

March 5, 2021

Note to file – EA Start-up meeting, Pine Point Mine Project EA Initiation Package – online meeting

This Note to File is a summary of an online EA Start-up meeting for the Pine Point Mine Project. The summary notes list online meeting participants, provide a link to the Review Board presentation, and summarize questions and answers.

Participants

Review Board staff- Chuck Hubert, Catherine Fairbairn, Kate Mansfield, Jeremy Freeman, Alan Ehrlich, Mark Cliffe-Philips

Deninu Kue First Nation- Patrick Simon, Mark D'Entremont

Fort Resolution Métis Government – Shawn McKay, Katy Dimmer (consultant)

K'atlodeeche First Nation- Patrick Riley

Pine Point Mining Limited and Golder Associates- Andrew Williams, Jeff Hussey, Kristine Mason

Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation- Beth Keats (consultant)

Dene Tha' First Nation- Matt Munson, Fred Munson

Government of the Northwest Territories- Laurie McGregor (ENR), Wendy Bidwell (NER), TC Vermillion (ENR) Bryana Matthews (ENR), Rick Walbourne (ENR), Jane Fitzgerald (ENR), James Hodson (ENR), Jamie Van Gulk (ARKTIS), Jennifer Spencer-Hazenburg (ENR) Imran Maqsood (ENR), Cory Dall (ENR), MC Belair (Lands), Tracey Covey (Lands), Mark Paddey (ITI), Jeremy Armitage (HSS), Rohan Brown (Justice), Horatio Sam-Aggrey (Lands), Andrea Patenaude (ENR), Mischelle Remigio ENR), Naomi Smethurst (ECE) Derise Rehm (Lands)

Government of Canada Katie Bakker (NPMO), Adam Downing (TC), Alex Taylor (PC), Kim Pauley Jennifer Walsh and Alana Vigna (CIRNAC), Mike Rybanski, Melissa Gorman (Health Canada), Dan Coombs and Sally Wong (DFO), Peter Unger and Jason Quinn (NRCAN), Victoria Shore and Jennifer Sabourin (ECCC), Russell Wykes (CIRNAC-CARD)

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board- Jacqueline Ho

Review Board Presentation

The Review Board made the following presentation at the March 5 EA Start-up meeting:

[Review Board EA Start-up meeting presentation March 5](#)

The following is a summary of questions from participants and responses from either Review Board staff or Pine Point Mining Limited as described below.

Questions and Answers

Question One of the aspects of the Water Licence process is the groundwater assessment that Pine Point Mining has to do. My assumption is that the information they gather after the Type A water licence will be a big part of the information necessary for EA. How will this work concurrently if one is dependent on the other?

Answer (Review Board staff) We can't answer the question today, since it is premature to weigh in on how that information will feed into the EA until after the scoping phase. Our meeting on March 12th, where the developer is presenting what information they have available now as well as their approach and methodology for getting groundwater and geotechnical information, will help us to answer these questions in more detail. These questions will also help us to figure out a draft timeline for the EA that will be developed in consultation with the developer and based on the expectations of the Review Board. There will be opportunities for everyone to provide input on the draft work plan.

Question How is the EA Initiation Package supposed to change the scoping phase, and the information the Review Board is looking for during scoping? Do you expect comments from reviewers to be more similar to information requests (i.e. highly technical?) or do you still want us to speak more generally during the scoping session (e.g. "these are the important valued components...") and then save more detailed requests for later in the process?

Answer (Review Board staff) The Review Board is still looking to develop the Terms of Reference during the scoping phase to help define the Developer's Assessment Report. The information that we have now and the developer's work in getting this information does allow us to bring forward more technical and detailed information during the scoping phase. This will help us tailor our Terms of Reference better, given the information we have, so that we will end up with a more detailed and focused Developer's Assessment Report.

This will be a learning experience for all of us, but we're hopeful that this new approach will produce a more effective and streamlined EA. The information that the developer has provided in the EA Initiation Package should also help reviewers in their own participation in the scoping phase, in terms of identifying and prioritizing issues. The EA Initiation Package will help us identify information gaps that can be addressed in Developer's Assessment Report, rather than during later EA stages. The EA Initiation Package also includes things that the developer believes should be excluded from the EA (and why) and we would like to ask reviewers to comment on these views as well.

Question Can you export the parts of text in the EA Initiation Package documents that you highlight from the public registry?

Answer (Review Board staff) The Review Board has a new search tool on its website to help navigate large documents. The EA Initiation Package can be accessed via the Essential Documents heading on the [MVRB Public Registry](#) for the Pine Point Mine Project. You can highlight the text you want and make a link to that highlighted text. We also have the option to print out the search query.

Question Are shapefiles for the project available for download on the Review Board public registry?

Answer (Review Board staff) Currently not. This would require a request from the Pine Point Mining team to get GIS data on the record. We ask that if you make this request, that it goes on the public registry so that all parties can access it.

Answer (Pine Point Mining) We can provide shapefiles to you. If there are particular areas of interest let us know.

Question In its EA Initiation Package, Pine Point Mining requests excluding some things from assessment. Can you clarify?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) The EA Information Package, Volume 5, Section 3 includes issues prioritization. If we didn't include something as a subject of note or key line of inquiry, this indicates that we think it is a lower priority (that is, not as likely to lead to significant adverse impacts). For all these cases, we provided rationales for our determinations. This can be discussed more at the EA Initiation Package meeting next Friday, March 12.