



EA 1516-01

Summary of Community Scoping Sessions

Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade Project,
Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd.

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Introduction – The Community Scoping Process

The following is a summary of the issues identified at the community scoping sessions for the proposed Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade project. The sessions were held in Tulita (October 20th), Norman Wells (October 21st), Nahanni Butte (November 27th), Ross River (December 1st) and Watson Lake (December 2nd). Appendix A contains sign-in sheets from each of the community meetings identifying parties and individuals present for the sessions.

Each of the sessions began with a presentation from the Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) staff describing the environmental assessment process. Emphasis was placed on the purpose of community scoping sessions which is to identify and prioritize issues raised by the communities. Following the Review Board presentation, the developer, Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd. (SCML), gave a presentation describing the proposed project including: the purpose of the project, details about the environment along the route, construction methods, estimates of traffic volume, predicted impacts, what the Developer thinks are the most important things for the EA to focus on, and the company's efforts towards community engagement and plans for future collaboration.

The primary issues identified were:

- in Tulita, the need for Tulita residents to benefit from the project and concern for caribou and other wildlife;
- in Norman Wells, the potential adverse effects to community health and wellness as a result of increased income;
- in Nahanni Butte, the need for protecting wildlife including caribou, fish, beaver and birds;
- In Ross River, potential adverse effects of the road on wildlife in the area and increased access; and,
- In Watson Lake, effects of increased access and the need to maximize benefits to the community from the project.

This briefing describes the issues and concerns raised in each community.

Tulita (October 20th)

Residents of Tulita actively participated in a discussion of their concerns and issues with the HPAR project as well as suggesting potential mitigation measures to minimize potential adverse effects. Primary concerns included maximizing the benefits of the project for Tulita residents, protecting valued ecosystem components including caribou and other wildlife, and the traditional use of the area. Specific areas of concerns are described in more detail below.



Figure 1 Community scoping session in Tulita

Benefits and effects for Tulita and Tulita Residents

Tulita residents indicated a high level of concern that benefits of employment and training from the HPAR upgrade project are maximized. Concerns were also raised regarding some of the adverse impacts that accompany increased income due to employment. Issues included:

- Employment for Tulita residents;
- Access to job specific and general training, including ongoing engagement of the youth in training and employment opportunities (through, for example, job fairs);
- Adequate access to and support for community wellness programs including counselling;
- Training for money management skills for employed workers and contractors; and,
- Impacts on individual, family and community wellness from shift work.

To mitigate potential adverse effects of the project on Tulita residents, community members indicated that the income and training opportunities from the Project needs to consider the adverse effects that come with increased income.

Effects to Wildlife

The issues and concerns included:

- Effects on caribou including but not limited to the Nahanni caribou herd;
- The need for adequate baseline information on wildlife in the project area as well as ongoing monitoring during the project to detect changes;
- Effects to sheep and moose;
- The risk of vehicle collisions with wildlife; and,
- Impacts to fish habitat and spawning areas including the risk of spills.

Cultural and public use of the area

Concerns were often focused on the secondary effects of increased access to the project area. Issues and concerns included:

- Increased public use and tourism in the project area;
- Effects on cabin owners and traditional land users;
- Increased and potentially illegal hunting pressures in the project area; and,
- Effects of the project on medicinal plants in the project area.

Road design and safety

The issues and concerns included:

- The risk of spills and the need for adequate spill response plan design;
- Hazards of the road including avalanches, rockfall, washouts, overflows and effects to permafrost;
- Dust and dust control;
- Public use of the road and risk to public safety; and,
- The potential for drivers to experience altitude sickness.

Other Issues and Concerns

Some additional topics were discussed through the course of the scoping session including:

- Air pollution;
- Increased noise levels; and,
- Mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood of significant adverse effects from the project including:
 - Traffic monitors and emergency communication systems;
 - A Wildlife Management Plan;
 - Locally based wildlife monitors and annual reports communicated directly to community members on the effects of the project;
 - Compensation for adverse effects on wildlife including increased hunting pressures;
 - Avalanche control; and,
 - Enforced speed limits.

Norman Wells (October 21st)

At the Norman Wells scoping session, community members focused on the potential effects of the project to individual and community health and well-being with a secondary focus on the potential effects of increased public access and use in the project area. Specific areas of concern are described below.



Figure 2 Community scoping session in Norman Wells

Effects to community health and well-being

The issues and concerns included:

- Increased income disparity between those who are employed and those who are not;
- Increased adverse community health indicators associated with rising incomes including, for example, increased alcohol and drug consumption and STI rates;
- Added stressors on community health and well-being programming ; and,
- Added stressors to community health services including medical infrastructure and emergency response services.

Hazards and road safety

The issues and concerns included:

- The need for a clear delineation of responsibilities for road safety and emergency response including a framework for inter-jurisdictional cooperation;
- Concerns for public safety on the road including the need for a communication and information program for new drivers to the area;
- Transportation of dangerous goods and the potential for spills into waterways; and,
- Risks associated with driving on the HPAR including avalanches and the need for precautionary measures such as speed limits.

Other issues and concerns

Several additional topics were discussed in less detail including:

- Increased hunting pressures to moose, caribou and bears;
- Impacts on the Parks and wildlife associated with increased access; and,
- How the road design and its expected use conform to the requirements of the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Nahanni Butte (November 27th)

The predominant concerns raised in Nahanni Butte related to the effect of the road on wildlife and water resources in the area. The specific concerns are outlined in the following sections.



Figure 3 Community scoping session in Nahanni Butte

Effects to wildlife

The issues and concerns included:

- Impacts to valued wildlife species including caribou and fish;
- Impacts to beaver and beaver habitat due to its importance to ecosystem integrity and function in the area;
- Potential adverse effects to bird nesting sites along the proposed project route; and,
- Effects to wildlife as a result of increased noise levels.

Water Quality

The issues and concerns included:

- Protection of the overall integrity of water quality in the project area;
- Potential effects of spills including effects to water quality and fish; and

- The need for enforcement of speed limits to limit the potential for spills to occur.

Other issues and concerns

Several additional topics were discussed in less detail including:

- Impacts to traditionally harvested berries as a result of road effects including dust;
- Increased access and associated increases in hunting and harvest pressure; and
- Concern over worker health and safety as a result of potential accidents occurring in such a remote location;
- The potential for induced development in the area once the road is established, and the cumulative effects these developments might have on the land; and
- The protection of archaeological resources associated with historic traditional travel routes through the project area.

Ross River (December 1st)

The predominant concerns raised in Ross River related to the effects of the road on wildlife in the area and effects associated with increased access. The specific concerns are outlined in the following sections.



Figure 4 Community scoping session in Ross River

Wildlife

The issues and concerns included:

- Impacts from increased access by sport hunters on caribou, bears, and moose;

- Concern about the potential effects of the road on caribou migration;
- Truck collisions with wildlife;
- Disturbance of bear dens; and,
- Use of Traditional Knowledge with regards to potential impacts to wildlife.

Increased Access

The issues and concerns included:

- Increased hunting pressure;
- Potential for increases to project footprint as a result of ATV traffic along ROW; and,
- Adequate monitoring of use to ensure tourist and other users' safety, including the potential role that Parks may play in this monitoring.

To address these concerns, it was recommended that access to the road should be controlled.

Accidents and Malfunctions

The issues and concerns included:

- Roles and responsibilities for spill response including who will pay, how long it would take to respond given remoteness of the area, and communications about spills to the public;
- Contingency plans for spill response;
- Concern over the potential effects of spills in sensitive areas (e.g. the Parks, headwaters);
- Increased risk of human-caused forest fires and the subsequent potential effects of these fires on the environment; and,
- Possibility of accidents and collisions for all road users due to the mountainous terrain.

Other issues and concerns

- Questions were raised over the ability of parties to effectively participate in the environmental assessment process, specifically with respect to funding and/or community hearings;
- Closure of the road and reclamation requirements; and
- Need for adequate communication of results of all studies, especially those concerning wildlife.

Watson Lake (December 2nd)

The predominant concerns raised in Watson Lake related to the effect of the road on wildlife due to increased access and direct mortality associated with collisions as well as potential benefits to the community associated with training and employment. Specific concerns are outlined in the following sections.



Figure 5 Community scoping session in Watson Lake

Increased access to wildlife in the project area

The topics discussed include:

- Wildlife, and specifically caribou, which are the primary concern for residents of Watson Lake due to low populations; and,
- Impacts from increased access leading to increased hunting pressures and the effect that these pressures would have on traditional harvesters;

To address these concerns, it was recommended that access should be controlled or limited.

Direct effects of the HPAR on wildlife

The issues and concerns included:

- Vehicle collisions; and,
- Management of road operations so that wildlife movements are not restricted (e.g. ensuring that snow berms are low enough that animals can cross over them, or creating gaps in the berms)

Training and Employment

The issues and concerns included:

- Maximizing employment opportunities;

- Involvement of and incentives for youth in employment opportunities; and,
- Provision of training and opportunities for advancement for local residents;

Other issues and concerns

The issues and concerns included:

- Concern that increased traffic through the community would lead to increases in drug and alcohol availability and use among community members. This could potentially lead to adverse effects on community wellness;
- The potential for the HPAR to adversely affect cabins on the HPAR and their owners;
- Inclusion of traditional knowledge in the assessment;
- Effects of climate change on the road; and
- Roles and responsibility for spill response, especially given overlapping jurisdictions and the remoteness of the area; and
- Uncertainty regarding traditional land use restrictions given changing land use and management authority.

Summary and Next Steps

Summary

In the Developer's Proposed Terms of Reference (DPToR), SCML proposed several key lines of inquiry that, in its view, represent the most important issues for the environmental assessment to focus on.

The key lines of inquiry proposed by the Developer in the DPToR are:

- Nahanni Caribou Herd
- Accidents and Malfunctions
- National Park Reserves
- Benefits and Effects on Communities

Other subjects of note were proposed by the developer in the DPToR. These subjects are issues that will be assessed thoroughly in the DAR although given lower priority in the assessment process than the key lines of inquiry. Proposed subjects of note include:

- Bedrock Geology and surficial geology;
- Air quality and sources of sensory disturbance, which includes dust, noise, vibration and light;
- Water and sediment;
- Vegetation;
- Fish and aquatic habitat;
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat (excluding caribou);
- Species at risk;

- Traditional land use and harvesting;
- Cultural resources;
- Heritage resources; and,
- Road, lake and river access and use.

In general, the comments and feedback that were received through the community scoping session align with the Developer's proposed key lines of inquiry and subject of note. However, final determination of the topics to be included in the DAR, and their prioritization as either key lines of inquiry or subjects of note, will be made by the Review Board during the next steps of the environmental assessment process.

Next Steps

Parties may submit comments on the DPToR online through the Review Board's online review system until December 11th, 2015. Following this, the Developer will have the opportunity to respond to comments and suggestions. The Review Board will then use all of the information gathered through community and technical scoping sessions as well as the online review of the DPToR as the basis for its final determination on the key lines of inquiry and subjects of note to be examined in the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR). This final determination will be presented in a final Terms of Reference for the Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade project, issued by the Review Board.

Depending on the nature and magnitude of the changes required to the DPToR, the Review Board may choose to host an additional online review of an updated DPToR prior to its release of a final Terms of Reference. All process steps will be defined by notices of proceedings, which will be posted on the public registry for the Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade project at http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=949.

Appendix A- Community Scoping Session Sign-in Sheets

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project
Sign-in sheet

Location: Tulita

Meeting Date: October 20, 2015

Facilitator: MVEIRB

Name

Organization

1. Bonnie Deschene

Parks Canada

2. Michelle Doctor

TLF/TLC CORP

3. Janet Daph

TLC / ~~corp~~ Haul

4. Bradley Menacho

TLC

5. Andrew O'Leary

TLC

6. Edward Macraunley

TLC.

7. [Signature]

8. G. Kenny

Deline Land Corp.

9. Wylle Menacho

Tulita

10. [Signature]

~~ANMLC~~

11. Danny Makelga

Forer Norman Metis

12. Mary Jane Kunkel

Tulita, N.W.T.

13.

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Mackenzie Valley Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project
Sign-in sheet

Location: Norman Wells

Meeting Date: October 21/2015

Facilitator: MVEIRB

Name

Organization

1. Mireille Hamlyn

Santa Health & Social Services

2. Arsene Menecho

3. DANNY McKEAY

RESIDENT

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Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project Sign-in sheet		
Location:	Nahanni Butte	Meeting Date: Nov 27/15
Facilitator:	MVEIRB	
Name	Organization	
1.	Flora Cli	elder
2.	Elsie Marsella's	elder
3.	Peter Marsella's	Chief
4.	Francis Betsat's	elder
5.	Earl Hope	
6.	Jonathan Teso	Parks Canada.
7.	Burton Campten	Councillor
8.	Lorraine Vital	Councillor
9.	Tammy Matou	Nahanni Butte
10.	Vitot tesou	Nahanni Butte
11.	Jennifer Konsenta	u u
12.	MARK Pocklington	NAHANNI BUTTE BENE BIRD, MANAGER
13.	SARAH ROBERTSON	NPMO
14.	MONICA WENDT	GNWT - ENR
15.	Paul Merchedi	GNWT - LANDS
16.	DOUG REEVE	semc.
17.		

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project Sign-in sheet			
Location:	Ross River	Meeting Date:	December 1, 2015
Facilitator:	MVEIRB		
	Name		Organization
1.	Paul Mercardi		GNWT - Lands - PAB.
2.	MONICA WENDT		GNWT - ENR
3.	Laure James		PLA
4.	Jay Chou		YESAB
5.	Sarah Robertson		NPMO
6.	Bernard LaBockelle		NPMO.
7.	DOUG REEVE		SCML
8.	Steve Grom		YESAB
9.	Jonathan Tsetse		Parks Canada.
10.	Sam Wacchini		Skyway CHINOOK
11.	Maureen Charley		
12.	Hammond Dick		public
13.	Naomi Dick		"
14.	Marie Stedmore		Public
15.	Maclary Acklack		Public
16.	Donna G. Smith		Public
17.	Ruth Dick		RRDC band member

Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project
Sign-in sheet

Location:	Ross River	Meeting Date:	December 1, 2015
Facilitator:	MVEIRB		
	Name		Organization
18.	Sheila Johnny		Public RRDC
19.	John Lohr		Member
20.	Caroline Ollie		Public
21.	Nora Ladue		SCML
22.	Marie Belanger		Public
23.	Bryan Clubbe		Public
24.	Jaime Colwell		Public
25.	JOECO/WE		Public
26.	Tim Colwell		Public
27.	Vera Herrero		RRDC member
28.	JOEY DICKSON		" "
29.	W. Smith		RRDC
30.	Geraldine Luff		RRDC member
31.	Kenneth Luff		RRDC Member / Deputy Chief
32.	Chelsea Etzel		
33.	Doris Bob Elder.		Public RRDC member
34.	Nicole Etzel		RRDC Member
35.	Sandra Bob		SCML

Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project Sign-in sheet			
Location:	Watson Lake	Meeting Date:	December 2, 2015
Facilitator:	MVEIRB		
Name		Organization	
1.	Jody Eikelboom		YESAB.
2.	Sarah Robertson		CanNor - NPMO
3.	Bernard LaRoche		CanNor - NPMO.
4.	Monica Wendt		GNWT - ENR
5.	Mary Caesar		
6.	Lizana Porter		LFN
7.	Tyson Wolfe		LFN
8.	Paul Mercier		GNWT - Dept. of Lands - PHB
9.	Rick Harder		W/C Chamber of Commerce
10.	George Donnessey		LFN
11.	Greg Nagel		Public
12.	Daniel Dick		LFN
13.	Jim Nolt Tail		LFN
14.	Leda Jules		LFN
15.	JACK STEW		PUBLIC
16.	Jenny Caesar		LFN.
17.	Betty Shepherd		DDC

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project
Sign-in sheet

Location:	Watson Lake	Meeting Date:	December 2, 2015
Facilitator:	MVEIRB		
	Name		Organization
18.	Don Magun	LFN	
19.	Khole Caesar	LFN	
20.	Carl Caesar	LFN	
21.	Hudson Caesar	LFN	
22.	Garry Amann		
23.	Sheila Caesar	LFN	
24.	Sam Wainwright	SREWG	
25.	Dan Dickson	LFN	
26.	Melie Tisiga	LFN	
27.	Alfred Chief	LFN	
28.	Sam Wainwright	LFN	
29.	Eyes PL	LFN	
30.	Kimberly Dickson	LFN/RRDC	
31.	Elizabeth A	LFN	
32.	Agnes Chief		
33.	Derek Caesar	LFN	
34.	Aggie Magun	LFN	
35.	Louise Connors	LFN	

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



Project name: Howards Pass Access Road Project
Sign-in sheet

Location: Watson Lake

Meeting Date: December 2, 2015

Facilitator: MVEIRB

Name

Organization

36. Cathy Dineen

L.F.N.

37. Margaret Chaulo

L.F.N.

38. David Steele

Town of Watson Lake

39. Derek Hoois

Iyow Kechikan Contracting Ltd.

40. Terri Szabo

LFNDC

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