

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	Indigenous Services Canada
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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?

FNIHB is not responsible for approving or issuing licences, permits or authorizations for the assessments of large proposed projects.

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?

No. FNIHB will not be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project

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?

FNIHB will not be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the project.

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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?

FNIHB has specialized knowledge pertaining to First Nations people. Areas of expertise include but are not limited to: the provision of health services, community health and wellness programs, drinking water quality on First Nation Reserves, and social determinants of health, such as mental health and addictions, language, diet, or chemical contamination of traditional foods and the perception of contamination

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

FNIHB has not had 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?

FNIHB does not have sufficient information to determine whether the project will cause adverse effects or the extent of potential adverse effects. FNIHB is not responsible for approving or issuing licences, permits or authorizations for the assessments of large proposed projects.

Nevertheless, FNIHB/ISC would like to stress that in the context of this project consideration should be given to:

- effects on Indigenous peoples and their culture, Treaty rights, and Traditional and current land uses
 - changes in the health, socio-economic conditions and community well-being due to reduced access to land (traditional activities), resources, and sites of spiritual and cultural importance displacement of wildlife/wildlife relocation
 - reduced access to traditional foods, and
 - potential changes to quality in soils, water (surface and groundwater), and fish habitat (changes to water environment for fish)
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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.

There are several FNIHB programs that may be relevant and could be considered as a means of assisting First Nations people in further investigating and scoping out their concerns about the Project relating to: *changes to the environment that could affect the Indigenous peoples of Canada; and "changes occurring to the health, social, or economic conditions of the First Nations People of Canada"* are:

- a. First Nations Baseline Assessment on the State of Health and the Environment – this program supports First Nation communities that are interested in assessing the baseline health and environment status of their community prior to the implementation of planned

large-scale industrial projects on their traditional territories, and when such projects may have potential impacts on the community.

- b. The First Nations Environmental Contaminants program – this program supports community-based research in First Nations communities that are interested to improve their health and wellbeing by supporting their capacity to identify, investigate and characterize the exposure to environmental hazards on their health and environment through community-based research, monitoring, risk assessment and risk communication.

- c. The Climate Change Health and Adaptation Program supports community-based research and action oriented projects, to help southern First Nation communities minimize risks and adapt to the impacts of climate change on human health.

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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?

No.

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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.

ISC-FNIHB

Name of departmental / agency responder

Snr. Policy Analyst
Title of responder

August 30, 2022
Date