

Public Participation Plan



IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE UPPER BEAVER GOLD PROJECT

APRIL 20, 2022



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1. Introduction

On December 16, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) decided that an impact assessment was required for the Upper Beaver Gold Project (the Project), pursuant to section 16 of Canada's *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

The Public Participation Plan (PPP), developed by the Agency, takes into account the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide the best opportunities for public participation during the entire impact assessment process for the Project. This plan may be adapted as the pandemic or the impact assessment evolves. If this is the case, the Agency will inform the public and stakeholders.

For more information on how the Agency implements meaningful public participation, please refer to the [Framework: Public Participation Under the Impact Assessment Act](#) and the [Guidance: Public Participation under the Impact Assessment Act](#). An [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) is also available, describing opportunities for Indigenous communities to engage where the Project may adversely impact the exercise of their Aboriginal or Treaty rights as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and also Indigenous peoples with asserted rights where an assessment of impacts under section 22 of the IAA may be required.

2. Description of the proposed Project

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (the proponent) is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground and open-pit gold and copper mine located 20 kilometres northeast of Kirkland Lake, Ontario. As proposed, the Upper Beaver Gold Project includes an on-site metal mill and structures for diverting water. The maximum ore production capacity of the mine is 15,000 tonnes per day, and the maximum ore input capacity of the metal mill is approximately 10,000 tonnes per day, with a mine life of about 16 years. The Project would require the diversion of over 90 million cubic metres of water per year from Beaverhouse Lake downstream to the Misema River.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Upper Beaver Gold Project or to view the information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Public Registry) at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960>.

3. Objectives of public participation

The Public Participation Plan outlines the various ways participants can provide input and participate in the process. The Agency objectives for public participation are as follows:

- Public participation is meaningful. This means that the public is provided with:
 - opportunities to take part in the impact assessment,
 - the information they need to participate, and
 - the capacity to participate in an informed manner.
- The public is engaged early and often, particularly at each key stage of the impact assessment process.
 - The public brings forward key issues to the Agency and the proponent early in the process to inform the proponent's Impact Statement.
 - The public is involved in the development or revision of key documents, such as this plan, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the proponent's Impact Statement, the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions, and potential changes to the Decision Statement.
- Participation opportunities are designed taking into account the diverse needs and interests of the public, including youth, women, seniors and groups with diverse identity profiles. Opportunities include, but are not limited to: public comment periods, and in-person or virtual information sessions or engagement events at key phases of the process.
- The Agency informs the proponent about the concerns raised by the participants.
- Public views heard throughout the process are tracked and inform decision-making.

4. Identification of participants

The Agency has compiled a list of public entities and organizations that includes Ontario and Quebec communities and associations who may have an interest in this project's impact assessment.

This list was informed by 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 technical knowledge relevant to the impact assessment.

The list is as follows:

- Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council (AANTC), Quebec
- Algonquin Nation Secretariat (ANS), Quebec
- Beaverhouse Lake Cottagers and Residents, Ontario
- Canadian Environmental Law Association, Ontario
- Englehart & District Chamber of Commerce (District of Temiskaming), Ontario
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA), Ontario
- Keepers of the Circle (Provincial Representative of Native Women's Association of Canada), Ontario
- Kirkland Lake District Chamber of Commerce, Ontario
- Kirkland Lake and District Community Development Corp., Ontario
- Kirkland Lake Game and Fish Protective Association, Ontario
- MiningWatch Canada, Ontario



- NorthWatch Coalition for Environmental Protection, Ontario
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), Ontario
- Ontario Rivers Alliance, Ontario
- Stella Jones Timber Company, Ontario
- Timmins Native Friendship Centre, Ontario
- Town of Kirkland Lake, Ontario
- Township of Black River – Matheson, Ontario
- Township of Gauthier (Dobie), Quebec
- Township of Larder Lake, Ontario
- Township of McGarry (District of Temiskaming), Ontario
- Ville de Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec
- Wabun Tribal Council (WTC), Ontario
- General public, Ontario and Quebec

The Agency will maintain a distribution list for those listed above throughout the impact assessment. Participants on the distribution list will receive updates and notices about the project's impact assessment as the process unfolds.

If you or your organization would like to be added to this list, please use the "Submit a comment" function on the Public Registry's project page ([Reference Number 82960](#)) or send an email to UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca and request to be added to the Public Participation Plan distribution list.

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.

5. Public participation tools

The Agency has identified a series of tools to ensure meaningful participation throughout the impact assessment process:

- Opportunities to apply for funding under the Participant Funding Program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs/participant-funding-program.html>) to support the public in participating in the impact assessment process;
- Public notice(s) on the Public Registry and published in newspapers and radio broadcasts that provide information and updates on the Impact Assessment, announce public participation opportunities, and funding opportunities;
- Emails to the distribution list that provide information and updates on the Impact Assessment, announce public participation opportunities, and funding opportunities;
- Social media updates (e.g. the Agency's Twitter Feed: @IAAC_AEIC #UpperBeaver) that provide information and updates on the Impact Assessment, announce public participation opportunities, and funding opportunities;
- Interactive community information sessions to learn more about the Project, the impact assessment process and how to submit comments (presentations, with question and answer sessions and/or workshops to be held virtually or in-person, depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic);



- Summaries of key documents, fact sheets, infographics, and audio-visual materials in plain language and in an accessible format;
- Public comment periods at key stages of the process;
- Canadian Impact Assessment Registry to post written comments at key public comment periods, and throughout the process; and
- Free training opportunities for people directly involved in impact assessments.¹

6. Activities and public participation approach

The following table provides a description of the main phases in the impact assessment process, and an outline of the proposed Agency-led engagement opportunities in each phase. The table describes the objectives of each phase, the anticipated engagement activities that will be used, and the public participation tools that will support the engagement activities. The type of engagement activities (virtual or in person) will be announced at each opportunity.

¹ For information on training, visit <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/014/index-eng.aspx>

Table 1 – Table of public participation approaches and activities

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
Phase 1: Planning		
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support understanding of the proposed Project ➤ Provide an opportunity for the public to apply for funding to support participation during the Planning Phase ➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process and meaningful participation ➤ Obtain comments and feedback on documents related to the Planning Phase such as the Initial Project Description and to inform the development of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Guidelines) ➤ Notify public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the Initial Project Description, the draft PPP and the draft Guidelines as well as the impact assessment decision <p>Timeline: 180 days (excluding any timeline suspension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From September 13, 2021 to October 4, 2021, the Agency offered grant funding during the first comment period of the Planning Phase to support participation • From September 13, 2021 to October 4, 2021, the Agency hosted virtual information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support public understanding of impact assessment process and sought comments on the Initial Project Description • The Agency responded to any inquiries, sent letters / emails informing the public on the Agency’s distribution list of, and posted key documents on the Public Registry • The Agency provided online training on Impact Assessment process • From January 31, 2022 to March 12, 2022, the Agency made grant funding available for the second comment period of the Planning Phase • From January 31, 2022 to March 12, 2022, the Agency hosted virtual information sessions, with a question and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From September 13, 2021 to October 4, 2021, participated in the first comment period on the Initial Project Description • Submitted comments on the Initial Project Description • Interested participants applied for available grant funding during the first comment period of the Planning Phase to support participation • From January 31, 2022 to March 12, 2022, participated in the second comment period on the draft Guidelines and the draft PPP • Participated in virtual information sessions, with a question and answer session to discuss and inform key planning documents • Submitted comments on the draft Guidelines and the draft PPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Public Registry

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
answer session, to support public understanding of the impact assessment process and sought comments on the draft Guidelines and draft PPP		
<p>Phase 2: Impact Statement</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process ➤ Provide an opportunity for the public to apply for participant funding for the remainder of the impact assessment process ➤ Encourage the public to share information with the proponent to inform the development of the proponent’s impact statement ➤ Obtain comments / views on the proponent’s Impact Statement ➤ Notify the public of key steps in the process such as the receipt of the Impact Statement and the comment period on the Impact Statement <p>Timeline: up to 3 years (excluding any timeline extension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency makes participant funding available for the remainder of the impact assessment process • The Agency administers participant funding throughout the impact statement phase • The Agency posts the Impact Statement on the Public Registry and sends notification emails to the public distribution list • The Agency holds a comment period on the Impact Statement. The comments will assist in determining whether the Impact Statement contains all the information and studies requested in the Guidelines • The Agency presents on the impact assessment process at the proponent’s meeting • The Agency issues requests to the proponent for information or studies required to satisfy the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for available participant funding to participate in the remaining phases of the impact assessment process. • Participate in proponent’s meeting on its Impact Statement • Submit comments, including those related to community knowledge, if applicable, that the proponent considers when drafting the Impact Statement • Participants potentially impacted by the Project work with the proponent to collect relevant information about the project’s potential positive and adverse effects (direct and incidental), as well as the mitigation and monitoring measures Submit comments to the Agency on the Impact Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Public Registry

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
<p>Phase 3: Impact Assessment</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process ➤ Obtain comments / views on the Agency’s draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions ➤ Notify public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions <p>Timeline: Up to 300 days (excluding any timeline extension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency administers participant funding throughout the impact assessment phase • The Agency posts draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions on the Public Registry and sends notification emails to the public distribution list • The Agency holds a comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions. The comments will assist in finalizing the Agency’s recommendation to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change • The Agency hosts information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support public’s understanding of impact assessment process and seek comments on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions • The Agency asks the proponent to present on identified issues, addressing project concerns and explaining mitigation and monitoring measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in information sessions, with a question and answer session to discuss and share comments and feedback on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions • Participate in proponent presentation on identified issues, addressing project concerns and explaining mitigation and monitoring measures • Submit comments to the Agency on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions • Submit comments to the Agency on the project’s potential adverse effects; on the integration of any community knowledge; and proposed mitigation or accommodation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comment • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Public Registry

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
Phase 4: Decision		
Objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inform the public about the Decision Statement issued by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change ➤ Increase awareness of the Decision Statement, including reasons for the public interest determination 		
Timeline: Up to 30 days, if the determination is made by the Minister, or up to 90 days if the Minister refers the determination to Governor in Council (excluding any timeline extension)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency posts on the Public Registry the final Impact Assessment Report, the Decision Statement, including the reasons for the public interest determination and sends notification emails to the public distribution list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive notification of the public interest determination and the issuance of the Decision Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Public Registry • Notifications sent by email
Phase 5: Post-Decision		
Objectives: if the project is approved		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Post-Decision follow-up, monitoring activities and results from follow-up program on the Public Registry ➤ Obtain comments on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required. 		
Timeline: Begins after the decision statement is issued, and then is ongoing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency conducts compliance and enforcement activities consistent with the Compliance Promotion and Enforcement Policy for designated projects subject to the IAA and post results as per section 152 of the IAA on the Public Registry • The Agency engages on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit comments to the Agency on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required • For questions or comments about the Agency's compliance and enforcement program and policies, or if the public has reason to believe that there has been a contravention of the IAA, please report it to the Agency at: compliance-conformite@iaac-aeic.gc.ca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Public Registry



7. Participant funding

Funding is available to support the participation of the public in the impact assessment process. To apply for funding, or for information on activities eligible for funding, please refer to the Funding Programs guidelines: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs.html>.

You can contact the Agency's Funding Programs:

Telephone : 1-866-582-1884

Email: fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

8. How to submit comments

You can submit comments at any time during the impact assessment process by using the "Submit a comment" function on the Public Registry's project page ([Reference Number 82960](#)). Attachments can also be uploaded using this function.

If you have any difficulties with the submission process, please contact the Agency, using the contact information below. Comments may also be submitted through other means, including by email to UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Comments and other documents received by the Agency will be part of the project file and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website. The [Agency's Submission Policy](#) determines what information can be shared publicly and what information should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the [Agency's Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want your comment to be posted on the Public Registry, please contact the Agency before submitting your comment.

If you have questions or need information, please contact:

Upper Beaver Gold Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Ontario Regional office
Email: UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca