



September 29, 2023

Sent by email

Aaron MacDonell, Director
Environmental Services
Kinross Gold Corporation
25 York Street, Suite 15th Floor
Toronto Ontario M5J 2V5
<Email address removed>

Dear Aaron MacDonell:

Subject: Summary of Issues for the Great Bear Gold Project

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) conducted a comment period from August 17, 2023 to September 18, 2023 inviting participants to provide feedback related to the Great Bear Gold Project (the Project). All submissions received will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry; Reference Number 85832)¹.

A Summary of Issues document, which reflects the comments received by the Agency during the comment period, as well as any additional issues that the Agency considered relevant to the impact assessment of the Project, is enclosed with this letter. As it is a general summary, the Agency encourages Kinross Gold Corporation to review the original submissions posted on the Registry to inform your understanding of the points and the context in which the Indigenous communities, public, and organizations provided their comments.

Please note that some interested parties may not have had the opportunity or capacity to provide comments during the comment period on the Initial Project Description. The Agency will continue to accept comments from interested parties and the *Submit a Comment* feature on the Projects Registry page will remain available. You are encouraged to review and consider any comments submitted within a reasonable time period after the close of the comment period when preparing the response to the Summary of Issues. The Agency will consider all comments received in its subsequent decisions and plans.

The Agency is continuing to engage with Indigenous communities on the Project and may receive further comments on the Initial Project Description. As a result, the Agency may bring to the proponent's attention other relevant issues.

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¹ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/85832?culture=en-CA>

Pursuant to subsection 15(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*, you must provide the Agency with a Detailed Project Description that sets out how you intend to address the issues documented in the Summary of Issues and that includes the information described in the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* (the Regulations). The requirements for the Detailed Project Description are set out in section 4 and Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Please consult the Guide to Preparing an Initial Project Description and a Detailed Project Description² for further information. You are encouraged to provide meaningful responses to the issues documented in the Summary of Issues to inform the Agency's decision on whether to require an impact assessment for the Project.

If an impact assessment is required for the Project, the Agency would provide Kinross Gold Corporation with Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The Agency would use the information provided in the Detailed Project Description, the response to the Summary of Issues, and comments received by the Agency to inform the Agency's understanding of the key issues that would be relevant for a federal assessment of the Project and that would require additional information and studies to resolve. This will inform the Agency's scoping decisions in the development of the Guidelines.

Upon receipt of the Detailed Project Description, the Agency will verify whether it complies with the Regulations. Where Kinross Gold Corporation believes potential issues can be resolved now, or narrowed in scope, you are encouraged to provide your perspectives, and the supporting information and rationale, in the Detailed Project Description. The Agency understands that there are ongoing baseline studies conducted by the proponent. The information gathered as part of these studies should optimally be provided as part of the response to Summary of Issues to support the Agency's decision-making.

The Detailed Project Description and the Summary of the Detailed Project Description must contain the information from the Initial Project Description with new information integrated throughout the main body as appropriate to respond to the issues. This will facilitate understanding by participants, including the public and Indigenous communities. For ease of reference, the Agency requests that the response to the Summary of Issues be provided in a table with cross-references to other parts of the Detailed Project Description, as warranted.

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² www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guide-preparing-project-description-detailed-project-description.html

The Agency requests that the Detailed Project Description, and Summary Detailed Project Description, include all engagement up to the time of submission with Indigenous communities and the public, along with a sufficiently detailed overview of future planned engagement during all phases of the Project. The Detailed Project Description should be clear on how comments and input from Indigenous communities and the public informed the analysis of potential effects and the development of mitigation measures. Any commitments that you made to address issues should be detailed in the document.

Please provide the Agency with your Detailed Project Description, including the response to the Summary of Issues and the required geospatial files³, by **October 30, 2023**, or inform the Agency that more time is required. You are strongly encouraged to contact the Agency in the next few days to discuss how much time will be required to produce the Detailed Project Description. If more than 30 days is required, please notify the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, with a copy to greatbear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca, in writing and request that the Agency suspend the time limit until the required information is provided.

Important note: Any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file and may be posted online via the Registry (Reference Number 85832), subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy⁴ describes what submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice⁵.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Boyd at 647-616-2471 or greatbear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan
Director, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Summary of Issues – Great Bear Gold Project

Cc: Nathan Longenecker, Kinross Gold Corporation
Luke Jalsevac, Kinross Gold Corporation
Sheila Daniel, WSP Canada Limited

³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guidance-submitting-geospatial-data.html#toc3>

⁴ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

⁵ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>