

# **RENARD DIAMOND MINE PROJECT**

*CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT*  
**SCOPE OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**(UPDATE)**

**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY**

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**Canada** 

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## Proposed Scope of the Federal Environmental Assessment

Under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

Renard Diamond Mine Project

CEAR No.: 10-01-55169

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### **1 PURPOSE**

Stornoway Diamonds Inc. (the proponent) wants to develop a diamond mine on the Foxtrot property on Category III land within the territory covered by section 22 of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (JBNQA). According to the latest mineral resource estimates, the mine life could be 25 years, with a good possibility of extending the extraction period of this resource.

This document is an update of the scope of the federal environmental assessment released in August 2010 following the submission of an amendment to the initial notice of intent by the proponent. In light of the proponent's proposed amendments, it was determined that the environmental assessment provided for under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) would change from a screening to a comprehensive study. The purpose of this document is therefore to provide the proponent with the necessary information to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Renard Diamond Mine Project, which will be assessed through a comprehensive study process in accordance with the Act.

This document presents the scope of this assessment, as well as the nature, scope, and extent of the information required. The proponent will prepare and submit an EIS that defines the project's potential adverse environmental effects, including cumulative effects, suggests technically and economically feasible measures for mitigating these effects, and indicates whether the proposed project will have significant adverse environmental effects.

While this scoping document provides a framework for the preparation of a complete EIS, it is the responsibility of the proponent to supply sufficient data and analyses on all of the project's potential environmental effects to allow the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency), which is acting as the responsible authority, expert and regulatory departments, Aboriginal groups, and the public to conduct an adequate assessment. The scoping document describes the minimum information requirements, but gives the proponent the flexibility to choose the most appropriate methods for compiling and analyzing data for the EIS.

The federal environmental assessment process includes three opportunities for the public and Aboriginal communities to participate by submitting comments and feedback regarding the project and the environmental assessment. The first participation opportunity invites the public and Aboriginal persons to submit comments on the project and on the conduct of the comprehensive study. This scoping document and the proponent's notice of intent are the primary documents submitted for the purposes of this consultation.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Description of the proposed project

The Renard Diamond Mine Project is located in the James Bay area, approximately 70 kilometres north of the Otish Mountains. The project coordinates are 72°11' west longitude and 52°49' north latitude. It is located approximately 150 kilometres southeast of the Hydro-Québec LG-4 hydroelectric complex and approximately 200 kilometres northeast of Lake Mistassini (Figure 1, Appendix A). The site lies near the head of the Eastmain River watershed, more than 275 kilometres upstream of the Eastmain-1 reservoir.

The closest infrastructure is located at Témiscamie, which lies approximately 210 kilometres south at Lake Albanel and is connected to the Cree community of Mistassini by Route 167. The town of Chibougamau, 360 kilometres south of the site, is the main supply centre for local natural resource industries.

The project proposed by the proponent involves the development of the mine and local infrastructure, such as open pits, vertical shafts, inclined adits, a mill, a processed kimberlite (tailings) containment area, a housing complex, a secondary road on the site, an airstrip, an explosives storage facility, a pumping plant and associated facilities.

Given the nature of the diamond deposit, the proponent plans to use two kimberlite extraction methods: open-pit mining and underground mining. For the open-pit mining, the technique would essentially consist of blasting and shovelling the ore. These open pits could be up to some 130 metres deep. For the underground mining, a vertical shaft or adit would first be built underground. The ore could then be extracted using various techniques, depending on the size and shape of the kimberlite pipes and the properties of the rock. The anticipated extraction rate from this operation is between 5000 and 7000 tonnes per day.

The development of the diamond resources can be divided into three steps: extraction, processing and sorting. All three steps will be carried out at the Renard diamond mine. The ore processing would be done by means of mechanical crushing, followed by gravity separation. The separation process would generate fine (-0.25 millimetres) and coarse (+0.25 millimetres) fractions of processed kimberlite (PK), which would be stored in PK (tailings) containment areas. Subsequent steps would be carried out to extract all of the fine fractions. No chemicals are needed for the processing. Final sorting would be done using X-ray and grease technology to separate the diamonds from the other materials.

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Four main underground pumping stations would be installed around the mine. Pump sizes would range from 40 to 100 horsepower, with capacities from 94 metres of head to 351 metres of dynamic head at a pumping rate of 0.75 cubic metres per minute. The proponent anticipates that the average flow rate from the mine would be approximately 20 cubic metres per hour.

The mine water would be pumped to the settling pond. The mine water discharge rate would be 200 000 cubic metres per year or more. Open pit dewatering would take place during the pre-production and post-production periods.

### **2.2 Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act**

The Act applies to projects for which the federal government holds decision-making authority pursuant to section 5 of the Act, whether as proponent, land administrator, source of funding, or regulator.

In connection with this project, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) plan to exercise the following duties:

- Issue an authorization under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* (FA)
- Issue a licence under paragraph 7(1)(a) of the *Explosives Act*

These regulatory duties trigger the federal environmental assessment process.

According to information received from the proponent, the following aspects of the proposed project will result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat and will require authorization under the FA:

- Drainage of lake F3302 (approximately 4 hectares) and its outlet, as well as drainage of a tributary of lake F2607 (unnamed stream), caused by the operation of open pits R-2 and R-3
- Drainage of lake F3303 (approximately 1.15 ha, containing brook trout habitats) and its outlet (stream F3303V), as well as drainage of a segment of the tributary of Lac Lagopède (stream F3298V), caused by the operation of pit R-65
- Potential encroachment on the bed of Lac Lagopède and Lac Poisson (F2606), which are fish-bearing lakes, caused by the installation of water intakes for the mine

Mixer trucks will be used to prepare the blasting agents. This type of equipment is considered an explosives factory under the *Explosives Act*, and the related activities must receive approval under subsection 7(1) of the Act.

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Furthermore, approval under subsections 5(1) and (2) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWP) is required for the following components:

- Encroachment by pits R-2 and R-3 on lake F3302
- Water intake at lake F2606
- Outfall to Lac Lagopède

The review of the impact assessment by the proponent may reveal additional components that are subject to other approvals or authorizations under the FA, NWP, or *Explosives Act*.

### 2.3 Comprehensive study process<sup>1</sup>

The submitted project will be subject to the comprehensive study process, because one of its components is covered by section 10 of the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations*, which reads as follows:

*The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of a facility for the extraction of 200 000 m<sup>3</sup>/a or more of ground water or an expansion of such a facility that would result in an increase in production capacity of more than 35 per cent.*

In accordance with section 11.01 of the Act, the Agency will perform the duties and functions of the responsible authority in relation to the environmental assessment of the Renard Diamond Mine Project. The Agency will work closely with the federal authorities to coordinate their participation in the environmental assessment process and facilitate communication and co-operation between them and the other participants for the purpose of preparing the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR).

To perform the analysis of the project, the Agency has established a federal environmental assessment committee (the federal committee) made up of representatives of DFO, Environment Canada, Transport Canada, NRCan, the Cree Regional Authority (CRA) and the Major Projects Management Office (MPMO). Other departments may be added if necessary.

The federal committee has established the scope<sup>1</sup> of the environmental assessment to guide the analysis of the proponent's impact assessment. The scope that will be considered is set out in Section 3 below. The proponent, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc., will present its impact assessment evaluating the environmental effects of the project to the Agency for review and comment. During this analysis, the Agency will offer the public a second opportunity for consultation. A CSR detailing the conclusions of the Agency and the federal committee on the environmental effects of the project will then be prepared. This report will be submitted to the

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 2 for diagrams of the comprehensive study and public consultation process.

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Minister of the Environment (the Minister) and will also be made available for public review and comment.

The Minister will review the CSR, the summary of the Aboriginal consultation, the assessment of the adequacy of the consultation, and public concerns. If the Minister is of the opinion that additional information or specific actions are needed to address the concerns of the public or Aboriginal groups, the Minister may require the Agency or proponent to ensure that additional information is gathered or that measures are taken to resolve those issues.

Once all necessary information has been provided, the concerns of the public have been addressed, and the Aboriginal consultation has been deemed sufficient for a decision, the Minister will issue an environmental assessment decision statement. This statement sets out the Minister's opinion as to whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account the implementation of the mitigation measures and follow-up program that the Minister considers appropriate.

Once the Minister has issued an environmental assessment decision statement, the project is referred back to the federal authorities for their respective decisions under section 37 of the Act. The federal authorities can then take appropriate regulatory actions, such as issuing permits, licences or approvals, depending on the outcome of the environmental assessment.

Since the project is also subject to the environmental and social impact statement and review procedure under the JBNQA, the Agency will facilitate exchange of the relevant information with the Provincial Review Committee (COMEX) in connection with the latter's assessment and review of the environmental and social impacts.

### **2.4 Major resource projects initiative**

The proposed project is considered a natural resources project, as defined by the federal government's Initiative for Improving the Performance of the Regulatory System for Major Resource Projects. This process includes the development of a project agreement between the interested federal departments to establish the roles and responsibilities and the timelines for the environmental assessment (EA) and regulatory processes. Once the project agreement has been signed by the relevant deputy ministers, the MPMO will provide follow-up and report on the progress of the EA and regulatory processes. The MPMO will work in collaboration with the Agency and responsible authorities throughout the federal regulatory process. For more information on the initiative and the MPMO process, the proponent is encouraged to consult the following site: <http://www.mpmo-bggp.gc.ca>.

## **2.5 Environmental assessment process under the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement***

The project is also subject to a provincial environmental and social impact assessment pursuant to section 22 of the JBNQA. Since the project is provincial in nature, the Provincial Administrator, following the recommendations of the Evaluating Committee (COMEV), issued a directive in June 2010 for the conduct of impact assessments by the proponent.

To enable the proponent to produce a single EIS, this scoping document is based largely on the directive of the Provincial Administrator, with the addition of federal requirements specific to the Act.

## **3 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The scope of the project includes the activities and works that will be considered in the federal environmental assessment. For the purposes of the application of the Act, the scope of the project encompasses all project components submitted by the proponent, which are described in section 2 above. It also includes any other facility, temporary structure, or activity directly related to the project (e.g. temporary access roads, clearing, cofferdams, filling, and revegetation).

The scope of the environmental assessment determines the project components that must be described and for which the environmental impacts will be analyzed, as well as the environmental components that must be taken into account and their scope.

### **3.1 Study area**

The study area includes all project components and the entire area within which their direct and indirect environmental effects will be felt. The project proponent must determine the areas of influence of each component covered in the analysis. The boundaries considered may vary depending on the components of the environment under study. The scope of the impacts may also vary depending on the type of environment and environmental components affected by the project. The proponent will clearly identify and justify the spatial boundaries determined for each component of the environment under study. A summary table indicating these boundaries and the rationale must be included in the impact assessment to facilitate the reader's understanding.



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### **3.2 Temporal boundaries**

The period covered by the environmental assessment includes, at a minimum, start-up, mine infrastructure installation, deposit development, project modifications, site decommissioning, and closure of the project, with a view to reviewing all short-, medium- and long-term impacts.

### **3.3 Factors to be considered**

The environmental assessment will include consideration of the following factors, listed in paragraphs 16(1)(a) to (e) and subsection 16(2) of the Act:

- The purpose of the project
- Alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means
- The environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities
- The significance of the effects referred to above
- The capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future
- Comments from the public that are received during the environmental assessment process
- Measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects
- A follow-up program in respect of the project, and its terms
- Any other matter relevant to the comprehensive study

#### **3.3.1 Purpose of the project**

The “purpose of” and “need for” the project must be established from the perspective of the proponent. The project will be designed to meet specific objectives, and those objectives must be described. If the project objectives are related to or contribute to broader private- or public-sector policies, plans or programs, this information must also be included.

The proponent must clearly state the need for the project. The proponent must establish the fundamental rationale for the project, namely the problem or opportunity that the proposed project is intending to solve or satisfy.

### 3.3.2 Alternatives

The EIS must define and describe alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible (paragraph 16(2)(b) of the Act).

The Agency recommends using the following approach for the analysis of alternative means of carrying out the project:

- Identify the alternative means of carrying out the project:
  - Develop criteria to determine the technical and economic feasibility of the alternative means
  - Describe each alternative means in sufficient detail
  - Identify those alternative means that are technically and economically feasible
- Identify the environmental effects of each alternative means:
  - Describe, in sufficient detail, those elements that could produce environmental effects to compare them with the environmental effects of the project
- Identify the preferred means:
  - Identify the preferred means based on the relative consideration of environmental effects, and of technical and economic feasibility
  - Determine and apply criteria that identify alternative means as unacceptable on the basis of significant adverse environmental effects
  - Determine criteria to examine the environmental effects of each remaining alternative means to identify a preferred alternative

All potential adverse effects of technically and economically feasible alternative means on treaty rights must also be identified.

### 3.3.3 Environmental effects

An environmental effect, as defined in subsection 2(1) of the Act, is 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*, any effect of any such changes on health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal persons, or any structure, site, or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, as well as any change to the project that may be caused by the environment.

According to the information available, the components to be considered in the environmental assessment include, but are not limited to, the following.

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Biological and physical environmental components that may be affected by the project:

- Surface water and groundwater quality
  - Air quality
  - Soil quality
  - Water regime (hydrology and hydrogeology)
  - Geology of the environment
  - Land and aquatic vegetation
  - Wetlands
  - Fish and their habitats
  - Birds and their habitats
  - Terrestrial wildlife and its habitats
  - Plant and animal species at risk within the meaning of subsection 2(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* and their habitats, including woodland caribou
- Socio-economic components that may be affected by the project:<sup>2</sup>
    - Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal persons
    - Health of users of the territory, including through accumulation of metals in plants and animals
    - Boating and boater safety
    - Socio-economic activities and heritage, historical, cultural, and archaeological resources
    - Safety concerns regarding explosives manufacturing and magazines

This information must be compiled, integrated, and presented in map form at an appropriate scale for impact analysis.

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<sup>2</sup> An environmental effect, as defined in subsection 2(1) of the Act, is 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*, any effect of such changes on health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal persons, or any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, as well as any change to the project that may be caused by the environment.

### **3.3.4 Malfunctions and accidents**

The probability of possible malfunctions or accidents during construction, operation, modification or any other undertaking in relation to the project, and the potential significant adverse environmental effects of such events, will be identified and described in the environmental assessment. The description will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Accidental spills of hazardous materials
- Risks related to the handling and storage of hazardous or explosive materials
- Contingency plans and measures for responding to emergencies that may involve risks to environmental components

### **3.3.5 Effects of the environment on the project**

Any environmental risks that may affect the project will be described, and the anticipated impacts and consideration of these risks in the design of the project will be documented. The proponent will address the following factors:

- Seismic activity
- The influence of climate conditions, such as the impact of precipitation and temperature during construction and operation

### **3.3.6 Cumulative environmental effects**

Cumulative effects are changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present and future human actions. The cumulative environmental effects that may result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out will be identified and assessed. The cumulative effects assessment will be carried out on the valued environmental components for which the project has an adverse residual effect and for which cumulative effects are likely to occur.

The proponent will submit a rationale for the geographic and temporal boundaries of the cumulative effects assessment. It should be noted that these boundaries may vary depending on the components selected for cumulative effects assessment. The proponent will propose and justify the projects and activities selected for cumulative effects assessment; these projects should be from the past, present, and future (with a high likelihood of implementation).

### **3.3.7 Public and Aboriginal consultation by the proponent**

The proponent is encouraged to consult the public and Aboriginal persons by producing a consultation/participation plan and to provide details on the project consultations and information sessions it will be offering or has already offered at the local and regional levels. The information required in this regard includes the identification of the groups with which the proponent has met, the concerns they expressed, and the extent to which these concerns were incorporated into the project design and impact assessment.

The federal environmental assessment process includes participation and consultation opportunities for the public and Aboriginal peoples (see section 6 below).

### **3.3.8 Sustainability of the resource**

The environmental assessment will consider the renewable resources that may be significantly affected by the project and the criteria used to determine whether their sustainable use will be compromised.

### **3.3.9 Mitigation measures**

The Act defines “mitigation” as the elimination, reduction or control of the adverse environmental effects of a project, and includes restitution for any damage to the environment caused by such effects through replacement, restoration, compensation or any other means. Every comprehensive study conducted under the Act must take into account technically and economically feasible measures that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project.

The EIS must specify the actions, works, minimal disturbance footprint techniques, best available technology, corrective measures or additions planned during the project’s various phases (construction, operation, modification, decommissioning, closure, or other undertakings related to the project) to eliminate or reduce the significance of adverse effects. The impact assessment must also present an assessment of the effectiveness of the proposed technically and economically feasible mitigation measures. The reasons for judging whether the mitigation measure reduces the significance of an adverse effect must be made explicit.

### **3.3.10 Follow-up program**

An environmental follow-up program for the project must be developed. The purpose of a follow-up program is to verify the accuracy of the assessment of the adverse environmental effects or to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures for the environment and resources.

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The follow-up program should be finalized prior to the implementation of the project and mitigation measures.

### **4 PREPARATION OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The purpose of this section is to help the proponent prepare its impact assessment in order to meet the needs of the federal departments for their analysis of the project in accordance with the requirements under the Act referred to in Section 3 above.

Under section 22 of the JBNQA, the Provincial Administrator has issued a directive for the proponent to conduct an impact assessment that includes the components needed to meet the requirements of the environmental protection regime set out in the JBNQA. Some of the components listed in the directive also appear in this document, along with components or requirements specific to the needs of the federal analysis under the Act.

The proponent is encouraged to produce a single impact assessment that meets the requirements established by the Provincial Administrator and the federal process under the Act. The proponent must provide the Agency with fifteen (15) French hard copies and ten (10) English hard copies of the impact assessment, as well as electronic versions in an appropriate format.

On receipt of the impact assessment, the federal authorities will analyze it to determine its compliance and, if necessary, may request further information from the proponent.

On the basis of the information provided by the proponent, the public and Aboriginal peoples and the expertise of any experts consulted, the Agency will produce a CSR. The CSR will present the conclusions of the environmental assessment, i.e. whether there is a risk that the carrying out of the project will have significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account the appropriate mitigation measures.

The proponent must, to the extent possible, demonstrate that the proposed mitigation measures are technically feasible and will achieve the targeted objectives. The proponent may, for example, refer to comparable diamond mine projects.

#### **4.1 Biological and physical components**

The proponent must describe the environment within the study area and the biological and physical components referred to in Section 3.3 above, and the environmental effects of the project on those components must be documented.<sup>3</sup> The information to be provided by the proponent includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A list of all avian, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species of interest likely to be present in the study area, and the priority areas and habitats that may be affected. Identify species that have special legal protection status, particularly species that are listed in Schedule 1 to the *Species at Risk Act* or are of special interest.
- A description of the inventories done or data used to determine the presence of species and their habitats (i.e. present and justify the methodology, results and conclusion). Present the abundance, spatial distribution by season and habitat used at each life stage (breeding, moulting, migratory route, etc.).
- A description of the anticipated effects (direct and indirect) of all project components on the identified environmental components and on the species likely to be present and their habitats.
- The determination of the applicable mitigation measures to minimize the impact and of the means put in place to ensure application of the mitigation measures. For species at risk, demonstrate that the project and the proposed mitigation measures are compatible with any applicable action plan and recovery program.
- A description of the proposed follow-up program for verifying the accuracy of the assessment of the effects.

It is strongly suggested that the proponent contact DFO when preparing its impact assessment and carrying out the plans, in order that a determination may be made as soon as possible as to acceptable HADD of fish habitat that may be authorized.

It is important to note that DFO prefers above all to avoid HADD of fish habitat or, if that is not possible, to reduce it. The proponent must justify HADD of fish habitat by demonstrating that it is reduced to the maximum extent possible and that it is impossible to avoid it entirely. If these residual losses of fish habitat are acceptable and do not threaten the resource or species at risk, DFO may issue an authorization to modify fish habitat under subsection 35(2) of the FA. This authorization allows HADD of fish habitat by the means or under the circumstances authorized by DFO.

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<sup>3</sup> For example, the proponent may refer if necessary to Environment Canada to obtain the guides and documents developed for inventoring or analyzing impact on migratory birds, species at risk and wetlands.

## **4.2 Socio-economic components**

The federal environmental assessment must above all assess the repercussions of changes that the project is likely to cause in the environment on socio-economic components.

### **4.2.1 Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal persons**

For this purpose, the EIS must:

- Describe the current uses for traditional purposes likely to be affected by the project. Identify key species and species valued for hunting or traditional fishing purposes
- Indicate how current use by Aboriginal persons was verified. Provide the information sources
- Describe the effects of the project on current use by Aboriginal persons, as well as any mitigation measures
- Summarize the consultations or exchanges with the Cree who use the territory. Identify the concerns expressed and the extent to which these elements were reflected in the project design and in the impact assessment

### **4.2.2 Socio-economic activities**

The socio-economic components mentioned in Section 3.3, including archaeology, and the impact of environmental changes on these components must be documented. The information to be provided by the proponent includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A description of current land uses, such as outfitting operations and other recreational activities, tourism, vacation leases and others, that are likely to be affected by the project
- The effects of the project on these uses and any appropriate mitigation measures
- A summary of the consultations and exchanges with the users of the land. Identify the concerns voiced and the extent to which they were incorporated into the project design and into the environmental impact statement
- Currently known sites and archaeological remains, and a description of any mitigation measures that will be implemented



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### 4.2.3 Navigation

The proponent must describe the main navigation features in the project area (type of boats, areas of use, importance, etc.), as well as the disruptions caused by the project on navigation activities. If applying for approval under the NWPA, the proponent must present the following information and documents:

- A table of the undertakings (including backfilling and drainage, if necessary) in the aquatic environment. Indicate:
  - a. the type of work
  - b. the main geographic coordinates, crossing mid-watercourse (Dms.d, nad 83)
  - c. the addition of the geographic coordinates at either end (Dms.d, nad 83)
  - d. the characteristics of the watercourse:
    - i. width
    - ii. minimum and maximum depth during the summer
    - iii. bottom type (e.g. sediments, rocks)
    - iv. flow type (e.g. lake, stream, river, calm, flowing, fast)
    - v. if possible, reference a photo taken of the watercourse in that area during the summer
- A plan for each of these undertakings, indicating the main dimensions and characteristics:
  - a. Plan views and elevation
  - b. Minimum and maximum water levels during the summer, before and after the work period
  - c. If appropriate, the navigation protection measures during the work period and operations phase

Note that during a more in-depth analysis of the project, it could be determined that other components require further approvals from Transport Canada under the NWPA.

For more information on the requirements for application for approvals under the NWPA, the proponent is invited to consult the following guide:

[www.tc.gc.ca/eng/quebec/nwp-menu-1424.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/quebec/nwp-menu-1424.htm)

## 5 PUBLIC AND ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

### 5.1 Public and Aboriginal participation

Public and Aboriginal participation is a crucial component of the federal environmental assessment process. When the public has the opportunity to participate fully in the process, the quality and credibility of the environmental assessment are enhanced. Observations, comments and concerns expressed by the public following the consultation will be listed in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR) and made available to the public on request. Personal information will be protected under the *Privacy Act*.

Documents will be made available to the public through the CEAR and at specific locations, including Chibougamau and Mistissini. Meetings may be held with target groups during the second participation and consultation opportunity.

The public and Aboriginal communities will have three opportunities to submit comments:

First consultation (in progress)

At this stage of the environmental assessment of the project, the public is invited to submit its observations, comments and concerns on the following aspects:

- The project
- The conduct of the comprehensive study

Following the submission of comments by the public, the Agency may, if necessary, amend this environmental assessment scoping document to take into account comments received.

Second consultation during the comprehensive study (pending)

During this stage, the public is invited to comment on the results of the environmental assessment of the project. In this context, the presence of the proponent is required. The proponent must contribute by preparing appropriate material (executive summaries, visual aids, map products, tables, etc.) for facilitate consultation.

Third consultation on the Comprehensive Study Report (pending)

Once the Agency has submitted the CSR to the Minister of the Environment, the public has a final opportunity to submit feedback and comments to inform the Minister's decision on the environmental assessment.

## **5.2 Aboriginal consultation**

As part of its regulatory capacity, the federal government has an obligation to consult First Nations whose rights may be adversely affected. The Aboriginal community identified for this consultation is Mistissini. Since the proponent's co-operation is crucial to ensure that the consultation proceeds smoothly, the proponent's impact assessment must:

- produce a list of potential impacts on the above-mentioned community and on all other communities if, during the assessment, the proponent believes that other communities may be affected
- provide clear maps and tables that can be used during a consultation to explain the identified impacts
- clearly explain the impacts of the project on plant and animal species of interest that are present in the study area

The impact assessment must also describe any other concerns expressed by Aboriginal persons, including members of the Mistissini community, who may contribute to the environmental assessment.

Furthermore, to ensure effective Aboriginal participation, it is suggested to submit the impact assessment and prepare a summary of the impact assessment in both official languages. It is also recommended to prepare material to facilitate public and Aboriginal consultation, such as PowerPoint presentations, maps, and other informational material.

## **6 PUBLIC REGISTRY**

With the implementation of the Act, the Government of Canada is committed to facilitating public participation in the environmental assessment of projects and to providing access to the information on which those environmental assessments are based. It is pursuant to this commitment that section 55 of the Act requires the maintenance of a public registry by the responsible authority in relation to each project for which an environmental assessment is conducted.

Any document submitted by the proponent that is relevant to the environmental assessment may be posted on the CEAR and made available to the public on request. Certain confidential or sensitive documents that should be protected and not made public may be excluded from the CEAR. In such cases, the proponent must provide the Agency, which is responsible for maintaining the CEAR, with arguments demonstrating a likely risk of probable harm.

## Proposed Scope of the Federal Environmental Assessment

Under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

Renard Diamond Mine Project

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The Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry can be accessed at:

[http://www.acee-ceaa.gc.ca/050/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.acee-ceaa.gc.ca/050/index_e.cfm)

Reference number: 11-03-55169.

The project will also be posted on the MPMO website at:

<http://www2.mpmo-bggp.gc.ca/MPTracker/Project-Projet-01.aspx?pid=154>

## 7 CONTACTS

With regard to the current project, the contact information for the federal assessment is the following:

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## Proposed Scope of the Federal Environmental Assessment

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## **8 DOCUMENTS CONSULTED**

Stantec, 2010. Notice of Intent: Renard Diamond Mine. 28 pages + appendices.

ROCHE, 2011. Les Diamants Stornoway (Canada) inc. Modification à l'avis de projet – Projet diamantifère Renard. 57 pages + appendices.

Directive of the Provincial Administrator. June 2010. Document présentant les instructions pour la préparation du rapport d'étude d'impacts pour le projet d'exploitation minière diamantifère Renard.