

**Subject:** FW: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

**Attachments:** Prosperity - EC Migratory Birds Response April 22 2010 .pdf;  
IBP\_Estimate\_Letter\_24Mar2010\_Stantec\_2\_.pdf

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**From:** Wong,Phil [PYR]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2010 6:44 PM  
**To:** 'Roderick Bell-Irving'  
**Cc:** Robinson,Andrew [PYR]; Breault,Andre [PYR]; Millikin,Rhonda [PYR]; Boyd,Sean [PYR]; DeShield,Coral [PYR]; Schneider,Saul [PYR]; Jeffrey,Barry [PYR]; McLean,Robyn [CEAA]; Knowles,Lauren: NRCAN; Preston, Michael; Spagnuolo,Colette [CEAA]  
**Subject:** RE: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

Hi Rod:

Please find attached Environment Canada's review comments on, and response to, the Stantec memo attached in your note below.

Phil

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**From:** Roderick Bell-Irving [mailto:RoderickBell-Irving@tasekomines.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 28, 2010 5:18 PM  
**To:** Wong,Phil [PYR]; McLean,Robyn [CEAA]  
**Cc:** Robinson,Andrew [PYR]; Breault,Andre [PYR]; Millikin,Rhonda [PYR]; Boyd,Sean [PYR]; DeShield,Coral [PYR]; Schneider,Saul [PYR]; Jeffrey,Barry [PYR]; Knowles,Lauren: NRCAN; Preston, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

Phil:

In this first "day-off" since beginning the Panel hearings I am trying to catch up on matters. By copy of this email I am asking Stantec to review and comment on your written responses to their February 1st comments on Andre's paper. Once we have their comments I will forward them on to you and the others. In the meantime please find attached another memo from Stantec discussing their further analysis of Andre's data. Perhaps CWS could look at this and answer the questions posed at the end of the memo.

Regards,

Rod

Roderick Bell-Irving,  
Manager, Environmental Project Development  
Taseko Mines Limited  
Suite 300 - 905 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1L6

Phone: 778-373-4544

Toll Free: 1-800-667-2114

Cell: 604-818-3878

Fax: 778-373-4534

Mail: RoderickBell-Irving@tasekomines.com <mailto:RoderickBell-Irving@tasekomines.com>

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From: Wong,Phil [PYR] [mailto:Phil.Wong@ec.gc.ca]  
Sent: March 19, 2010 4:01 PM  
To: McLean,Robyn [CEAA]; Roderick Bell-Irving  
Cc: Robinson,Andrew [PYR]; Breault,Andre [PYR]; Millikin,Rhonda [PYR]; Boyd,Sean [PYR];  
DeShield,Coral [PYR]; Schneider,Saul [PYR]; Jeffrey,Barry [PYR]; Knowles,Lauren: NRCAN  
Subject: RE: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

Hi Robyn and Rod,

Further to our February 18, 2010 meeting, attached are EC's written responses to Stantec's February 1, 2010 comments on the CWS preliminary report titled "Assessment of breeding waterfowl values of the Prosperity Mine Site RSA wetlands and streams from data collected during the 2008 Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey of the BC Central Interior Plateau".

Once Taseko has had an opportunity to review this response, suggest Taseko confirm whether the "one page calculation/analysis done by Stantec following the meeting where they used Andre's paper to calculate the estimated number of breeding pairs" (attached) should remain the basis of further review and discussion as was asked in the attached e-mail.

Phil

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From: Wong,Phil [PYR]  
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:24 PM  
To: McLean,Robyn [CEAA]  
Cc: Robinson,Andrew [PYR]; Breault,Andre [PYR]; Millikin,Rhonda [PYR]; 'Roderick Bell-Irving'  
Subject: RE: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

Hi Robyn,

Further to Andrew's note below, EC-CWS' suggested edits are provided in-text of the attached.

Thanks for attending and being the scribe; we all recognize that it is a lot of work to summarize these sorts of meetings where a lot of information is exchanged.

Phil

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From: Robinson,Andrew [PYR]  
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 8:05 AM  
To: Breault,Andre [PYR]; McLean,Robyn [CEAA]; Wong,Phil [PYR]  
Cc: Millikin,Rhonda [PYR]  
Subject: Re: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

Hi Robyn,

Please hold off incorporating Andre's comments. Phil will forward you EC's edits based on our collective review. Thanks muchly for drafting the meeting notes.

Andrew.

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From: Breault,Andre [PYR]  
To: McLean,Robyn [CEAA]; Wong,Phil [PYR]  
Cc: Robinson,Andrew [PYR]; Millikin,Rhonda [PYR]  
Sent: Wed Mar 10 15:43:39 2010  
Subject: RE: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

Hi Robyn,

I have made a series of notes in edit mode to the minutes, adding up clarification and longer responses here and there.

Feel free to use or discard comments or wording at your discretion.

Ciao,

Andre Breault

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From: McLean,Robyn [CEAA]  
Sent: March 5, 2010 5:31 PM  
To: Wong,Phil [PYR]; 'Roderick Bell-Irving'  
Cc: Robinson,Andrew [PYR]; Breault,Andre [PYR]  
Subject: CWS and Taseko Draft Meeting Minutes - Feb 18 2010

Hi Phil and Rod,

Please find attached the Draft Minutes from the meeting that was held between EC-CWS and Taseko Mines on February 18, 2010.

Please review the minutes and let me know if there are any additions or corrections required. I will distribute the Final Minutes once the document has received your review.

Thank you.

Regards,

Robyn McLean  
Project Manager | Gestionnaire des projets  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency | Agence canadienne d'évaluation  
environnementale  
320-757 West Hastings | 320 757 rue Hastings ouest  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1A1  
Telephone | Téléphone: 604.666.9344  
Fax | Télécopieur: 604.666.6990  
Email | Courriel: robyn.mclean@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

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**Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project**  
**Response to Stantec's Indicated Breeding Pairs Calculation**

Herein the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada (EC) provides responses to the questions raised by Taseko Mines Ltd. (the 'Proponent') in the following document:

- *Calculation of Indicated Breeding Pairs potentially displaced via Prosperity Mine MBO (hereafter 'Stantec memo'), prepared by Stantec, dated 24 March 2010*

**Comments**

- At the February 18, 2010 meeting, CWS advised that the Indicated Breeding Pair (IBP) values used in the CWS breeding waterfowl analysis report (hereafter 'CWS report') were likely underestimates and on the (very) conservative side. Although Table 1 does not specifically identify the IBP values used to assess effects, they are straightforward to derive; to that end, we infer that the Stantec memo has used average 'uncorrected' IBP values from the CWS report.
- Given that the CWS estimates are thought to be underestimates (they do not account for methodology limitations, visibility correction factors, values for non-waterfowl species, year effects, etc.), our recommendation was and continues to be that Stantec use IBP densities greater than the average (e.g. 95% upper confidence interval value) to account for the estimate limitations. Alternatively, that they explain why correction factors are not adequate or necessary to address the known limitations of the data sets.
- We presented and used raw uncorrected data, and the data can be corrected either on a policy basis (e.g. 95% upper confidence interval value), or through mechanical adjustments of the model (e.g. applying visibility correction factors, seasonal and annual variability, etc.). Of the two, choosing a value at the upper range of the estimate is by far the simplest/easiest.
- Effects on streams, albeit expected to be smaller, are not referred to in Stantec's memo.
- One issue not explicitly addressed here is the fact that wetlands of different size classes do not support the same species (e.g. loons and diving ducks go for big lakes, not for 5 small ones). Defining compensation by adding up areas across wetland size classes is useful but does have its limitations. This issue should likely be dealt with in the habitat compensation plan, based on defined objectives (such as, for example, replacement of losses with likewise habitat). Our assessment explicitly lists the type of wetlands that need be reflected in a habitat compensation plan.

## Summary

To sum up, the Proponent/Stantec has asked two specific questions in the Stantec memo, which we respond to below:

1. *'Does CWS agree with the number of IBPs potentially displaced as presented in Table 1?'*

**Answer:** The estimates follow the principles and methodology outlined in CWS' report. As discussed at the February 18, 2010 meeting, CWS views the 'average' IBP values as underestimates and recommends that the upper confidence interval values be used. Doing so would account for known limitations associated with the data set and the fact that other wetland species values are not properly captured in our model predictions. Streams should also be explicitly recognized in impact evaluations.

2. *(Do the estimates shown in Table 1) represent how CWS envisioned the use of Breault (2009)'s report as management tool for considering potential compensation options?*

**Answer:** Yes. However, as indicated in previous correspondence in this review, Environment Canada does not consider Prosperity Lake an appropriate strategy for addressing adverse effects on wetlands and migratory birds.

April 22, 2010