



EA 1516-01

Summary of the Technical Issues Scoping Session

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

October 15th, 2015.

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Introduction

The following is a summary of the primary issues identified at the technical issues scoping session for the proposed Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade Project. The session was held on October 15th, 2015 in Yellowknife.

The session began with a presentation from the Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) staff describing the environmental assessment process, the purpose of scoping, and the next steps. Following the Review Board staff presentation, the developer, Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd. (SCML) representatives gave a presentation describing the proposed project.

The remainder of the session was devoted to identifying and prioritizing issues. This was done systematically by going through the Developer's Proposed Terms of Reference. A summary table of the comments on the Developer's Proposed Terms of Reference has been appended to this report as Attachment 1.

Topics of discussion

During the technical issues scoping session, the following topics were reviewed:

- Scope of development and assessment
- Geographic and temporal scope
- A description of the environment including biophysical and human environment information requirements
- A description of the development including project components and subjects to consider during construction, operations and closure phases
- Assessment of environment impacts and cumulative effects on:
 - Bedrock and surficial geology
 - Noise and vibration
 - Air quality
 - Water quality and quantity
 - Vegetation
 - Water quality and quantity
 - Species at risk and of concern
 - Fish and aquatic habitat
 - Vegetation
 - Fish and aquatic habitat
 - Wildlife and wildlife habitat
 - Species at Risk
 - Traditional land use and harvesting
 - Cultural resources
 - Heritage resources
 - National Park Reserves
 - Potentially affected communities
 - Roadways, lakes and river use
 - The environment on the Project
- Effects of the environment on the project
- Potential accidents and malfunctions
- Cumulative effects

Discussion from these topics refined the sub-topics that parties would like to see in the Terms of Reference and further clarified areas of agreement and disagreement between the parties and the developer. A summary of party and developer comments and responses can be seen in Attachment 1.

Potential key lines of inquiry

The potential key lines of inquiry identified by the developer and discussed by the group were:

- The Nahanni Caribou Herd- direct and indirect effects on individual caribou and on the caribou herd from road traffic and road access;
- Risk of Spills- risk of spills from hauling concentrates, fuels and mine reagents during mine operation and potential impacts on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems;
- National Park Reserves- visitor access to park areas and visitor experience, park heritage and cultural resources and ecological integrity; and,
- Benefits and effects on communities- including direct and indirect effects on employment and contracting opportunities, wage and salary income, training and skills development, business opportunities and overall community wellness.

Next Steps

Community scoping sessions will be held in Tulita, Norman Wells and Nahanni Butte in the NWT and Ross River and Watson Lake in the Yukon. Comments on the Developer's Proposed Terms of Reference will be collected at each of these scoping sessions as well as through the online review system until November 6th, 2015. Based on these comments, the Review Board will issue its Draft Terms of Reference for public review. Following this review period, the Review Board will release a finalized Terms of Reference which will guide the developer in its creation of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR).

Consideration of Previous EA Material

Under Section 115(2) of the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act, the Review Board is required to consider, and may rely on, material from previous EAs of the same development. The material can be referred to the existing EA by the developer, parties, or the Review Board.

Attachment 1:

**Summary Table of Comments from the Technical Issues
Scoping Session**

ToR Section/Topic	Participant Comments
3.0 Scope Considerations	
3.1 Scope of Development	<p>CONSTRUCTION:</p> <p>Parks: Would like stripping and stockpiling under construction of the road, not just for borrow pits.</p> <p>OPERATIONS:</p> <p>Parks: Add fire management, potential for fires, prevention and response.</p> <p>ENR: Add spill response, in addition to response to accidents and malfunctions.</p> <p>ENR: Vegetation clearing along right of way for road maintenance.</p> <p>NDDDB: Cleaning of vehicles to prevent invasive species.</p> <p>ENR: Cleaning vehicles of contaminants before getting onto the road (both directions).</p> <p>CLOSURE:</p> <p><i>No comments</i></p>
3.2 Scope of Assessment	<p>Parks: Rip rap and quarry sites could be a source of acid rock drainage. Should be considered within bedrock geology valued component.</p> <p>EC: Metals leaching and acid rock drainage should be considered before rocks and materials are used for construction.</p> <p>ENR: Consider effects of spills on land; don't focus entirely on effects on water.</p> <p>Parks: Water and sediment quality and "quantity". Want considerations for potential changes to quantity ➔ SCML: project doesn't require a water licence and withdrawals will be low which is why quantity wasn't included.</p> <p>Parks: Focus is currently on major streams. Effects to all streams (sizes and types) should be done. Are in agreement with the watershed scale assessment referred to in Section 7.</p> <p>DFO: Want other species to be considered, not just the ones listed in the table. I.e.: bull trout, burbot. Add nursery and over-wintering habitat to capture all life stages of the fish.</p>

ToR Section/Topic	Participant Comments
	<p>→ SCML: species were listed based on the baseline work already completed</p> <p>CPAWS: Wildlife and wildlife habitat should consider the Redstone mountain caribou herd.</p> <p>ENR: Wildlife; want Dall sheep and mountain goat to be considered.</p> <p>Parks: Fish; include connectivity of lakes and wetlands.</p> <p>ENR: Have seen bulltrout recently in Cantung work.</p> <p>Parks: Agree that Dall sheep and mountain goat should be included but also want beaver, marten, snowshoe hare and lynx.</p> <p>EC: Look at conformity with migratory birds convention act.</p> <p>EC: Water and sediment quality; consider sediment control during construction.</p> <p>HUMAN ECOSYSTEM:</p> <p>Parks: National park reserves are not one valued component. Suggest removing it as a valued component. It is captured as a key line. All valued components are considered within the national park. Want visitor experience added as a valued component. All of the biophysical and human aspects contribute to the National Park Reserve.</p> <p>ENR: Traditional Land use. Expand list to include past and current recreational and commercial uses.</p> <p>CPAWS: Consider jurisdiction for inclusion with road, lake and river access and use.</p>
Key Line: Nahanni Caribou Herd	Parks: Generally agrees with the key lines. But the key line should be “caribou” not the specific Nahanni herd.
Key Line: Risks of spills	ENR: Expand to include contamination from dust and sources that are associated with “everyday operation” of a road. Want fugitive contamination considered.
Key Line: National Park reserves	
Key Line: Benefits and effects on	

ToR Section/Topic	Participant Comments
communities	
Subjects of Note	
3.3 Geographic Scope	EC: Table 3, wildlife. Consider SARA species
3.4 Temporal Scope	
4. Description of the Environment	
4.1 Biophysical Information Requirements	
4.1.1 Terrain, Geology, Soils and Permafrost	<i>No comments</i>
4.1.2 Climate and Weather	<i>No comments</i>
4.1.3 Air Quality	<i>No comments</i>
4.1.4 Sound	<i>No comments</i>
4.1.5 Water Quality and Quantity	<p>Parks: Want a full description of surface water bodies and how they are all connects, not general. Should consider wetlands and lakes (standing water bodies), connectivity.</p> <p>DFO: Hydrology/hydraulics for the crossings; want confirmation that everything is sized properly and design criteria for the crossings.</p>
4.1.6 Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat and Species at Risk	EC: Bullet 1 and 5 are a bit redundant. Add migratory birds in the definition for wildlife (then bullet 5 could be removed).
4.1.7 Fish and Aquatic Habitat	DFO: Bullet 1, want fish and fish habitat at each crossing. Keep discussion on local and regional scales.
4.1.8 Vegetation	Parks: Bullet 3, recommend including location and abundance of rare plant assemblages.
4.1.9 Environmental and Geological Events that may affect the project	<i>No comments</i>

ToR Section/Topic	Participant Comments
4.2 Human Environment Information Requirements	<i>No comments</i>
4.2.1 Education, Training and Skills	<i>No comments</i>
4.2.2 Harvesting and Hunting	<p>DFO: Harvesting is wildlife including fish.</p> <p>CPAWS: Include resident harvesting, not just Aboriginal. Should be explicit for the NWT and will help with the distinction of the different caribou herds.</p> <p>ENR: Value of outfitters and guided hunts to the GNWT economy.</p>
4.2.3 Heritage and Cultural Resources	<i>No comments</i>
4.2.4 Tourism	<i>No comments</i>
4.2.5 Regional and Local Economies	<i>No comments</i>
4.2.6 Existing Transportation Routes and Related Infrastructure	<i>No comments</i>
4.2.7 Human Health and Wellbeing	<i>No comments</i>
5.0 Development Description	
5.1 Project Phases and Schedule	<p>DFO: Is blasting needed in borrow pit development? If so, need to know if it could affect fish and fish habitat and proximity to water bodies.</p> <p>ENR: Bear safety training for employees for operations, add to wildlife human encounters.</p> <p>EC: Consider incineration waste at camps.</p> <p>Parks: Road upgrade, safety training; would like rationale for safety barriers and consideration of</p>

ToR Section/Topic	Participant Comments
	<p>implementation of safety barriers at other key locations. Consider potential for runway lanes.</p> <p>ENR: Camps will need spill response plans.</p> <p>Table 7 Parks: Add water withdrawals, including location, volume and time.</p>
5.2 Development Components and Activities	<i>No comments</i>
5.3 Road Design Considerations	CPAWS: caribou crossings and wildlife crossings. How will wildlife crossing the road be considered? (Possibly under section 4?)
5.4 Existing Infrastructure	<i>No comments</i>
5.5 Management and Monitoring Plans	<i>No comments</i>
7.0 Assessment of Environmental Impacts and Cumulative Effects	
7.1 Bedrock Geology and Surficial Geology	<i>No comments</i>
7.2 Noise and vibration	ENR: light as a disturbance on its own? What are the effects of light?
7.3 Air Quality	<i>No comments</i>
7.4 Water quality and quantity	<i>No comments</i>
7.5 Vegetation	<i>No comments</i>
7.6 Fish and Aquatic Habitat	<i>No comments</i>
7.7 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<i>No comments</i>
7.8 Species at Risk	<i>No comments</i>
7.9 Traditional Land use and harvesting	ENR: 2 nd paragraph, make it just harvesting so it captures non-traditional harvesting. Need to capture potential effects to non-traditional harvesters.

ToR Section/Topic	Participant Comments
7.10 Cultural Resources	<i>No comments</i>
7.11 Heritage Resources	<i>No comments</i>
7.12 National Park Reserves	Parks: See comments above about removing this. Not a specific VC on its own, encompasses multiple VCs.
7.13 Potentially Affected Communities	<i>No comments</i>
7.14 Roadways, Lakes and River Use	<i>No comments</i>
7.15 Effects of the Environment on the Project	Parks: General comment on effects assessment. There is no specific sections for the effects assessment for the key lines of inquiry. Will submit comments on the ORS for what it would like to see specifically for the key lines of inquiry effects assessment.
8.0 Assessment of Potential Accidents and Malfunctions	<i>No comments</i>
9.0 Assessment of Project Alternatives	<i>No comments</i>
10.0 Assessment of Cumulative Effects	<i>No comments</i>
11.0 Follow-up and Monitoring	<i>No comments</i>
12.0 Closure and Reclamation	<i>No comments</i>

Attachment 2:

Technical Issues Scoping Session Agenda



ISSUES SCOPING AGENDA

Howard's Pass Access Road Upgrade Project – EA1516-01

Date: Thursday October 15th, 2015

Location: Yellowknife, Greenstone Building Lecture Hall. 5101 50th Avenue.

Time: 1:00 – 5:00

Teleconference: 1 877 215-4724 Code: 3501684

ITEM	
1:00pm	Introduction and purpose of meeting – Board staff Project Description presentation – Selwyn Scope of development Geographic and temporal scope Developer's proposed Key Lines of Inquiry and Subjects of Note (as presented in Developer's Proposed Terms of Reference) Baseline and effects assessment Effects of the environment on the project Potential accidents and malfunctions Cumulative effects Follow-up and monitoring Closure and reclamation Identification of any additional Key Lines Inquiry
5:00	Adjourn

Coffee, tea and snacks provided

Attachment 3:

Technical Issues Scoping Sign-in Sheet

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



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

Location:	Yellowknife	Meeting Date:	October 15, 2015
Facilitator:	MVEIRB		
	Name		Organization
1.	Lubaki Zantoko		GNWT-ENR
2.	Stephen Morrison		SLR
3.	Doug Reeve		SCML
4.	Michael Mohammad		Environment Canada
5.	Melissa Pinto		Environment Canada
6.	Catherine Braun Rodriguez		GNWT-ITI
7.	Georgina Williston		DFO
8.	Julie Maientelte		DFO
9.	Mark D Aguiar		DFO
10.	Sarah Robertson		NPMO
11.	Monica Wendt		ENR-CAM
12.	Kate Witherly		ENR
13.	David Britton		Parks Canada
14.	Jonathon Tseta		Parks Canada
15.	Allison Stoddart		Parks Canada
16.	Kelly Fischer		ENR
17.	Rohan Brown		GNWT-Justice

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



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

Location:	Yellowknife	Meeting Date:	October 15, 2015
Facilitator:	MVEIRB		
Name		Organization	
18.	Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier	GNWT-Lands	
19.	Kelly Mahoney	GNWT-ECE	
20.	Jesse Davidson	GNWT-Lands	
21.	Chris Joseph	GNWT-ECE	
22.	Christine Wenman	NDDDB	
23.	Paul Mercredi	GNWT-Lands	
24.	Jean-Francis Dufour	Environment Canada	
25.	Kris Brekke	CPAWS-NWT	
26.	James Hedson	GNWT-ENR	
27.	Reg Djecjem (Teleconference)	Environment Canada-Winnipeg	
28.	Trish Auser (Teleconference)	Environment Canada- Regina	
29.	Monique Chatterton (Teleconference)	Government of Yukon	
30.	Chris Aguire (Teleconference)	Transport Canada	
31.	Ignacio Vuque (Teleconference)	Transport Canada	
32.	Joan Eamer	SCML	
33.	Rick Walbourne	GNWT-ENR	
34.			
35.			