

New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project Federal Review Panel

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3, Tel: 1-866-582-1884
NewProsperityReview@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

September 14, 2012

To: Registered Parties

Sent by e-mail

Subject: Directions for applying for Interested Party status

This letter sets out the Panel's directions on how to apply for Interested Party status related to the public hearing for the New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine project. While the Panel will allow opportunity for general public input within the review, only those persons with Interested Party status will be permitted to participate in all aspects of the review during the public hearing phase. The following discussion elaborates.

The relevant sections of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) are as follows:

- Subsection 2(2) defines an "interested party" as a person who, in the opinion of the Panel, is either "directly affected by the carrying out of the designated project" or "has relevant information or expertise."
- Paragraph 19(1)(a) requires the Panel to take comments from the public into account as part of the environmental assessment.
- Paragraph 43(1)(c) of the CEAA 2012 requires the Panel to, in accordance with its terms of reference, "hold hearings in a manner that offers any interested party an opportunity to participate in the environmental assessment."

The Panel's Terms of Reference and the direction from the Minister of August 3, 2012 require the Panel to submit its final report 235 days from the submission of the EIS. Accordingly, the Panel will seek to use the allotted review time efficiently and effectively and will require the same of those parties who participate in the review.

The Panel will be structuring the review to include General, Community, and Topic-Specific hearing sessions, as explained in the Hearing Procedures issued for this review. This structure will allow for public comment as follows:

- At the General and Community hearing sessions, the Panel will allow opportunity for comments from the public and Interested Parties. The format of those hearing sessions will be less formal.
- At the Topic-Specific hearing sessions, members of the public may attend as observers but the Panel will allow only those who are granted Interested Party status to participate in the proceedings. The format of those hearing sessions will be more formal.

The Panel will establish the schedule and location for the different hearing sessions at a later date. The Panel will also explain how to register for specific sessions at that time. To assist in the planning of the hearing, the Panel requires that the Interested Parties be identified in advance, along with their interests in the Project.

Since Taseko Mines Limited is the project proponent, it has full participation rights automatically and need not to apply for Interested Party status.

The Panel also grants Interested Party status to the following parties:

1. Aboriginal Groups

The following Aboriginal groups who have previously registered for this review:

- Tsilqot'in National Government;
- Xení Gwet'in;
- Tsi Del Del – Alexis Creek Band;
- Yunesit'in – Stone Band;
- Tlesqox – Toosey Band;
- ?Esdilagh – Alexandria Band;
- Tl'etingox – Anaham Band;
- Esketemc;
- Stswecem'c Xgat'tem – Canoe Creek Band;
- T'eselc – Williams Lake Band;
- Xat'sull – Soda Creek Band;
- Llenleney'ten – High Bar First Nation;
- Ulkatcho First Nation; and
- Métis Nation of British Columbia.

2. Federal and Provincial Government Agencies

Those federal and provincial agencies the Panel invites to offer their technical expertise or information relevant to the review.

If you wish to apply for Interested Party status, you must submit a brief application to the Panel by September 28, 2012 with the information listed in Appendix A to this letter. Forward your application by mail, e-mail or fax to the attention of:

Livain Michaud
Panel Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
160 Elgin Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3
Tel.: 613-948-1359 / 1-866-582-1884
Fax: 613-957-0941
Email: Newprosperityreview@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

The Panel will assess your application in the context of the Panel's mandate under the Act and the Terms of Reference and will respond in due course.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Ross".

Bill Ross, Chair

Appendix "A"

New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project – Federal Review Panel

Application for Interested Party Status

If you wish to apply for Interested Party status in the Review, then submit an application to the Panel with the following information by September 28, 2012:

- (a) Your name or organization name, address, phone number, and email address.
- (b) If you are applying on behalf of an organization, explain the organization and describe its membership.
- (c) A brief explanation of:
 - The relevance of the Project to you;
 - Your specific connection with the Project area or activities: and
 - How the Project may affect your interests.
- (d) A summary of the relevant information or expertise that you or your organization can provide to assist the Panel.
- (e) A brief statement describing:
 - how you or your group or a representative intend to participate in the environmental assessment process; and
 - the issues that you or your group intend to address and why those issues are relevant to your interests.
- (f) An explanation of how you or your group may collaborate with other persons or groups whose interests or perspectives may overlap with yours.

Applicants who have shared interests or a similar perspective in the Review should submit a single application for Interested Party status and list the members of the group who are collaborating in the participation.

The Panel may group parties with similar interest together and grant Interested Party status on the condition that the members of the group co-operate to participate as a single Interested Party.