

## Comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan for the Great Bear Gold Project

Submitted by Catherine Doucet

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Overall, the Draft Public Participation Plan is very precise on presenting timelines and explaining what the process involves. Also, all the ways that interested parties may become involved. This allows for anyone impacted by the project to engage at all of the stages of the Impact Assessment process. It allows for being informed and clearly delineating how to participate. This should always be done as early on as is possible to provide an opportunity for the public to be engaged. They will then be included in considering the many and varied impacts that are associated with the project.

Public participation tools - Page 5

The tools provided for the public appear quite comprehensive. There are multiple entry points for potential commenters to be engaged in the process, encapsulating all ways that the public nowadays accesses services.

In The Draft Public Participation Plan - Identification of participants on page 4, it is not clear how the Public Participation Plan distribution list is constructed. The highlighted text on page 4 of the 12 page document needs clarity.

*Public Participation Plan distribution list*

*Communities and organizations included in the Public Participation Plan distribution list (Appendix 1 of the Public Participation Plan) were identified by the Agency as potentially having an interest in this impact assessment. **The list was informed by previous participants in the Planning Phase for the Project; participants identified in documents provided by the proponent; and participants identified by the Agency in proximity to the project with potential interest or knowledge relevant to the impact assessment.** Participants on the distribution list will receive updates and notices about the Project's impact assessment as the process unfolds.*

*Participants on the distribution list will receive updates and notices about the Project's impact assessment as the process unfolds. If you want to be added or removed from the Public Participation Plan distribution list, please advise the Agency at [GreatBear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:GreatBear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca). Individual names will not be published but will be captured as "general public" in the Public Participation Plan distribution list in Appendix 1. If your community or organization is not included in the Public Participation Plan distribution list in Appendix 1, and does not request to be included, you will no longer receive these email notifications.*

*Please consult the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for a list of the Indigenous communities that are identified for engagement as part of the impact assessment of the Project.*

The Public Participation Plan distribution list is a good component of the Plan. However, there should be more clarity and detail on how the Agency constructs the *Public Participation Plan distribution list*.

How did the Agency identify those Communities and organizations? Was there or will there be an opt in/opt out section at the point when interested parties are submitting their comments?

In Appendix 1 of this document, there does not appear to be a “general public” notation which would capture individual names, as was mentioned on page 4 of the Plan. Were there no individuals in earlier planning stages who submitted comments? I understand the Public Participation Plan distribution list can be fluid as the stages of the assessment unfold.