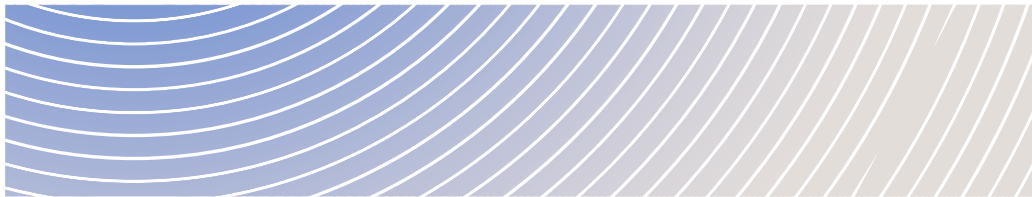


Cooperation Plan



NOVADOR GOLD MINE PROJECT

August 13, 2024



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On May 6, 2024, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) issued an opinion that an impact assessment is warranted for the Novador Gold Mine Project (the Project).

It is likely that the project will also be subject to an environmental impact assessment and review procedure in Quebec under the *Environment Quality Act* (EQA). The proponent will also have to meet various provincial licencing and approval requirements.

For any project subject to a federal impact assessment, the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) requires IAAC to develop a cooperation plan for the impact assessment that outlines how IAAC will work with other jurisdictions.

This Cooperation Plan outlines IAAC's approach to working with the Province of Quebec in relation to the Novador Gold Mine Project.

This plan has been developed by IAAC to inform the public of the actions it intends to take to inform a cooperative assessment process for the project. This Cooperation Plan is intended to be flexible and does not preclude IAAC from making changes to the approach outlined in this plan to accommodate changes that may occur during the impact assessment process.

2. Project

Probe Gold Inc. is proposing the construction and operation of a new open-pit and underground gold mine, located about 25 kilometres east of Val-d'Or, in Quebec. As proposed, the Novador Gold Mine Project would have a maximum ore production capacity of 24,000 tonnes per day with an estimated lifespan of 12.5 years. The project would include an ore processing plant, access roads, waste rock and overburden piles, and a tailings storage facility.

3. Approach to cooperation

The impact assessment process and the environmental impact assessment and review procedure will be applied to meet the requirements of the IAA and EQA respectively. IAAC will work with the Province to share information. Where possible, information will be shared to optimize discussions with the proponent and to facilitate public and Indigenous participation in the assessment processes.



4. Sharing of information

In order to increase the efficiency of information gathering from the proponent and other stakeholders, while taking advantage of the best available scientific expertise, IAAC will work with the Province of Quebec to ensure smooth and timely information sharing.

IAAC will respect requirements related to confidentiality and privacy, including the protection of Indigenous knowledge, when sharing or publicly posting information.

IAAC will inform the Province of its meetings with the proponent and share information where possible.

5. Public participation and Participant Funding

To the extent possible, IAAC will attempt to harmonize its public participation activities with those of Quebec, where timelines coincide.

Funding to support public participation is available. For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding, please see the Participant Funding Program's [National Program Guidelines](#).

For further information on public participation and engagement activities, please see the Project's Public Participation Plan.

6. Indigenous consultation and engagement

The Crown consultation will be conducted separately for the two processes, i.e., the IAA process will be carried out by IAAC and the EQA process will be carried out by the Government of Quebec.

For further information on IAAC's Indigenous Consultation and Engagement activities, please see the Project's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

7. Decision Statement

At the conclusion of the impact assessment (IAA) and environmental assessment (EQA) procedures, the decisions made under the IAA by the Government of Canada and under the EQA by the Government of Quebec will be separate. The decision made by the Government of Canada, including conditions or a permanent prohibition, will be based on significant adverse federal effects.

IAAC will keep the Province informed of the timing of the decision. Where appropriate, IAAC will share information with the Province regarding potential conditions that may be imposed on the Proponent in



relation to the Project to promote consistency and efficiency in the implementation of regulatory obligations.

8. Interpretation

The Cooperation Plan is not a legal document and does not change any existing federal, provincial, or Indigenous legislative or regulatory jurisdiction, right, power, privilege, prerogative or immunity by virtue, nor does it create any new legal powers, duties or legally binding obligations.

9. Contact Information

IAAC office designated for administering the impact assessment of the Project is:

Regional Quebec Office
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
901-1550, avenue d'Estimauville
Québec (Québec) G1J 0C1
Phone number: 418-649-6444
Email : novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

The Quebec office responsible for administering the environmental impact assessment process for the project is:

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques,
de la Faune et des Parcs
Édifce Marie-Guyart
675, Boulevard René-Lévesque O, 29e étage
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