

EA1516-01

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

September 11, 2015

Tim Smith  
Executive Director  
Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board  
Suite 200-309 Strickland Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2J9

Dear Mr. Smith,

**Re: Notice of referral to environmental assessment and request for cooperation - Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade Project, Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd., EA1516-01**

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Parks Canada referred the Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd. Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR) Upgrade Project to environmental assessment by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board). Parks Canada referred the proposed development to environmental assessment pursuant to paragraph 126 (2) (a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)* because it determined that the project might have significant impacts on the following environmental components:

- Wildlife species including caribou, Dall's sheep, mountain goats, grizzly bears, black bears and nesting birds;
- Water resources, fish and fish habitat;
- Plant communities, including the introduction of invasive non-native plants and reduced biodiversity;
- Cultural and archaeological resources; and,
- Nahanni and Nààts'ihch'oh National Park Reserves.

The purpose of the project is to expand and upgrade the 79 km long HPAR to a two lane gravel road. The road is located in the southwestern Northwest Territories (NWT) in the Mackenzie Mountains and is wholly within the NWT. Two segments of the road are in the Nahanni and Nààts'ihch'oh National Park Reserves, respectively. The road starts at km 188 of the Nahanni Range Road, near Tungsten, NT and extends to the Yukon Border. The proposed development includes:

- Clearing the right of way;
- Upgrades to bridges and culverts;
- Borrow sources;



- Use of the road to haul lead and zinc concentrate from the mine site; and,
- Use of the road to haul mine consumables such as fuel and milling reagents.

The Review Board has requested that the developer prepare a *Developer's Proposed Terms of Reference* (DPToR) in order to facilitate the scoping phase of this EA. Review Board staff has offered guidance to the developer towards this end and anticipate the submission of this document by September 18, 2015. The Review Board will determine both the scope of the development and scope of the assessment and produce a draft Terms of Reference along with a Work Plan. Please refer to the Review Board's website for more information on the Review Board's [EA process](#).

Due to the geographical proximity of the project to the Yukon Territory, the Review Board has determined that the proposed development might have a significant adverse impact to an area outside the Mackenzie Valley. The Review Board respectfully requests the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's (YESAB) cooperation for the conduct of the environmental assessment, particularly with the Review Board's scoping of the environmental assessment, pursuant to s. 140(1) of the *MVRMA*, and to fulfill the measures outlined in the [Cooperation Agreement](#) between the YESAB and the Review Board.

To assist the Review Board with scoping of the environmental assessment and to satisfy the responsibility for the Review Board "to ensure that the concerns of Aboriginal people and the general public are taken into account", as per s. 114(c) of the *MVRMA*, we are looking at the potential to conduct community scoping sessions in the Yukon communities of Ross River and Watson Lake in early October 2015. We would like to discuss this matter further with representatives of YESAB at the earliest convenience.

The Review Board would greatly appreciate any assistance YESAB can provide in the conduct of this environmental assessment moving forward.

Please feel to contact me with any questions or for further information at (867) 766-7055 or by email at [mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca](mailto:mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca).

Sincerely,

Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
(867) 766-7055