



April 30, 2024

Sent by email

Kerrie Blaise
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Legal Advocates for Nature's Defence
kerrie@naturesdefence.ca

Kerrie Blaise:

Subject: Upper Beaver Gold Project – Misema-Blanche River Alliance concerns

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2024, on behalf of the Misema-Blanche River Alliance (MBRA), sharing the MBRA's ongoing concerns related to the Upper Beaver Gold Project (the Project) proposed by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (the Proponent). These concerns related to the creation of opportunities for meaningful public engagement by the Proponent, insufficient information to understand potential effects of the Project, and insufficient capacity to participate meaningfully in the assessment.

Your letter outlined three requests of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), namely, the provision of data, studies and project updates to support the commitment of early engagement, that the Agency compel the Proponent to release documents and data in full on the public's behalf, and the provision of proactive contribution agreements such that the MBRA may coordinate experts in advance of short deadlines and comment periods.

Provision of data in the impact assessment process

The assessment for the Project is currently in the Impact Statement phase, which began on April 20, 2022. During this phase, the Proponent prepares and submits a satisfactory Impact Statement for the Project. The Impact Statement must include the information and studies outlined in the Agency's Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines¹ (the Guidelines) necessary to conduct the impact assessment.

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¹<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p82960/143580E.pdf>

The Agency understands that the Proponent is currently working on preparing the Impact Statement and supporting information as outlined in the Guidelines. The Agency is not currently in possession of any information or content from the Proponent's Impact Statement.

During the preparation of its Impact Statement, the Proponent is to engage the public as outlined in section 5 of the Guidelines. Section 5 also requires that the Impact Statement include a description of the Proponent's efforts to distribute project information, including those shared during this engagement process.

Therefore, the Agency encourages MBRA to continue to raise any concerns regarding these effects and recommended mitigation measures directly to the Proponent to inform its development of the Impact Statement. This information may also be provided to the Agency via comments on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page for the Project at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment may be posted online to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #82960) subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy² describes what submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice³.

The Agency's role in making data available to the public

The Agency works to foster meaningful participation and support transparent decision-making. Once the Proponent has completed and submitted its Impact Statement and its summary of the impact statement to the Agency, they will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry) and available to the public. In addition, any subsequent supporting information submitted to the Agency by the Proponent will also be posted to the Registry and available to the public as it is received.

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² <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

³ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>

Contribution agreements

The Agency's Participant Funding Program supports public engagement during the impact assessment process. The Participant Funding Program offers Contribution funding for the Impact Statement and Impact Assessment phases.

Contribution funding for the Project will be available before the Impact Statement is submitted to the Agency, in advance of a formal comment period on the summary of the impact statement. The Agency will notify the MBRA and other members of the public when participant funding is available through public notices in local media, a news release, and an email to the distribution list for the assessment of the Project. The news release and public notice will also be posted to the Registry.

Additional information on the Participant Funding Program and Contribution Agreements may be found on the Agency's website.⁴

The Agency has copied the Proponent on this response and have included your letter for its reference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at *UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Sincerely,

Tara Bailey
Project Manager

c.c.: Misema Blanche-River Alliance
Sarah Morin, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/participant-funding-program-national-program-guidelines.html#toc021>