

Hello,

On September 13th, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) accepted the Initial Project Description for the Upper Beaver Gold Project (the Project) submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (the proponent). The Agency is contacting you to invite comments on the proposed Project should you or your organization have an interest in the Project.

The Project

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited 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, in Ontario. As proposed, the Project includes an on-site metal mill and structures for diverting water. The maximum ore production capacity of the mine and the maximum ore input capacity of the mill would be approximately 8000 tonnes per day each, with a mine life of approximately 17 years. The Project would require the diversion of an estimated 90 million cubic meters of water per year from Beaverhouse Lake downstream to the Misema River.

The Summary of the Initial Project Description is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Registry) at: <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960> . Further information on the Project can be found on the Project's Registry page, and the Public Notice that was published today.

Invitation to submit comments

The objective of this letter is to invite you or your organization to provide your views on the Project and its potential effects or impacts (both positive and negative) to the environment and your community, as well as how you would like to be engaged throughout the assessment process. Please review the [Summary of the Initial Project Description](#) and provide your comments by **October 4, 2021**.

Participant Funding

Participant Funding will be available to eligible participants during this comment period and details have been announced on the Registry, along with instructions for applying for funding, at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/141287> .

Next Steps

Based on the comments received, the Agency will prepare and submit a Summary of Issues to the proponent. The proponent will then be required to submit a Detailed Project Description to the Agency that includes a response to the Summary of Issues that describes how the proponent plans to address the issues raised. The Agency will review and consider the proponent's documents, keeping in mind the comments received, and decide whether an impact assessment pursuant to the IAA is required for the Project.

Should the Agency determine that an impact assessment is required, a second comment period will be held during the planning phase on the draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please note that any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file and on the Registry. However, there are certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality.

The Agency's [Submission Policy](#) determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>.

Written comments should be submitted directly via the *Submit a Comment* feature on the Registry page for this project, however, if you do not want your comment posted on the Registry, or if you would like to submit comments in another format, please contact us at UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or call the Agency at 647-355-7318 prior to submitting your comment.

Invitation to Public Information Sharing and Discussion Sessions

The Agency invites you and your organization to attend a virtual public information session to learn more about the project and the impact assessment process.

Each session will include a question and answer period with representatives from the Agency.

Interested participants can simply select one of the following sessions to join:

English Sessions

- Wednesday, September 22, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM ET
- Wednesday, September 29, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM ET

French Sessions

- Tuesday, September 21, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM ET
- Monday, September 27, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM ET

We invite you to register by completing the form at the following link:

[Upper Beaver Gold Project - Participant Registration](#)

Please register at least 48 hours prior to the session you want to attend.

Notice to members of the public

In addition to the Registry, the Agency uses print, web, radio and social media to advertise public comment periods. We would appreciate your support in making other organizations and individuals aware of the Agency's comment period. If you are aware of others who may be interested in the Project, the Agency would appreciate it if you forward the following message:

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is holding a 21-day public comment period from September 13, 2021, to October 4, 2021, on the proposed Upper Beaver Gold Project. Information is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960>

Comments can be submitted at the above link.

Other inquiries may be directed to UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

The Agency will also be hosting four information sharing and discussion sessions. For more information on how to register and attend, please see the Agency's public notice at:

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/141287>

COVID-19 Pandemic

The Agency recognizes that it is challenging to undertake meaningful public engagement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the public health advice of federal and provincial authorities, the Agency is still temporarily suspending face-to-face meetings with the public and stakeholders. To ensure the continuity of its operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency put in place virtual and online mechanisms that have enabled staff to work closely with the public and stakeholders, ensuring that their engagement needs are met as best as possible during this time. The Agency continues to provide flexibility, and to adapt our conduct as necessary around its engagement and training activities, and will reassess in-person meetings once it is safe to do so. Any updates or consultation plans will continue to be posted on the Agency's website and on the Registry.

Inclusion in the Agency's distribution list

As noted above, the Agency is contacting you as it has identified that you or your organization may have an interest in the Project. Should you wish to be removed from the Agency's distribution list, please notify the Agency at the email address below.

Please feel free to contact me at 647-355-7318 or UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Spencer Roth
Project Analyst
(he/him/il)

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