

# GUIDELINES

for

## Environmental Preview Report

for the

*(Baie Verte Tailings Management  
Facility Expansion, Ming Copper-Gold  
Mine)*

**Honourable Eddie Joyce**

Minister

Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment

March 2018

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PREVIEW REPORT GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are intended to assist the proponent, Rambler Metals and Mining Canada Limited, with the preparation of the Environmental Preview Report (EPR) for the Baie Verte Tailings Management Facility Expansion, Ming Copper-Gold Mine. The EPR is a report that presents the results of an investigation based on readily available information that supplements the information already provided by the proponent upon registration of the undertaking. The purpose of the information in the EPR is to assist the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment in making a determination as to whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required for the proposed undertaking. The EPR is expected to be as concise as possible while presenting the comprehensive information necessary to make an informed decision.

The EPR should include and update the information provided in the original registration and focus on the information gaps identified during the government and public review of the registration. The EPR should address the information gaps in sufficient detail to enable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment to make an informed decision as to the potential for significant environmental effect from the undertaking.

The contents of the EPR should be organized according to the following format:

### **1. NAME OF UNDERTAKING:**

The undertaking has been assigned the Name “Baie Verte Tailings Management Facility Expansion, Ming Copper-Gold Mine.”

### **2. PROPONENT:**

Name the proponent and the corporate body, if any, and state the mailing and e-mail address.

Name the chief executive officer if a corporate body, and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

Name the principal contact person for purposes of environmental assessment and state the official title, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

### **3. THE UNDERTAKING:**

State the nature of the project.

State the purpose/rationale/need for the project. If the proposal is in response to an established need, this should be clearly stated. Identify needs that are immediate as well as potential future needs.

#### **4. DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

Provide complete information concerning the preferred choice of location, design, construction standards, maintenance standards, etc.

##### **4.1 Geographical Location/Physical Components/Existing Environment:**

- Provide an accurate description of the proposed site, access road, facilities and equipment, including GPS location coordinates. Attach an original base map (1:25,000 scale) and/or recent air photos which clearly indicates the watershed boundaries and includes topography of the area in question.
- Provide information regarding ownership and/or zoning of the land upon which the project is to be located and any restrictions imposed by that ownership or zoning, including municipal ownership/zoning, Crown, and private land.
- The EPR should indicate that the proponent's current Crown Land lease should be surrendered and a single surface lease, issued by the Minister of Natural Resources under Section 33 of the Mineral Act, should be obtained. The lease should include surface rights over the new tailings pond and the area that hosts the associated project infrastructure.

##### **4.2 Design and Construction:**

- Provide a preliminary dam design which includes:
  - a general physical description of the dam including composition, width, length, height and slopes associated with the structure;
  - a preliminary dam consequence classification assessment and identification of required return period for dam design flow;
  - a general description of the raises on the proposed dam or existing tailings facility dam(s) taking into consideration the life of mine and provide any resulting changes in dam consequence classification(s);
  - an evaluation of the dam and spillway designs for both the operational and closure phases of the project including long term dam stability, monitoring and maintenance in perpetuity;
  - how the dam design has considered/accounted for provincial climate change projections and extreme weather events;
  - any instrumentation incorporated into the dam that will be used for monitoring.

- State the time period in which proposed construction will proceed (if staged, list each stage and its approximate duration) and proposed date of first physical construction-related activity.
- The details, materials, methods, schedule, and location of all planned construction activities must be presented.

### **4.3 Operation and Maintenance:**

All aspects of the operation and maintenance of the proposed development should be presented in detail, including:

- Acknowledgement of a requirement to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Resources Management Division for the installation of real-time water quality/quantity stations if site conditions permit. The EPR should identify potential site locations for the establishment of water quality/quantity stations.
- The pumping system from Camp Pond to the existing tailings impoundment has the potential to be a key failure point in managing water levels in Camp Pond and preventing overtopping of the dam. Describe the pumping system and its operation in more detail and indicate any mitigation to address potential system failures.
- It should be reiterated in the EPR that the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and the Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual for the tailings dams will be updated.

## **5. ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative means of carrying out the project to meet the stated purpose and rationale must be provided:

- The EPR must identify, describe, and evaluate alternative means and locations for long term tailings storage that are technically and economically feasible through a tailings storage facility alternatives study. In addition to other factors, the tailings storage facility alternatives study must take into consideration the estimated approximate 20 year life of mine, facility closure design, and long-term monitoring and maintenance requirements.

The following steps for addressing alternative means and locations are recommended:

- Identify any alternative means and locations to carry out the Project;
- Identify the environmental effects of each alternative means and location;

- Identify the **preferred** means and location;
- Provide reasons for the rejection of alternative sites.

Include information from previous project-related studies describing alternate locations that were considered, including the expansion of existing sites, reasons for rejection, and reasons supporting the proposed site as the preferred location.

Alternative locations should be clearly outlined on maps of a suitable scale (i.e. 1:50,000, 1:25,000) that include topography and watershed boundaries.

## 6. **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS and MITIGATION:**

Provide detailed information regarding the potential effects of the project on the environment and the proposed mitigation to be used to avoid adverse environmental effects.

- Potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of a mine tailings management facility include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - impacts to water quality, aquatic species and habitat downstream from the dam.
  - impacts of dam construction and storage of tailings in Camp Pond on wildlife in general and migratory birds, including waterfowl, in particular.
- The *Fisheries Act* requires that projects avoid causing serious harm to fish unless authorized by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Please fully complete the “Application for Review” form located at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/index-eng.html>. A guidance document entitled “Request For Review” will assist you in identification of the necessary information required to complete the application form. If submitting an application please ensure you attach photos/diagrams of the area, fish species in your project area, habitat types (e.g., boulder, cobble, gravels, etc.) and other pertinent information, e.g., if a fishery is located in/near by the project site, etc. The Projects Near Water website, <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>, also provides information on standard measures that can be implemented to assist in achieving compliance with the Fisheries Act (refer to the section entitled “Measures to Avoid Causing Harm to Fish and Fish Habitat”) as well as the Species at Risk Act.

The EPR should acknowledge that consultation is occurring/has occurred with DFO, and describe measures that will be implemented to minimize or mitigate impacts to downstream flows in this system.

- The EPR should state if the tailings pond will potentially expose waterfowl to

deleterious substances and describe methods used to deter waterfowl and other wildlife from using the pond.

- It should be reiterated in the EPR that the Environmental Protection Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Contingency Plan and Waste Management Plan as a result of the Tailings Management Facility Expansion will be updated.

Identify how the project will avoid interference with the rights of other legitimate land owners/users, including.

- As NL Hydro have a low voltage powerline (TL260), three transformer stations and two hydro plants in the area, the proponent should indicate that NL Hydro was consulted and describe any concerns and mitigations with respect to this potential land use conflict.
- Transport Canada will need to determine the nature and degree of the navigability of Camp Pond and a Notice of Works must be submitted. The form may be found at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs-624.html>. The EPR should acknowledge this requirement.

## **7. DECOMMISSIONING and REHABILITATION:**

Describe the decommissioning and rehabilitation plans for the project.

- The proposed project represents a significant change to the current Development Plan for the Rambler Metal's Ming Copper-Gold Mine. The EPR should acknowledge that under Section 6.(2) of the Mining Act, an acceptable Development Plan amendment, an acceptable Rehabilitation & Closure Plan amendment and associated Financial Assurance for the Project will be required prior to the start of construction.

## **8. PROJECT- RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

Provide a bibliography of all project-related documents already generated by or for the proponent (e.g., feasibility study, engineering reports, etc).

## **9. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:**

An Open House Public Information Session shall be held at a place adjacent to or in the geographical area of the undertaking, or as the minister may determine, in order to:

- a) provide information concerning the undertaking to the people whose environment may be affected by the undertaking;
- b) record and respond to the concerns of the local community regarding the environmental effects of the undertaking;
- c) present the information gathered to fulfill the requirements of Section 5 of these guidelines.

You are required to notify the Minister and the public of the scheduled meeting **not fewer than 7 days** before that meeting. Public concerns shall be addressed in a separate section of the EPR.

Protocol for these public sessions will comply with Section 10 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2003. Public notification specifications are outlined in Appendix A.

## **10. APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

List the main permits, licences, approvals, and other forms of authorization required for the undertaking, together with the names of the authorities responsible for issuing them (e.g., federal government department, provincial government department, municipal council, etc.), including:

- The Certificate of Approval for the existing Tailings Management Facility will require an amendment to include the monitoring requirements for the project expansion.
- An Authorization or Letter of advice from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Under Section 6.(2) of the Mining Act, the proponent must submit an approved Development Plan amendment. The proponent must also submit an acceptable Rehabilitation & Closure Plan amendment for the Project and associated Financial Assurance prior to the start of construction. As part of the amendment to the Development Plan, the proponent must provide a tailings

facility design report with tailings dams designed in accordance with Canadian Dam Association, Dam Safety Guidelines.

The required 10 copies of the EPR, and an electronic version for posting to the Environmental Assessment website, should be sent together with a covering letter to:

Minister  
Municipal Affairs and Environment  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's NL A1B 4J6



## APPENDIX A

### Public Notices

Under the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Regulations 2003, Section 10, and where the approved Guidelines require a public information session(s), the following specified public notification requirements must be met by the proponent prior to each meeting:

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Information Session on the Proposed

*Name of undertaking*  
*Location of undertaking*

shall be held at  
*Date and Time*  
*Location*

This session shall be conducted by the Proponent,  
*Proponent name and contact phone number,*  
as part of the environmental assessment for this Project.

The purpose of this session is to describe all aspects of the proposed Project, to describe the activities associated with it, and to provide an opportunity for all interested persons to request information or state their concerns.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

#### **MINIMUM INFORMATION CONTENT OF PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT**

- Minimum newspaper ad size: 2 column widths. Minimum posted ad size: 7" x 5"
- Minimum newspaper ad coverage: Weekend preceding meeting and 3 consecutive days prior to meeting date; to be run in newspaper locally distributed within meeting area or newspaper with closest local distribution area.
- Minimum posted ad coverage: Local Town or City Hall or Office, and local Post Office, within town or city where meeting is held, to be posted continually for 1 full week prior to meeting date.