

FOR COMMENT

Comprehensive Study Scope of Assessment

Pursuant to Section 21(1) of the
Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

For the proposed

KSM (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell) Project

in

Northwestern British Columbia

Proposed by

Seabridge Gold Incorporated

Prepared by

the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Environment Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Natural Resources Canada

Transport Canada

Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry Reference Number 09-03-49262

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1. PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed scope of the federal environmental assessment for the proposed KSM (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell) project, a copper-gold mine in northwestern British Columbia. The document is used to solicit the comments of Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and the public on the proposed scope.

Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada, as responsible authorities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* ("the Act"), are required to ensure that an environmental assessment is conducted in relation to the proposed KSM Project ("the proposed project"). Since two components (see Section 3) of the proposed project exceed a threshold described in the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* of the Act, the responsible authorities have determined that the proposed project will be reviewed by means of a comprehensive study.

Under subsection 21(1) of the Act, where a project is described in the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations*, responsible authorities must seek the views of the public on:

- the proposed scope of the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment;
- the factors proposed to be considered in the assessment;
- the proposed scope of those factors; and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

After receiving and considering comments from Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and the public, the responsible authorities will report to the Minister of the Environment, who will decide whether the comprehensive study should continue, or whether to refer the proposed project to a mediator or a review panel.

The following sections of the document provide a summary of the project as proposed by Seabridge Gold Incorporated ("the proponent"), a description of the federal environmental assessment process, an explanation of the proposed scope of the environmental assessment and details on the public consultation process.

2. SUMMARY OF PROJECT AS PROPOSED BY THE PROPONENT

Seabridge Gold Incorporated proposes to develop a copper, gold and silver deposit located approximately 65 kilometers northwest of Stewart, British Columbia (Figure 1). The proposed project is known as the KSM (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell) Project, and is also referred to as the KSM Project. The proposed project would process up to

120,000 tonnes per day of ore over a mine life of up to 30 years. The complete project description for the proposed project is available at the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office's Project Information Centre (e-PIC) at:

http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_doc_index_322.html. A video presentation on the proposed project can be found on the proponent's website at: www.seabridgegold.net.



Figure 1: Proposed KSM (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell) Project Location.

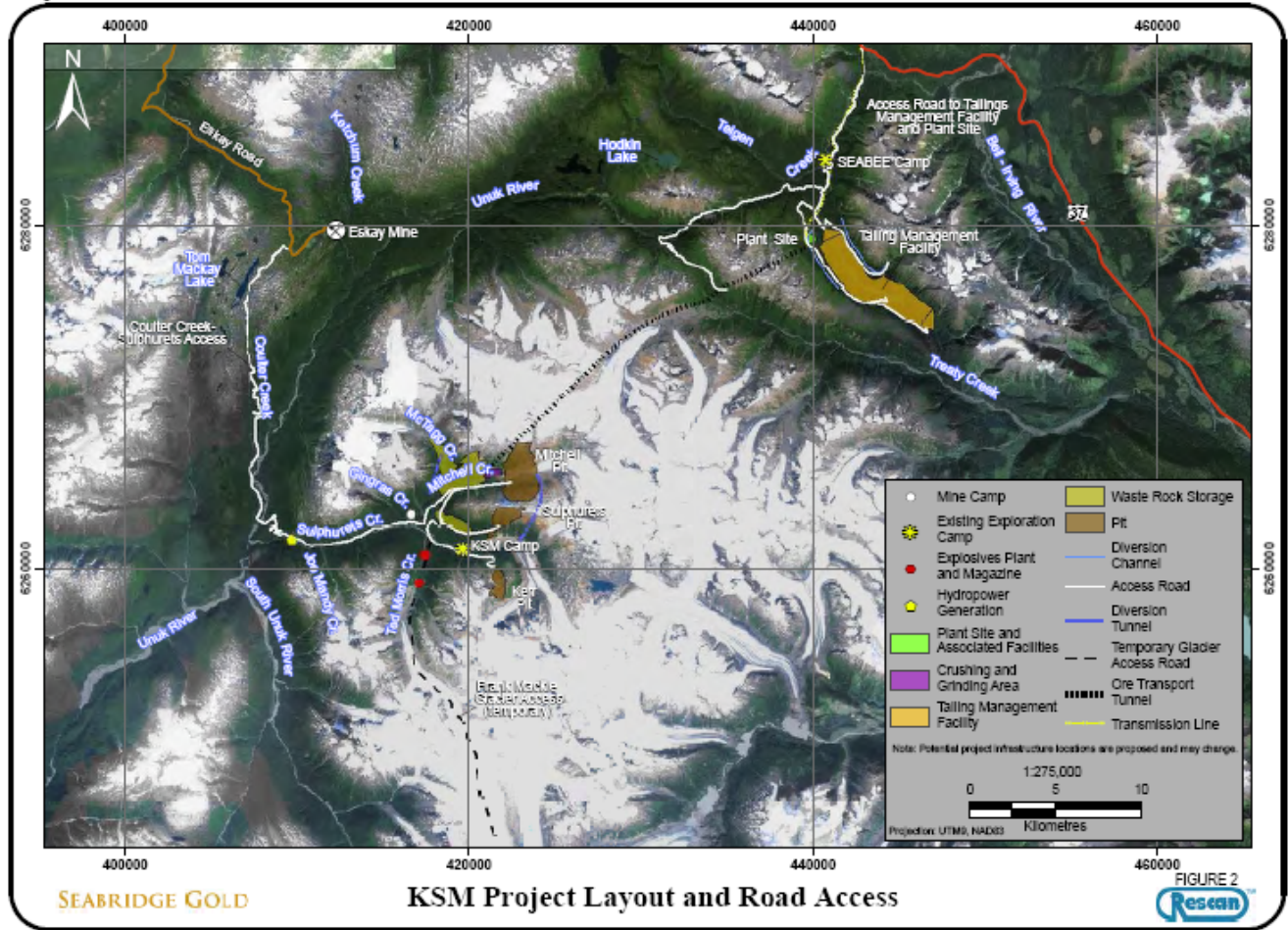


Figure 2: Proposed KSM (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell) Project Layout

3. REQUIREMENT FOR A FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Under section 5 of the Act, a federal environmental assessment is required when, in respect of a project, a federal authority:

- is the proponent;
- makes or authorizes payment or any other form of financial assistance to a proponent;
- sells, leases or otherwise disposes of land;
- issues a permit, or licence or other form of approval pursuant to a statutory or regulatory provision identified in the *Law List Regulations* of the Act; or
- may recommend that the Governor In Council take an action (i.e., issue a permit or licence, grant an approval or take another other action) for the purpose of enabling the project to be carried out in whole or in part.

A federal authority that proposes to undertake one of the above actions is required to ensure that an environmental assessment is conducted, and is referred to as a responsible authority.

A federal environmental assessment is required in relation to the proposed KSM Project because Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada have determined that certain components of the proposed project are likely to require a permit, authorization, licence or approval in accordance with section 5 of the Act. Specifically:

- Environment Canada may issue a license pursuant to section 4 of the *International River Improvements Act*;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada may issue an authorization pursuant to subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada may recommend to the Governor in Council, pursuant to section 36(5) of the *Fisheries Act*, to amend Schedule 2 of the *Metal Mining Effluent Regulations* to list the headwaters of Teigen and Treaty Creeks as a proposed tailings impoundment area;
- Natural Resources Canada may issue a license under paragraph 7(1)(a) of the *Explosives Act*; and
- Transport Canada may issue approvals under section 5(3) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.

As a result, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada are responsible authorities with respect to the proposed

project and are required to ensure that an environmental assessment is completed pursuant to the Act.

Health Canada is a federal authority under subsection 12(3) of the Act and will provide specialist or expert advice related to human health in support of the environmental assessment process.

The responsible authorities have determined that two components of the proposed project are described in the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* of the Act, as follows:

Section 9. The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of a structure for the diversion of 10 000 000 m³/a or more of water from a natural water body into another natural water body or an expansion of such a structure that would result in an increase in diversion capacity of more than 35 per cent.

16. *The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of*
(b) a metal mill with an ore input capacity of 4 000 t/d or more
(c) a gold mine, other than a placer mine, with an ore production capacity of 600 t/d or more.

Consequently, the responsible authorities have determined that the environmental assessment of the proposed project will be conducted by means of a comprehensive study. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) will serve as the federal environmental assessment coordinator under the Act for the comprehensive study.

In accordance with the Cabinet Directive on Improving the Performance of the Regulatory System for Major Resource Projects, the proposed project has been identified as a major natural resource project. The environmental assessment will therefore be tracked and monitored by the Major Projects Management Office (MPMO). Additional information on the MPMO is available at: <http://www.mpmo-bggp.gc.ca/index-eng.php>.

The proposed project is partly located within the Nass Area as defined in the Nisga'a Final Agreement and, accordingly, the environmental assessment will be carried out in a manner consistent with the Nisga'a Final Agreement (NFA).

4. JOINT CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The proposed project requires an Environmental Assessment Certificate pursuant to the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* because it is designed to extract mineral resources at a rate greater than 75 000 tonnes per year. The federal and provincial environmental assessments will be conducted in accordance with the terms of the *Canada-BC Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (2004)*. Under this Agreement, projects that require an environmental assessment by both the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia undergo a single, cooperative assessment, where possible, to meet the environmental assessment requirements of both levels of government. Each government will make project-related decisions on matters within its own legislative authority.

The CEA Agency, in its role as federal environmental assessment coordinator, will facilitate the coordination of the federal environmental assessment process in cooperation with the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO). The CEA Agency is seeking public comment on this Scoping Document. Additionally, BC EAO holds a public consultation period on its draft Application Information Requirements document.

5. OVERVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

As stated in section 1 of this report, the purpose of this scoping document is to provide information to Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and the public on the federal environmental assessment process, and to seek comments on the assessment to be conducted in relation to the proposed project. Specifically, this document provides an opportunity for Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and the public to comment, in accordance with subsection 21(1) of the Act, on the following:

- the proposed scope of the proposed project for the purposes of the environmental assessment;
- the factors proposed to be considered in the assessment;
- the proposed scope of those factors; and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the proposed project.

Following the comment period on the scoping document, and after considering the comments received, the responsible authorities will provide a report to the federal Minister of Environment with a recommendation on whether to continue the

environmental assessment by means of a comprehensive study or whether to refer the proposed project to a mediator or a review panel.

The Minister must then decide whether to refer the proposed project back to the responsible authorities to continue with the comprehensive study, or to refer it to a mediator or review panel. If the Minister decides that the environmental assessment should continue as a comprehensive study, the proposed project cannot be referred to a mediator or a review panel at a later date. If the Minister refers the proposed project to a mediator or review panel, the project will no longer be subject to a comprehensive study under the Act. Further information on the types of environmental assessments provided for under the Act can be found at: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca>.

If the environmental assessment continues as a comprehensive study, a Comprehensive Study Report will be prepared. The responsible authorities will ensure there are opportunities for Aboriginal groups, Nisga'a Nation and public participation during the conduct of the comprehensive study. Following its completion, the responsible authorities will submit the Comprehensive Study Report to the Minister and to the CEA Agency.

The CEA Agency will invite Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and the public to comment on the Comprehensive Study Report prior to the Minister making a decision related to the proposed project. The Minister may request additional information or require that concerns be further addressed before issuing the environmental assessment decision statement. This decision statement sets out the Minister's opinion as to whether, after considering comments received and taking into account the implementation of any mitigation measures and follow-up program that the Minister considers appropriate, the proposed project is or is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Once the Minister has issued the environmental assessment decision statement, the proposed project will be referred back to the responsible authorities to take course of action decisions.

Whether the environmental assessment proceeds by means of a comprehensive study or is referred to a mediator or review panel, the CEA Agency will award participant funding to Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and members of the public to facilitate their participation in the environmental assessment (see section 8.2 of this report for more detail).

6. PROPOSED SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Scoping establishes the boundaries of the environmental assessment in order to focus the assessment on relevant issues and concerns. The scope identifies which elements of the proposed project will be included in the environmental assessment and which environmental components are likely to be affected. The scope of the assessment includes the scope of the proposed project (i.e., the physical works and activities considered in the assessment), the factors to be considered, and the scope of those factors. Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and the public are invited to comment on this section of the document.

6.1 Proposed Scope of the Project

The responsible authorities propose the following scope of project for the environmental assessment in relation to the proposed project. The proposed scope is based on the project description as provided by Seabridge Gold Inc.. The components and activities in the proposed scope associated with the construction, operation, maintenance, decommissioning and reclamation of these components include:

- open pit mine production of 120,000 tonnes per day of ore from three or more open pits in the Sulphurets and Mitchell creek drainages, over a mine life of up to 30 years;
- mine haul roads and access roads within the mineral property;
- a crushing and grinding facility near the Mitchell pit to reduce the size of ore for pumping to the plant;
- a 23 km tunnel, or pair of parallel tunnels, for a pair of pipelines between the open pit mine area and the plant site, and a return water pipeline;
- processing of 120,000 tonnes of ore with two mill circuits at a processing plant located in the watershed of a north-flowing tributary of Teigen Creek;
- tailings slurry and return water pipelines between the plant site and the tailings management facility;
- tailings management facility (tailings impoundment area), including containment dams, in the headwaters of Teigen and Treaty creeks;
- a tunnel or other diversion structure to conduct the discharge from the Mitchell Glacier away from the proposed Mitchell open pit;
- site runoff, tunnel drainage channels, water diversion and sediment controls;
- temporary ore stockpiles at the open pit operations;
- storage areas for potentially acid generating (PAG) and non potentially acid generating (NPAG) waste rock and resulting drainage from waste rock storage areas;

- a barrier dam, reservoir and water treatment plant on Mitchell Creek, downgradient from the PAG waste rock storage sites in the Mitchell and McTagg valleys and any other water collection, storage and treatment facilities;
- a tunnel or other diversion structure to conduct the flow of McTagg Creek away from the waste rock storage facility in the valleys of Mitchell and McTagg creeks;
- any other works on the river or tributary that would contribute to a change in water flow or level in the Unuk River at the border between the United States and Canada;
- quarries and borrow pits for construction materials;
- overburden and topsoil storage;
- explosives manufacturing plants and storage facilities;
- access roads, including:
 - from the Eskay Creek mine road across the Unuk River valley and along Sulphurets Creek valley to the mine sites;
 - from Highway 37, along Teigen Creek valley to the plant site; and from the plant site area to the tunnel portals in the vicinity of the pass between the Treaty Creek and Unuk River drainages; and
 - potential temporary construction access route over Frank Mackie Glacier from the Granduc mine road;
- construction camp facilities and associated works;
- operations camp facilities at both the mine site and plant site including administration facilities, maintenance facilities, and fuel and other materials storage;
- domestic sewage treatment and disposal;
- one or more run-of-river hydroelectric generating plants located in the lower reaches of Sulphurets Creek;
- hydroelectric generating plants on the outfalls from the Mitchell and McTagg creeks diversion tunnels;
- a pipeline to transport diesel fuel through the tunnel from the plant site to the mine site;
- diesel storage facilities at both the plant site and open pit operations;
- a transmission line from Highway 37 along Teigen Creek valley to the plant site and then continuing via the ore transport tunnel to the mine site, with related substations, temporary and permanent access roads, stream crossings and activities associated with constructing and maintaining these facilities;
- ore concentrate storage facility and truck load-out at the plant site and trucking along Highway 37 to the deep sea port at Stewart for offshore shipment;

- transportation of ore processing reagents and other hazardous chemicals to the plant site, and of explosives to the mine, along the access roads;
- construction of any habitat compensation required for the proposed project and associated access; and
- any ancillary works or activities associated with the proposed project.

The responsible authorities' need to contemplate the issuance of the federal permits, authorizations, licences or approvals described in section 3 of this report that arise from the following components of the proposed project:

- a barrier dam and reservoir on Mitchell Creek and any other works that may affect flows or levels of the Unuk River at the international border, and therefore may require a licence under section 4 of the *International River Improvements Act*;
- the tailings impoundment area (TIA) (tailings management facility) proposed in the headwater tributaries of Teigen and Treaty Creeks for the purpose of depositing mine tailings, that would require an amendment to Schedule 2 of the *Metal Mining Effluent Regulations*, pursuant to section 36(5) (a)-(e) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- the TIA containment dams, the loss of habitat downstream from flow reductions, and associated structures for water diversion that would require authorization under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- the deposition of tailings in the tailings impoundment;
- watercourse crossings for the proposed access roads and transmission lines that require authorization under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* including potential crossings of the Unuk River, Coulter Creek, Teigen Creek, Snowbank Creek and/or their tributaries;
- the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Sulphurets Creek hydroelectric facility and associated works or undertakings that require authorization under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- any works or undertakings associated with compensatory fish habitat that require authorization under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- two explosives factories and magazine facilities to be located near Ted Morris Creek that require a licence under paragraph 7(1)(a) of the *Explosives Act*;
- watercourse crossings for the proposed access roads requiring approvals under subsection 5(3) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, including but not limited to potential crossings of the Unuk River and Teigen Creek; and
- ancillary components and infrastructure related to the construction, operation, modification, decommissioning or abandonment of any of the above.

6.2 Proposed Factors to be Considered in the Environmental Assessment

The scope of assessment defines the factors to be considered in the environmental assessment and the scope of those factors. The responsible authorities are required to consider the factors specified in section 16 of the Act, taking into consideration the definitions of “environment”, “environmental effect” and “project”. Additional factors to be considered arising from the Nisga’a Final Agreement will be included in the environmental assessment and are discussed in Section 6.4.

The responsible authorities propose to consider the following factors in the environmental assessment, pursuant to section 16 of the Act:

- a) the environmental effects the proposed project. This includes the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the proposed project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the proposed project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out in the foreseeable future, including:
 - o consideration of the potential accidents, malfunctions and unplanned events that could occur in any phase of the proposed project, the likelihood and circumstances under which these events could occur, and the environmental effects that may result from such events, should contingency plans not be fully effective;
 - o an evaluation of potential cumulative environmental effects that will focus on the interaction between the residual environmental effects of the proposed project as scoped in section 6.1 and the environmental effects of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future projects or activities. Residual environmental effects are those adverse environmental effects that may remain after mitigation measures are applied. The cumulative effects assessment will include, but not necessarily be limited to: existing industrial projects; other proposed developments (including the proposed Northwest Transmission Line project), including other mines (including the proposed Kitsault Molybdenum Mine project); other land and resource use activities (forestry, hunting, trapping, fishing); and tourism and recreation activities;
- b) the significance of the environmental effects referred to in (a) above;
- c) comments from the public and the Nisga’a Nation that are received in accordance with the Act and its regulations. Comments will be considered by the responsible authorities and the Minister of Environment and a record of how comments have

been considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the environmental assessment, will be prepared;

- d) measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project, where mitigation means, the elimination, reduction or control of adverse environmental effects;
- e) the purpose of the proposed project, defined as what is to be achieved by carrying out the proposed project;
- f) alternative means of carrying out the proposed project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means. This will include alternatives for the disposal of waste rock and tailings as well as water management. A rationale for the preferred alternative will be included;
- g) the need for, and the requirements of, any follow-up program in respect of the proposed project. The purpose of a follow-up program is to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures;
- h) the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the proposed project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future; and

As a further clarification, an “environmental effect” as defined by the Act means, in respect of a project:

- a) any change that the project may cause in the environment, including any change it may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residences of individuals of that species, as those terms are defined in subsection 2(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*,
- b) any effect of any change referred to in paragraph (a) on
 - i) health and socio-economic conditions
 - ii) physical and cultural heritage
 - iii) the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons, or
 - iv) any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance; or
- c) any change to the project that may be caused by the environment whether any such change or effect occurs within or outside Canada. (This analysis will include consideration of natural hazards such as: extreme weather events (lightning, extreme precipitation, flooding, wind, avalanches and icing); natural seismic events; fire; slope stability; glacier retreat and or advancement and climate change.)

Under section 79 of the *Species at Risk Act*, the responsible authorities must identify adverse effects of the proposed project on listed species and their critical habitat or residences. The responsible authorities must also ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen adverse effects and that effects are monitored. Mitigation measures must be consistent with recovery strategies and action plans for the species.

6.3 Proposed Scope of Factors to be Considered Pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

The responsible authorities propose that the following scope of factors be considered through the environmental assessment. Selection of these factors is based on the anticipated potential for the works, undertakings and activities that are included in the proposed scope of the proposed project to cause adverse environmental effects.

Table 1. Scope of Factors

Environmental Component	Scope of Review
Physical Environment	Water quality Hydrology Hydrogeology Air quality Climate and meteorology Terrain, soils and geology Erosion and sedimentation
Biological Environment	Vegetation and plant communities Wetlands Wildlife and wildlife habitat Ecologically sensitive or significant areas, species of conservation concern, including species at risk and their habitats Aquatic environment (e.g. aquatic life, fish and fish habitat) Migratory birds and their habitats

Table 2. Scope of Factors continued

Environmental Component	Scope of Review
Human Environment (i.e. indirect effects resulting from a direct change in the environment)	Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal persons Navigable waters Fisheries Human health (e.g. noise, drinking water quality, country foods) Physical and cultural heritage Structures/sites of archaeological significance

For further detail on the types of studies to be included in the proponent's environmental assessment application, please refer to the project draft Application Information Requirements (dAIR):

http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_doc_index_322.html

Spatial and Temporal Boundaries

The spatial boundary will be determined specific to each factor in order to effectively assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. Spatial boundaries are based on the zone of the proposed project's influence beyond which the effects of the proposed project are expected to be non-detectable. Multiple study area boundaries are to be employed to reflect the range of geographic areas and seasonal/annual fluctuations within which specific effects may be experienced.

The temporal boundaries will encompass the entire lifespan of the proposed project. The environmental assessment will include a description of the effects of the proposed project on each factor beginning with the construction phase, continuing through the operations phase (including any maintenance and/or modifications) and concluding with the completion of decommissioning and reclamation.

Pursuant to the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the environmental assessment will consider the effects of the proposed project on current and future economic, social and cultural well-being of Nisga'a citizens who may be affected by the proposed project.

6.4 Proposed Scope of Factors to be Considered Pursuant to the Nisga’a Final Agreement

The proposed project is partly located within the Nass Area as defined in the Nisga’a Final Agreement and may have the potential to cause adverse environmental effects on Nisga’a Lands, residents of Nisga’a Lands or Nisga’a interests as defined in the Nisga’a Final Agreement¹. As a result, in accordance with requirements contained in Chapter 10 of the NFA, the responsible authorities propose that the following additional scope of factors be considered in the environmental assessment.

Table 3. Additional Scope of Factors Pursuant to NFA

Nisga’a Nation Components	Scope of Review
Physical and Biological Environment	whether the proposed project can reasonably be expected to have adverse environmental effects on residents of Nisga’a Lands, Nisga’a Lands, or Nisga’a interests as set out in the Agreement.
Human Environment	the effects of the proposed project on the existing and future economic, social and cultural well-being of Nisga’a citizens who may be affected by the project.

7. ABILITY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The environmental assessment of the proposed project may continue as a comprehensive study or be referred to a mediator or review panel. As summarized in section 5 of this report, this decision rests with the Minister of Environment after consideration of comments received during the comment period on the proposed scope. The scope of project, factors to be considered and the scope of those factors lay out what must be considered, at a minimum, in the conduct of the comprehensive study. Aboriginal groups, the Nisga’a Nation and the public are invited to comment on the

¹ The Nisga’a Final Agreement (NFA) is a treaty and land claims agreement within the meaning of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* between the Nisga’a Nation, Her Majesty the Queen in right of British Columbia and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada. The NFA came into effect on May 11, 2000 following the passing of the *Nisga’a Final Agreement Act*. A copy of the NFA is available at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/al/ldc/ccl/fagr/nsga/nis/nis-eng.asp.

ability of the comprehensive study to address the issues relating to the proposed project, as scoped in this document.

8. ABORIGINAL GROUP, NISGA'A NATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

8.1 Consultation on the Scoping Document

At this stage of the environmental assessment, Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and the public are invited to comment on the following:

- the proposed scope of the proposed project for the purposes of the environmental assessment (section 6.1);
- the factors proposed to be considered in the assessment (section 6.2);
- the proposed scope of those factors (section 6.3 and section 6.4); and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the proposed project (section 7).

Persons wishing to submit comments may do so in writing to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Comments must be received by close of business, June 30, 2010. Comments should be sent to:

Project Manager – KSM Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
320 – 757 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 1A1
Fax: 604-666-6990
Email: KSM.Project@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Please be as detailed as possible and clearly reference the **KSM (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell) Project** and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry file number **09-03-49262** on your submission. Please note that all comments received are considered public and will become part of the public registry.

8.2 Participant Funding

The Government of Canada, through the CEA Agency, will provide participant funding to successful applicants to assist Aboriginal groups, the Nisga'a Nation and members of the public (either as groups or individuals) to take part in the environmental assessment, whether it proceeds by means of a comprehensive study or is referred to a mediator or review panel. Information on the participant funding program, including the Participant Funding Program Guide, the application form and a sample contribution agreement are available at: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

To receive funding, successful applicants must participate in the environmental assessment by reviewing and commenting on documents, preparing technical analyses, attending meetings or contributing by other means to the environmental assessment of the proposed project.

Notices regarding the availability of participant funding will be posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry internet site at: www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/index-eng.cfm under reference number **09-03-49262**.

8.3 Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry

Pursuant to section 55 of the Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR) has been established to provide notice of the environmental assessment and to facilitate public access to records related to the environmental assessment. The CEAR consists of a project file and an internet site. The internet component of the CEAR can be accessed at: www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/index-eng.cfm under reference number **09-03-49262**.