



## Shell Jackpine Mine Expansion Project

### Health Canada's Response to the Clarification Question from the Counsel to the *Shell Jackpine Mine Expansion Project Joint Review Panel* in Relation to the Public Hearing Undertaking No. 54

#### Question:

*Is Health Canada satisfied (based on the information that was provided by Shell prior to and during the hearing) that it has a sufficient understanding of "the potential human health risks of the project and any mitigative and/or management options that could reduce human health impacts"?*

*If the answer to the question is "yes", then could Health Canada please provide a response setting out its understanding of such matters as well as its conclusions respecting the "potential human health risks" associated with the project taking account of the mitigative and/or management options.*

*If the answer to the question is "no", then could Health Canada please set out the questions in Attachment 1 that still require an answer from Shell in order for Health Canada to complete its analysis and understanding of the potential human health effects of the project.*

#### Health Canada Answer:

Health Canada is not in a position to express a view on the potential health risks associated with this project taking into account the mitigation and / or management options that could reduce human health impacts because the Department, as a federal authority, does not draw conclusions in respect to these topics. Rather, Health Canada, upon request, makes available specialist information and knowledge in its possession to the Panel for its consideration, as it assesses the environmental effects of a project. Moreover, the Department would like to take this opportunity to indicate that it is not currently conducting an analysis of the potential health effects of this project.

In respect to the information Shell provided to the Panel during the hearing, as Health Canada had not received any requests made under section 20 of CEEA 2012 after it submitted a Letter of Comment dated August 1, 2012, the Department is unable at this time to comment on those submissions.

In regard to that Letter of Comment, it posed, among other things, questions of minor clarification because the Department had identified some discrepancies between the information Shell filed on December 20, 2007 compared to the information it filed on May 15, 2012;

nevertheless, these issues would not significantly impact the views Health Canada expressed in its Letter of Comment dated November 17, 2011.

However, if requested, Health Canada would examine the documents presented by or views expressed by Shell during the hearing in relation to the Department's areas of expertise.

Regarding the information Shell provided to the Panel before the hearings began, Health Canada continues to hold the view that Shell's submissions contained sufficient information, in the Department's areas of expertise, in order to proceed to the hearing stage of this environmental assessment.

Thank you for this opportunity to express these views to the Panel.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Haggarty", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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