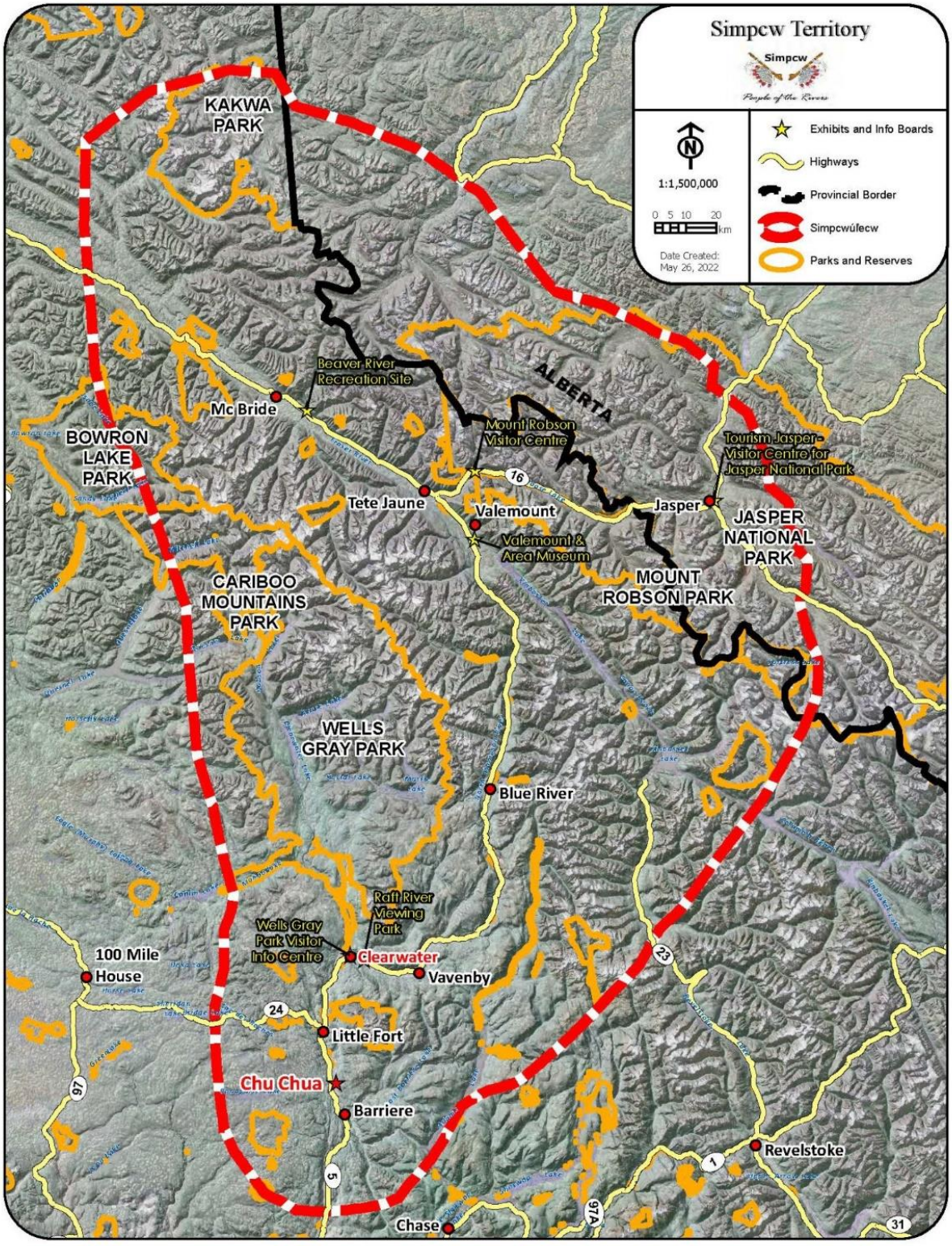
Simpcwúl̓ecw (Figure 6-2) is described on the Simpcw website as:

> *"Simpcwúl̓ecw (Simpcw Territory) covers 5,000,000 hectares and extends from south of Mclure, north to Kakwa Park, west of Goat River, and east of Jasper, including the whole of the North Thompson Valley." (Simpcw n.d.)*

Simpcw is one of the 17 campfires that comprise the Secwe̓pemc Nation. Símpcwemc (Simpcw people) take pride in their guardianship of the territory, honouring both traditions and responsibilities to the land, wildlife, and people that make their home in Simpcwúl̓ecw, and for generations to come. Simpcw has 895 members, with 200 members on reserve and 695 members off reserve. A majority of the in-community members live in the main village of Simpcw, Chu Chua (Simpcw n.d.). Simpcw is a member of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC).

Taseko has been engaging with Simpcw since 2018 regarding the Project, including collaboration on sections of the IPD and EP. The Relationship Framework Agreement which provides a framework for the parties to work together to build mutual understanding, trust and respect, and to prepare for the future advancement of the Project was signed in April 2020. Taseko signed a Letter of Expectations in May 2022 agreeing to submit the Project to the Simpcw Process. As part of the Simpcw Process a Relationship Negotiation Agreement was signed in May 2025. A Process Funding Agreement and Relationship Agreement will be developed and signed later in the Simpcw Process.

Figure 6-2: Simpcw Territory Map



6.1.1.1 Simpcw Leadership Engagement

Since acquiring the Project in 2018, Taseko has focused on a respectful and collaborative relationship with Simpcw. Taseko has focused its engagement with Simpcw leadership, Elders and community members in transparency, consistency, and mutual trust.

Engagement has occurred through formal avenues, e.g., at quarterly leadership meeting and technical discussions, and collaborative planning. There were also some informal connections, such as site visits, participation in cultural gatherings, and regular in-person or virtual check-ins. These interactions have created a strong foundation for open dialogue and have helped Taseko gain a deeper understanding of the Simpcw Process, and Simpcw's values, interests, and priorities.

The feedback and knowledge shared by Simpcw leadership to date has meaningfully influenced Taseko's approach to the Project, including the approach to initial project design, potential economic partnership structures, and engagement with other First Nations.

The Simpcw has led the initial introduction of the Project and its IPD to leadership from other First Nations, including the ALIB, Neskonlith Indian Band, SteS, and Tsq̓éscen̓ First Nation. In addition, the Simpcw and Taseko have worked together to advocate for an efficient, comprehensive, and transparent review of the Project through provincial and federal assessment and permitting processes. Both parties are committed to maintaining and strengthening this relationship through ongoing engagement that honours the Simpcw's role as a rights holder, decision-maker, and vital partner in the Project.

6.1.1.2 Simpcw First Nation Engagement

Engagement will continue to be undertaken in a manner that is respectful and transparent, and informed by the preferences, values, and interests shared by Simpcw through regular and ongoing engagement.
Taseko notified Simpcw of its intention to acquire the Project in 2018. Since then, engagement with Simpcw has been ongoing at the leadership and staff-levels, and with community members.

Through these engagements, Simpcw has shared its priorities, interests, and concerns related to the Project design, potential effects, project benefits, and the assessment process. Taseko has provided responses where possible to inform the engagement approach and the assessment process for the Project. Taseko will work with Simpcw to respond to key issues, including initially through the early engagement and planning phases of the provincial and federal assessment processes. Taseko will continue to work with Simpcw on interests and concerns raised through the defined phases of the Project, along with collaboratively developing measures to meaningfully address those concerns.

Further details on the engagement and collaboration with Simpcw is provided in the EP, which is appended to the IPD.

6.1.2 Neskonlith Indian Band

The Neskonlith Indian Band was identified as having the potential to be affected by the Project.
The Neskonlith Indian Band was previously engaged as part of the Harper Creek Project EA.

The Neskonlith Indian Band is a member of the Lakes Division bands of the Secwépemc and a member of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC). The Neskonlith Indian Band has three reserve lands on the west and south side of the Thompson River and the western boundary of Salmon Arm, BC.

Taseko has engaged with the Neskonlith Indian Band regarding the Project since February 2019.
No Project-related agreements are in place with the Neskonlith Indian Band at the time of writing.

6.1.3 Skwlāx te Secwepemcúl̓ecw

The SteS was identified as having the potential to be affected by the Project. The SteS was previously engaged as part of the Harper Creek Project EA.

The SteS is a member of the Lakes Division bands of the Secwépemc. The SteS is unaffiliated with the tribal councils in Secwepemcúl̓ecw. The SteS traditional territory is in the central interior region of BC, with its main reserve in Chase, BC (British Columbia Assembly of First Nations 2024).

Engagement with the SteS regarding the Project began in February 2019. No Project-related agreements are in place with the SteS at the time of writing.

6.1.4 Adams Lake Indian Band

The ALIB was identified as having the potential to be affected by the Project. The ALIB was previously engaged as part of the Harper Creek Project EA.

The ALIB is a member of the Lakes Division bands of the Secwépemc and a member of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council. The traditional territory of ALIB includes seven reserves located on the south and west side of Adams Lake, and within the Municipality and City of Salmon Arm. The main office is located on Sahhaltkum (Sexqeltqin) Reserve #4 located on the western side of Little Shuswap Lake, across from the Village of Chase, BC (ALIB n.d.).

Engagement with the ALIB regarding the Project began in February 2019. No Project-related agreements are in place with ALIB at the time of writing.

6.1.5 Tsq̓éscen̓ First Nation (Formerly Canim Lake Band)

The Tsq̓éscen̓ was identified as having the potential to be affected by the Project. Canim Lake is the closest First Nation community to the transmission line and has the highest potential to be affected by the transmission line.

The Tsq̓éscen̓ is part of the Lakes Division bands of the Secwépemc. The main village and administration buildings are situated in the South Cariboo, approximately 30 km east of 100 Mile House. The Tsq̓éscen̓ joined three other northern Secwépemc nations to form the Northern Secwépemc te Qelmucw.

Engagement with the Tsq̓éscen̓ is anticipated to commence in June 2025 with a meeting to introduce Taseko and the Project. The meeting is being facilitated through an introduction from Simpcw's Kúkwpi7.
As engagement has not commenced, no issues nor feedback have been provided by the Tsq̓éscen̓ at the time of writing.

6.2 Summary of First Nations Interests

The main interests and concerns raised through early engagement with Indigenous groups regarding the Project include, in no particular order:

- TSF;
- Reclamation plans and fish habitat restoration;
- Potential for impacts on waterbodies including: Douglas Reserve waterbodies, North Thompson River, and Adams Lake watershed.

- Capacity funding for participation in the EA process.
- Consideration of youth, adults, and Elders' perspectives in the Project.
- Employment, education, and contracting opportunities, and economic benefits.
- Potential project impacts to and protection of cultural heritage sites, values, and cultural land use.
- Potential project impacts to cultural foods.
- Potential project impacts to and access for cultural land uses such as hunting, fishing, and gathering, including historical traplines.
- Potential project impacts to vegetation including historic and current berry gathering sites and loss of medicinal plants within and around the Project area.
- Potential impacts to human health (e.g., air quality, water, etc.).
- Potential impacts to ungulates (i.e., elk, caribou), and other wildlife.
- Potential downstream and cumulative impacts.
- Engagement approach and frequency.

7. Engagement with Government and Public

This section provides a summary of preliminary engagement with government and the public on the Project to date. The summary of engagement provided both here and in the IPD is additional to the EP, provided under separate cover. The engagement record for the Project will be updated at relevant stages of the assessment process, including the DPD and the Application.

7.1 Government Engagement

The list of local, provincial, and federal government agencies, corporations, or representatives that may have an interest in the Project is below. This list may be updated through engagement with government agencies during the early engagement phase of the assessment process.

- Local and Regional Governments
- TNRD
- District of Clear Water
- District of Barriere
- City of Kamloops
- CRD
- District of 100 Mile House.
- Provincial Government Agency, Corporation, or Representative
- Member of Legislative Assembly, Kamloops – Northern Thompson
- EAO
- Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM)
- Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV)
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Forests (FOR)
- Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
- Ministry of Health (Interior Health)
- First Nations Health Authority
- Ministry of Transit and Transportation (TranBC)
- Agricultural Land Commission
- BC Hydro.
- Federal Government Agency or Representative
- Member of Parliament, Kamloops – Thompson – Cariboo
- IAAC
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada
- Health Canada
- Parks Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

7.1.1 Summary of Preliminary Engagement with Governments

Government engagement on the Project started in late 2018 with Taseko notifying various levels of government that Taseko bought YMI. The scope of engagement to date has varied based on the stage of the Project. A detailed summary of engagements with federal, provincial, regional, and local governments, based on Taseko's engagement record, are provided in the EP.

7.1.1.1 Federal

Taseko engaged the federal government, and spoke with IAAC regarding the EA process, engagement, and collaboration with the BC government.

7.1.1.2 Provincial

The following provincial government agencies have been engaged on the Project. Topics included EA process coordination, permitting, field work, and Project updates:

- EAO
- MCM (formerly the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation)
- FOR
- Ministry of Environment and Parks.

7.1.1.3 Regional Districts

Taseko also engaged with the TNRD, District of Barriere, and District of Clearwater from 2023 to present. Preliminary discussions involved updates on the Project, power supply, road use, and introductions to local Project personnel.

7.2 Public Engagement

Public and stakeholders that may be affected by the Project include:

- Tenure holders (e.g., prospectors, trapline holders, range tenure holders, and forestry lots/ tenures);
- Land user (e.g., guide outfitters, hunters, fishers, and recreational users);
- Landowners;
- Community and non-governmental organizations with interests in the area; and
- Self identified members of the public.

A summary of engagements is provided in the EP, Section 6.2. The EP provides a summary of proposed engagement activities with public and stakeholders for the Project.

8. Existing Environment

The existing natural environment includes both the biophysical and human environments. The biophysical environment includes the complex relationships between living organisms and the physical world, including but not limited to, air quality, vegetation, soils, wildlife, water, and fish. The human environment considers social, economic, and cultural factors and the complex interactions with the biophysical environment.

Harper Creek Project EA completed biophysical and human environment studies from 2007 to 2015 for the Harper Creek Project EA. Additional baseline studies and supplemental updates for the Project have been conducted by Taseko since 2019. Taseko compiled information also includes publicly available information from provincial and federal databases, which will be updated as the Project advances. Baseline studies with more detailed technical findings will advance with the Project.

8.1 Biophysical Environment

The Project site is primarily in mountainous terrain, with Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine as the dominant tree species. In the lower and drier areas, tree species are primarily western hemlock, western red cedar and hybrid spruce, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Portions of the Project site have been previously logged. The transmission line crosses five Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) zones.

8.1.1 Ecosystems and Vegetation

Vegetation and ecosystem baseline studies were completed in 2014 for the Haper Creek EA. The 2014 studies identified various species of conservation concern along with ecological communities at risk, wetlands, and old growth forests. A follow-up study was completed by Ecora (2020) to further delineate and characterize wetlands in the area. Additional detail on ecosystems and vegetation at risk with the potential to occur in the Project area, including the Transmission Line, is provided in the IPD.

Additionally, the Project site partially overlaps with four OGMAs. The transmission line also crosses OGMAs (Data BC 2024).

8.1.2 Terrestrial Wildlife

Baseline studies completed in 2014 indicate potential habitat for various wildlife species of conservation concern. These include Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionals*), Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), Wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), Moose (*Alces alces*), Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), and Mule Deer *(Odocoileus hemionus*). Lower elevation areas within the North Thompson River Valley provide habitat for several species including Bald Eagle (*Heliaeetus leucocephalus*), Common Nighthawk (*Cordeiles minor*), Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*), and Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Portions of the transmission line cross through mapped critical habitat for endangered American badger (species at risk). The eastern portion of the transmission line crosses critical caribou habitat, as it connects to the Project site.

The Project site is within the critical habitat of the endangered Southern Mountain Caribou (species at risk). 2015 Harper Creek Project EA baseline information indicates that the Project area is not frequently used by caribou.

The baseline studies indicate that there are 181 wildlife species at risk, including 83 invertebrate species, that may be found in the Project area. The IPD provides additional information on these species of conservation concern that may occur in proximity to the Project and transmission line.

8.1.3 Aquatic Species and Ecosystems

The Project is located on the divide between the Harper Creek, Barriere River and North Thompson River watersheds. The six main watercourses considered within the context of the Project include Harper Creek, Barriere River, North Thompson River, and tributaries that flow into Harper Creek and Barriere River. Table 8-1 identifies the watercourses within and adjacent to the Project site. Aquatic baseline studies were completed on watercourses completed for the Harper Creek Project EA in 2015.

Table 8-1: Watercourses Within and Adjacent to the Project Site

Drainage	Project Site Drainages	Adjacent Watercourses
Northern Drainages (flow north into the North Thompson River)	• Jones Creek • Baker Creek • Avery Creek	• Foghorn Creek • Lute Creek • Chuck Creek
Southern Drainages (flow south into the Barriere River)	• Harper Creek (entire watershed) • T-Creek (tributary to Harper Creek) • P-Creek (tributary to Harper Creek)	• Barriere River • Saskum Lake • North Barriere Lake
Source: Knight Piesold 2021		

Harper Creek and Saskum Creek are designated as fisheries sensitive watersheds (Knight Piesold 2021). Studies in the Project area were completed between 2011 and 2014, then between 2020 and 2021. These studies show fish communities of Bull Trout, Coho Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Mountain Whitefish, Torrent Sculpin, and Longnose Dace. Fish are prevented from occupying the upstream reaches of the creeks in the Project area due to natural barriers.

The transmission line route overlaps several watercourses and wetlands between 100 Mile House and the Project site. Known fish-bearing watercourses are identified in Table 8-2.

Table 8-2: Fish Bearing Watercourses Crossed by Transmission Line

Waterbody	Common Name	Scientific Name
Bridge Creek, Deka Creek, Judson Creek	Rainbow Trout	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Bridge Creek	Burbot	*Lota lota*
Lemieux Creek	Coho Salmon	*Oncorhynchus kisutch*
	Chinook Salmon	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
	Sockeye Salmon	*Oncorhynchus nerka*
Harper Creek	Bull Trout	*Salvelinus confluentus*

8.1.3.1 Fish Species at Risk

Two fish species, Bull Trout (Pacific population) and Mountain Sucker, were identified as being of Special Concern by the Conservation on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The Mountain Sucker, found in the lower North Thompson River, is also a species at risk under the *Species at Risk Act*.

The Interior Fraser population of Coho Salmon are considered Threatened by COSEWIC.

The Thompson River Steelhead population are considered Endangered by COSEWIC and are under emergency listing under the *Species at Risk Act*.

8.2 Human Environment and Community Wellbeing

The Project could influence the social and economic characteristics of local and regional communities, including neighbouring First Nation communities. Existing social and economic conditions is discussed in this section as informed by:

- Existing baseline information;
- Statistics Canada Census of Population data;
- Publicly available monitoring data; and
- Past projects in proximity to the Project.

Potentially affected Indigenous groups may have preferred sources of Indigenous knowledge and data. These sources may describe existing conditions and the potential for effects to their social, economic, and cultural conditions, and Indigenous Interests. Taseko intends to work collaboratively with Indigenous groups to understand their preferences and protocols for reviewing shared information sources and Indigenous Knowledge that will inform the Application.

8.2.1 Social Conditions

Taseko seeks to understand the existing condition and potential effects of the Project on local and regional populations, health services, community wellbeing, housing, transportation, economy and infrastructure, and services of the TNRD for the Application. An overview of social conditions for regional communities and First Nation communities is provided in this section.

8.2.1.1 Regional Communities

The Project, including the transmission line, overlaps with two regional districts:

- TNRD
- Project overlaps two electoral districts Thompson-Nicola A (Wells Gray County) and Thompson-Nicola U (Lower North Thompson)
- In 2021, the TNRD had a population of 143,680, which represented just under 3% of BC's total population. Between 2016 and 2021, the population of the TNRD increased by just over 8%.
- The population was comprised of 71,330 males (49.6%) and 72,335 females (50.4%).
- CRD
- 100 Mile House and about half of the transmission line route are within the CRD.
- In 2021, the CRD had a population of 62,931 and 100 Mile House had a population of 1,928.

8.2.1.1.1 Parks and Protected Areas

Dunn Peak Park is a protected area in proximity to the Project site. Wells Gray Provincial Park is located north of Clearwater and distant from the Project site. The transmission line is located greater than 5 km north of Eakin Creek Canyon Provincial Park. These areas are shown on Figure 3-3.

8.2.1.2 First Nation Communities

The Project is mostly within Simpcwúl̓ecw, the territory of Simpcw (Figure 3-2). Simpcw have five First Nation Reserves. The main community Chu Chua is about 45 km north of Kamloops, and located at North Thompson Reserve #1, on the east side of the North Thompson River and Highway 5 (Figure 6-1).

Simpcw is one of the 17 campfires that comprise the Secwe̓pemc Nation. Símpcwemc (Simpcw people) take pride in their guardianship of the territory, honouring both traditions and responsibilities to the land, wildlife, and people that make their home in Simpcwúl̓ecw, and for generations to come. Simpcw has 895 members. A majority of the in-community members live in the main village of Simpcw, Chu Chua (Simpcw First Nation n.d.).

Simpcw is governed by a Kúkwpi7 (Chief) and Council, elected for a 4-year term. The current Chief is Kúkwpi7 George Lampreau, who was elected in April 2024. Council has six councillors that serve Simpcw membership alongside the Kúkwpi7. Simpcw are a culturally proud community valuing holistic, health lifestyles based on respect, responsibility and continuous participation in growth and education. Key areas of Simpcw's governance include administration, education, health, language and culture, natural resources, social development and economic development.

Several First Nation communities are located within the boundaries of RDEA P (Rivers and Peaks; (Figure 6-1), including Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops 1), Neskonlith Indian Band (Neskonlith 1), Adams Lake (Sahhaltkum 4), Whispering Pines / Clinton (Whispering Pines 4), and Little Shuswap Lake (Quaaout 1).

8.2.2 Economic Conditions

Kamloops is a regional mining hub and is expected to be the main supply centre for Project equipment, supplies, and services. The local communities of Vavenby, Clearwater, Barriere, and Chu Chua will also provide sources of employment, business, and contracting services. Mining is an important part of the regional economy, with two active mines: Highland Valley Copper Mine and New Afton Mine, plus supporting industries. Forestry, tourism, and agriculture are also of economic importance.

8.2.3 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

8.2.3.1 Archaeology

As part of the Harper Creek Project EA, an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Harper Creek Project site (TerraArchaeology 2012) and an Archaeological Overview Assessment for the Harper Creek Project transmission lines and access road (TerraArchaeology 2014) were completed. Two recorded cultural sites of significance to Simpcw were identified within the Project's local study area.

Taseko engaged with Simpcw on the two cultural sites of significance and had discussion on the potential for these sites to be affected by the Project Potential impacts to cultural heritage sites, values and cultural land use will be identified and assessed in a culturally appropriate manner through the Simpcw Process.

It is likely that updated archaeology studies under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (BC Government 1996) may be required as part of the baseline studies for the Project transmission line. Other Project components may also require updated studies, which will be determined as the Project advances.

8.2.3.2 Paleontology

A paleontological study in the regional study area for the Harper Creek Project EA was completed in 2014. ERM (2014) reported that there is low potential for paleontological sites in the Project area. The requirement for further study will be determined based on the current layout of the Project and ongoing discussions with Simpcw.

9. Potential Project Effects

9.1 Project Interactions and Effects

EAs in BC and Canada must evaluate potential Project effects, typically categorized by Project phase (construction, operations, closure, and post-closure). The preliminary list of potential Project effects included in Table 9-1 may be refined based on collaboration with First Nations, government agencies, and the public. Further evaluation and refinement, including the determination of mitigation measures would be undertaken as part of the effects assessment. The potential Project effects will be evaluated as part of the Simpcw Process, and provincial and federal assessment processes. This list may change following feedback during the early engagement phase and assessment processes, including the Simpcw Process.

Table 9-1: Potential Project Effects

Preliminary Biophysical and Human Environment Valued Component	Potential Effect
Air Quality	• Changes in ambient concentrations of combustion and fugitive gases • Changes in ambient concentrations of particulate matter
Visual Quality, Light, and Noise	• Changes to light contributions • Changes to visual quality (local communities, Dunn Peak Park) • Changes to sound levels
Water Quality and Quantity	• Changes to surface water quality or quantity • Changes to groundwater quality or quantity
Fish and Fish Habitat, including Aquatic species at risk	• Changes to instream and riparian habitats • Changes in water flows and quality • Changes to fish health
Wildlife, including Culturally Valued, Species at Risk (SAR) and Migratory birds	• Loss or alteration of wildlife habitat (direct loss and indirect loss resulting from sensory disturbance) • Changes to wildlife health • Mortality risk • Changes to seasonal habitat use, including use by migratory birds
Vegetation, Including Species and Ecosystems At Risk	• Loss or alteration of wetland ecosystems • Changes to wetland function • Changes in abundance of plant species of interest (rare plants, culturally important species, invasive plant species) • Loss or alteration of plant communities of interest • Loss or alteration of ecosystems
Terrain and Soils	• Changes to soil quality • Changes to soil quantity • Changes to terrain stability

Preliminary Biophysical and Human Environment Valued Component	Potential Effect
Social and Economic	• Changes to community wellbeing and social determinants of health Changes in the quality and quantity of resources • Changes to access to the land • Changes to local employment and contracting opportunities • Changes to local housing and accommodation availability Changes to demand on local supporting infrastructure and community services • Changes to labour income • Changes to regional economy • Changes to sites of historical or archaeological importance
Indigenous Groups Culture, Rights and Interests	• Changes to individual availability to take part in cultural practices • Changes in the quality and quantity of resources including but not limited wildlife, vegetation or ecosystems of cultural value • Changes to access to the land for cultural uses • Changes to connection with land, culture, and community • Changes to culturally important sites • Changes to local employment and contracting opportunities • Changes to peaceful enjoyment of the land
Notes: 1. Climate change will be considered within the context of the valued components and will be further clarified in the Application Information Requirements. An assessment of greenhouse gas emissions (effects of the project on climate change), and effects of the environment on the project will be included in the Application.	

9.2 Effects of the Environment on the Project

Potential effects of the environment on the Project include the influences of seismic events (earthquakes) and climate change hazards. These potential effects could include short-term impacts to site access, infrastructure and operations, and personnel health and safety.

These effects of the environment on the Project may include:

- Extreme precipitation events (e.g., snow and rain);
- Extreme dry conditions (e.g., drought);
- Extreme temperature events (e.g., heat and cold); and
- Natural hazards such as seismic events (e.g., earthquakes).

The Project's design currently includes a site water management system that considers climate conditions, including extreme precipitation and drought events.

Forest fires are common and part of life in BC. The frequency and location of forest fires are dependent on temperature and moisture conditions. The frequency of occurrence and scale of forest fires is variable. Fire suppression supplies and equipment will be available onsite, and mine rescue personnel trained in fire fighting techniques.

Natural hazards such as a seismic event could potentially impact site infrastructure, geotechnical stability, and personnel safety. A seismic hazard assessment was conducted for the Project indicating that the Project is at low risk of a damaging seismic event. The Project will include appropriate design for earthquake events based on criteria provided by regulations and guidelines.

The Project will include development of appropriate management plans, including an emergency response plan that will consider potential climate related hazards. The requirements for a more detailed assessment will be further developed should the Project proceed to an assessment.

9.3 Cumulative Effects

The term “cumulative effects” generally refers to the combined effects from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities and natural processes (Government of Canada 2025). The potential for the Project to contribute to cumulative effects will be determined through the assessment process for the Project.

The IPD presents the cumulative effects spatial boundary as the Kamloops LRMP boundary. This boundary is a similar extent to the boundaries used in the Harper Creek Project EA. Cumulative effects assessment for the transmission line is proposed to also include the 100 Mile House SRMP boundary.

The cumulative effects assessment for the Project would factor past, present, and reasonably foreseeable development projects within the region, including:

- Chasm Solar and Energy Storage
- Ruddock Creek Mine
- North Thompson Emergency Water Intake
- Tranquille on the Lake
- Kamloops Airport Expansion
- Kamloops Groundwater
- Cache Creek Landfill Extension
- Timicw Good Earth Recycling Landfill
- Trans Mountain Expansion
- Highland Solar and Energy Storage
- Highland Valley Copper Bethlehem Extension
- Highland Valley Copper Basal Aquifer Dewatering
- Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension.

Information related to the project status, project type, region, and distance from the Project are presented in the IPD.

10. Closing

The Project will be a BC-based, Critical Minerals project that will produce a copper concentrate with payable amounts of gold and silver. Copper is a “Critical Mineral” that is an essential metal for everyday life. The production, transmission, and distribution of renewable, low-carbon energy requires copper. The Project will provide a responsible and ethically produced source of copper to the global market. Other advantages of the Project include contributions to:

- Advancing provincial and federal economies in Canada;
- Boosting local economies in BC; and
- Supporting broader social benefits, such as schools and healthcare, through payment of royalties and taxes.

The IPD represents prefeasibility level design for the Project and is therefore subject to refinement. With the submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and IAAC, the early engagement and planning phase of the provincial and federal assessment processes was initiated. During the early engagement and planning phases there will be additional opportunity for engagement, specifically within the first 90 days. The feedback received during the 90-day review period will be summarized in a Summary of Engagement that will be used to inform future Project updates.

The IPD will also meet requirements under the Simpcw Process that will allow Taseko and Simpcw to continue with their collaborative efforts and engagement on the Project. Taseko’s engagement with Simpcw will be respectful and transparent, and informed by the preferences, values, and interests shared by Simpcw through regular and ongoing engagement.

Following the 90-day review period, Taseko will continue engagement with potentially affected Indigenous groups, stakeholders, government, and the public. Advancement of the Project will consider feedback provided during the early engagement and planning phases of the provincial and federal assessment processes, and collaborative work through the Simpcw Process.

Please provide feedback on the IPD to the EAO, IAAC, or directly to Taseko. Contact information for Taseko is provided above and in Section 2.1 Contact Information of this Plain Language Summary.

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