
Fielding Montgomery

Research Scientist, Nova Scotia Salmon Association
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December 16th, 2021

Beaver Dam Mine Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
200-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3N4
Telephone: 902-426-0564
Fax: 902-426-6550
Email: bdmine-minebd@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

I am writing this email in response to the revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for the proposed Beaver Dam Mine Project. As an individual resident of Nova Scotia and a Research Scientist for the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, I reject the proposed Beaver Dam Mine Project. The information contained in the revised EIS does not fully address the concerns of my association or my personal views. Significant progress has not been made in addressing the potential negative impact for the West River watershed and the adjacent sub-watersheds.

The following concerns have yet to be properly addressed:

- 1. The West River is too valuable to accept any level of risk. This watershed is an important location for Atlantic Salmon and American Eel, two at-risk fishes that play an integral role in the aquatic ecosystem. These species use this river as important spawning habitat. These species, and many others that call West River home, are culturally significant to the local Mi'kmaw communities.**
- 2. The revised EIS does not adequately consider the watershed downstream from the mine footprint and the proposed quarry pit is simply too close to the Killag River (Cameron Flowage). The spatial extent of the proposed work is too large and unnecessarily encroaches on adjacent sub-watersheds.**
- 3. The Killag River and surrounding watershed downstream of the mine footprint has been the site of over two decades of stream restoration work, to improve water quality and aquatic ecosystem health. The current habitat is already compromised by**

historic degradation through acidification and logging in the river, and thus is vulnerable to further cumulative impacts that can arise from the proposed gold mine. Millions of dollars (including from the provincial and federal government) have been invested into restoring this habitat and monitoring has shown that Atlantic Salmon have responded positively to these efforts. However, the success that has been measured is still not enough to see long-term population persistence and avoid extirpation of this species in this river, and so continued restoration efforts are needed. This mine would jeopardize the success of previous, on-going, and future restoration efforts to continue to improve this habitat and help recover species at risk that use this habitat, like Atlantic Salmon.

- 4. The local community is heavily invested in the conservation efforts surrounding West River. There are local conservation groups made of volunteers who have invested countless hours contributing to research and restoration efforts along this river.**

- 5. The benefits to Nova Scotia are minor relative to the value of the restoration project and the conservation progress already realized. Climate change is a real and impending issue that we as Nova Scotians are facing, and we need to be overly cautious about what negative impacts we are making on the environment that may create further instability in our ecosystems. The long-term legacy effects of the proposed gold mine will far exceed the short-term gain to the economy.**

- 6. The NSSA generally lacks confidence that Atlantic Gold will prioritize protection of the environment and the West River Restoration Project.**

In closing I, Fielding Montgomery, strongly oppose the proposed Beaver Dam Mine project. The West River watershed and adjacent sub-watersheds are valuable and vulnerable resources that need our constant protection. We stand in solidarity with our partner conservation associations and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in opposition to this proposal.

I respectfully submit my response to the EIS.

Sincerely,

Fielding Montgomery