

**Federal Authority Advice Record Form**

Spanish Mountain Gold Project – Spanish Mountain Gold Ltd.

**Response due by May 6, 2022**Please submit the form to: [SpanishMountain@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:SpanishMountain@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

Agency File: 005827 Registry Reference No.: 83495

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada
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1. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

If yes, specify the Act of Parliament and that power, duty or function.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is not responsible for approving or issuing licences, permits or authorizations for the assessments of large, proposed projects.

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2. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the Project?

Specify as appropriate.

ISC has specialized knowledge pertaining to Indigenous peoples including information on and knowledge of Indigenous matters on Federal lands. ISC has a mandate to support Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) in their efforts to improve social well-being and economic prosperity; to develop healthier, more sustainable communities; and to participate more fully in Canada's political, social, and economic development.

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3. Has your department or agency considered the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

Specify as appropriate.

ISC has considered an interest in the Project related to impacts on Indigenous peoples and the rights of Indigenous peoples. ISC has not exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part.

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4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the Project? (for example, enquiry about methodology, guidance, or data; introduction to the project)

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

Nil

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5. Does your department or agency have additional information or knowledge not specified, above?

Specify as appropriate.

Nil

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6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, what are the issues that should be addressed in the impact assessment of the Project, should the Agency determine that an impact assessment is required?

For each issue discussed, provide a concise, plain-language summary that is appropriate for inclusion in the Summary of Issues and Engagement.

Spanish Mountain Gold Ltd. is proposing the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Spanish Mountain Gold Project, an open-pit gold mine located in the Cariboo region of central British Columbia, approximately 70 kilometres northeast of Williams Lake. The project would produce up to 20,000 tonnes of ore per day and operate for 14 years. The project would include an open mine pit, waste rock storage facilities, a rock processing plant, an overland conveyor, water treatment facilities, and an electrical transmission line.

Currently, ISC does not have enough information to make determinations as to whether or not the Project may pose adverse direct or incidental effects as described in Section 2 of IAA 2019. However, any proposed changes from the Project activities will interfere with land use/access, loss of traditional lands and ability to hunt, fish gather and/or trap as well as the ability for Indigenous People to practice their culture.

The potential impacts of the proposed Project should be considered over an extended period of time (80-100 years) and with particular attention paid to anticipated impacts of advancing climate change on food security and traditional activities of Indigenous peoples potentially affected by the proposed mine. Common concerns surrounding impacts to Indigenous communities may potentially be centred around:

- loss of food security (traditional foods);
- loss of lands with native habitats and associated wildlife;
- impacts to soils, waters, and fish habitat;
- loss of habitat for migratory birds;
- localized climatic changes due to potential emissions during construction, operation, and decommissioning
- social well-being and economic prosperity;
- impacts to sacred sites and other cultural and heritage-sensitive areas; and
- cumulative effects due to significant oil, gas, forestry, and mining development activities over the past several decades.

ISC does not have any thorough legislative or regulatory mechanisms that could manage the potential adverse/incidental effects of the Project. ISC would not issue any licence, permit, authorization, or approval for this project.

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Indigenous Services Canada  
Name of Departmental / Agency Responder

Anik Guertin - Manager  
Title of Responder

April 26, 2022  
Date