



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

September 7, 2022

Jennifer Dallaire  
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

<email address removed>

c/o [pnr-rpn@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:pnr-rpn@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

**Subject: Natural Resources Canada's Submission in Response to the Designation Request for the Patterson Lake South Mine Project**

---

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) requested that Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) provide information in response to the Designation Request for the Patterson Lake South Mine Project (the Project), located 155 kilometres north of La Loche, Saskatchewan.

NRCan is responding to this Designation Request pursuant to subsection 13(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*. Details of NRCan's response can be found in the attached FAAR form.

If you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at <email address removed>  
phone at <contact information removed> .

or by

Thank you,

Rajpreet Bhatti  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Office of the Chief Scientist

Attachment:  
Federal Authority Advice Record: Designation Request under IAA

ATTACHMENT August 17, 2022

**Federal Authority Advice Record: Designation Request under IAA**

Response due by **September 7, 2022**

Patterson Lake South Mine Project

Department/Agency	Natural Resources Canada
Lead Contact	Rajpreet Bhatti
Full Address	588 Booth Street, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0E4
Email	<contact information removed>
Telephone	
Alternate Departmental Contact	

---

1. Has your department or agency considered whether it has an interest in 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 (including provision of financial assistance) that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

NRCan does not have an interest in the Project, nor has it taken any course of action (e.g., regulatory decision, funding, etc.) to enable the Project to proceed in whole or in part.

---

2. 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?

NRCan will exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project pursuant to the Department's role in administering the *Explosives Act* for the storage and safety of explosives.

---

3. If your department or agency will exercise a power or perform a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project, will it involve public and Indigenous consultation?

Due to the highly regulated nature of explosives-related activities, NRCan typically does not consult with the public or Indigenous groups with respect to such regulatory processes. However, if concerns were raised during the impact assessment process, NRCan would consult with the public or Indigenous groups as needed, but there is limited ability to accommodate in the conditions of an *Explosives Act* license or permit.

---

4. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to any potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction caused by the Project or adverse direct or incidental effects stemming from the Project?

NRCan is in possession of the following technical expertise that may be relevant to the assessment of potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction resulting from the Project:

- Hydrogeology (i.e., groundwater quantity)
- Forestry (e.g., forest and aquatic biodiversity, forest vegetation, soil, forest hydrology, species at risk habitat, and cumulative effects)

NRCan notes that there are areas of departmental expertise which overlap with those possessed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and thus will provide advice and support upon request by the CNSC pursuant to Section 23 of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

NRCan may further refine its expertise as more information becomes available related to the Project.

---

5. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other parties in relation to the Project?

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

NRCan has not identified any previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other parties in relation to the Project.

---

6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, does the Project have the potential to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects as described in section 2 of IAA? Could any of those effects be managed through legislative or regulatory mechanisms administered by your department or agency? If a licence, permit, authorization or approval may be issued, could it include conditions in relation to those effects?

From the perspective of the legislative mandate of the Department, NRCan is unaware of any potential Project-related adverse effects within federal jurisdiction. Through its various research programs, NRCan is able to provide scientific expertise and advice to other Federal Authorities, as needed, to support their assessment of potential effects within federal jurisdiction (e.g., Department of Fisheries & Oceans and impacts to fish and fish habitat, and Environment & Climate Change Canada and impacts to Species at Risk).

---

7. Does your department or agency have a program or additional authority that may be relevant and could be considered as a potential solution to concerns expressed about the Project? In particular, the following issues have been raised by the requestor. The Project:

- is located in an environmentally sensitive area including within the territory of the Boreal Shield Woodland Caribou;
- is anticipated to adversely impact areas within federal jurisdiction, including Indigenous peoples and lands, species at risk, fish and fish habitats;
- is anticipated to significantly and adversely impact the ability for Métis people to exercise their rights and may compromise the integrity of their Land Claim;
- presents a risk to the human and socio-economic health of Métis and other Indigenous peoples, both in and around the Project location, and through the transportation corridor which passes through a number of majority-Métis communities;
- will contribute to the cumulative impacts of other developments in an around Patterson Lake, an area of cultural significance to Metis Nation of Saskatchewan; and
- will create adverse impacts that will not be adequately or fully addressed through the provincial environmental assessment process.

If yes, please specify the program or authority.

N/A

---

8. Does your department or agency have information about the interests of Indigenous groups in the vicinity of the Project; the exercise of their rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; and/or any consultation and accommodation undertaken, underway, or anticipated to address adverse impacts to the section 35 rights of the Indigenous groups?

If yes, please specify.

N/A

---

9. If your department has guidance material that would be helpful to the proponent or the Agency, please include these as attachments or hyperlinks in your response.

N/A

---

Rajpreet Bhatti

Name of departmental / agency responder

Senior Impact Assessment Officer

Title of responder

September 7, 2022

Date