

APPENDIX 29-C
NISGA'A GUIDELINES FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Seabridge Gold Inc.

SEABRIDGE GOLD

KSM PROJECT
Nisga'a Guidelines Focus Group Report



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KSM PROJECT

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KSM PROJECT

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Glossary and Abbreviations

Terminology used in this document is defined where it is first used. The following list will assist readers who may choose to review only portions of the document.

KMP	Kitsault Mine Project
KSM	Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell
NFA	Nisga'a Final Agreement
NLG	Nisga'a Lisims Government
NNKN	Nisga'a Nation Knowledge Network
urban communities	Refers to the cities of Terrace, Prince Rupert and Vancouver
villages	Refers to New Aiyansh/Gitlaxt'aamiks, Canyon City/Gitwinksihlkw, Greenville/Laxgalts'ap, and Kincolith/Gingolx
Work Plan	Work Plan for Assessment of Nisga'a Economic, Social, and Cultural Impacts

1. Introduction

1.1 STUDY PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This report describes the process and outcomes of focus group interviews carried out in March and April 2012. Focus group interviews are identified in the Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM)/Kitsault Mine Project (KMP) *Work Plan for Assessment of Nisga'a Economic, Social, and Cultural Impacts* (The Work Plan; Seabridge 2011) as a method for supporting the *Nisga'a Social, Economic, Resource Use, and Cultural Survey Statistical Report* (Rescan 2012c) and *Nisga'a Business Survey Statistical Report* (Rescan 2012a). Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge) and Avanti Mining Inc. (Avanti) jointly undertook these surveys, which were implemented by Rescan Environmental Services Ltd. (Rescan).

Focus groups were identified in the Work Plan as a primary research activity linked to the following specific dimensions of the *Nisga'a Economic, Social, and Cultural Impact Assessment Report* (Rescan 2012b), including:

- Section 3.5.1 - future economic opportunities and economic development of the Nisga'a;
- Section 4.1.3.1 - potential impacts on medical, education, emergency, and social services;
- Section 4.1.4.1 - potential impacts on transportation services and infrastructure;
- Section 4.1.6.1 - occupational and non-occupational accident risks; and
- Section 4.1.7.1 - social risks related to incidents of crime, family issues, and community well-being.

Focus group interviews also included questions about potential impacts on Nisga'a culture (i.e., feasts, ceremonies, and land-based activities) and Nisga'a language. Together, the surveys and focus groups provide data regarding the perspectives of Nisga'a citizens in relation to the potential Nisga'a social, cultural, and economic impacts of the proposed KSM and KMP projects.

2. Method

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Focus groups are a form of qualitative research for the collection and analysis of social and cultural data. A key distinguishing feature of the focus group is a singular concern with a specific, “concrete” situation or issue (Stewart, Shamdasani, and Rook 2007). At the core of the approach is the emphasis on the interaction within a group in response to a “focused” set of questions and scenarios provided by a researcher. Researchers have less control over the outcome of the focus group and the specific content of the obtained data.

Focus group interviews provide a large amount of data about the views, attitudes, and beliefs of a particular group in a short amount of time, and in a more natural setting than one-on-one interviews. They are particularly useful as a supplementary source of data for exploring either differences of opinion or degrees of consensus between different community segments or groups and as a form of triangulation or validity checking (Gibbs 1997). However, focus groups should not be counted on to provide evaluative measurement of individual attitudes, values, and beliefs and should not be used to make generalized statements or conclusions about the broader community or demographic group. Nevertheless, they provide rich data that can greatly improve the depth of understanding of a particular issue, value, or perception.

2.2 FOCUS GROUP PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT

Separate focus groups were held with youth (aged 15 to 19), elders (aged 60 and over), women, and men in each location¹, except Vancouver. Distinct groups were established in order to get a range of perspectives from various segments of the Nisga’a population. The focus group held in Vancouver was a single, mixed group, though recruitment was also selective based on gender in order to achieve balanced representation.

Rescan coordinated participant recruitment with the four Nass Valley village governments and with the Nisga’a societies in Terrace, Prince Rupert, and Vancouver (Terrace Nisga’a Society, Gitmaxmak’ay Nisga’a Prince Rupert/Port Edward Society, and Nisga’a Ts’amiks Vancouver Society respectively). A poster advertising the focus groups in each location was distributed electronically to each respective village government or Nisga’a society to be printed and posted in various places around the community (Appendix A). The Nisga’a Ts’amiks Vancouver Society also posted information on the organization’s Facebook page and via email. The Nisga’a Lisims Government (NLG) also posted information about the focus groups on the Nisga’a Nation Knowledge Network (NNKN) website on August 17, 2011 (NNKN 2011); February 28, 2012 (NNKN 2012a); and March 6, 2012 (NNKN 2012b). A minimum of one week was allotted for participant recruitment.

Participant registration forms were emailed to each village government or society to manage the registration process (Appendix B). Participant registration occurred on a first-come, first-serve basis. Prior to the focus groups in the Nisga’a villages, Rescan contacted registered participants by phone to confirm their participation and answer any preliminary questions. A maximum number of 12 participants were accepted for each focus group, although exceptions were made when additional Nisga’a citizens showed up at a focus group wanting to participate. In Gitwinksihlkw, for instance, 17 participants showed up at the men’s focus group, and 13 showed up for the men’s group in Laxgats’ap (Table 2.2-1). A minimum number of six participants were targeted for each group, a target

¹ New Aiyansh/Gitlaxt’aamiks, Canyon City/Gitwinksihlkw, Greenville/Laxgalts’ap, Kincolith/Gingolx, Terrace and Prince Rupert

that was generally achieved. Only one youth participated at the focus group in Terrace, so a one-on-one interview was conducted with him. Youth, in general, were the least likely to sign-up despite promotion and recruitment through youth centres and youth coordinators in the villages.

Table 2.2-1. Focus Group Participation by Group Type and Location

March 12, 2012		March 20, 2012	
New Aiyansh/Gitlaxt'aamiks	Number of Participants	Terrace	Number Participants
Youth	8	Youth	1
Elders	9	Elders	10
Women	10	Women	4
Men	8	Men	8
Total	35	Total	23
March 13, 2012		March 21, 2012	
Canyon City/Gitwinksihlkw	Number Participants	Prince Rupert	Number Participants
Youth	7	Youth	6
Elders	7	Elders	4
Women	10	Women	8
Men	17	Men	8
Total	41	Total	26
March 14, 2012		April 2, 2012	
Greenville/Laxgalts'ap	Number Participants	Vancouver	Number Participants
Youth	5	Mixed	10
Elders	11	Total	10
Women	9		
Men	13		
Total	38		
March 15, 2012			
Kincolith/Gingolx	Number Participants		
Youth	5		
Elders	6		
Women	11		
Men	11		
Total	33		

In total, 206 individuals participated in 25 focus groups: 147 individuals in total in the four villages (16 focus groups in total) and 59 individuals in total in the three urban communities (9 focus groups in total). Table 2.2-1 summarizes the participant breakdown by focus group type and location.

2.3 FOCUS GROUP STRUCTURE

Participants were greeted and asked to sign a consent form at the beginning of each focus group (Appendix C). Light refreshments² were provided at each interview session. Participants were asked to collect and read project fact sheets for the KSM (Appendix D) and KMP projects (Appendix E) which were available for collection upon arrival. A large map depicting the locations of the Nass Valley

² Catering was contracted to Nisga'a caterers or Elders' Societies in all focus groups except in Vancouver.

communities and project components for each mine was displayed and referred to by facilitators (Appendix F).

In the Nass Valley, focus groups were held in village government meeting rooms or recreation centres. In Terrace, sessions were held at the Terrace Nisga'a Society; in Prince Rupert, at the Fisherman's Hall; and in Vancouver, at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society. Participants were seated in a circular or semi-circular arrangement to promote discussion. A primary facilitator guided the discussion and—together with one note-taker—ran each group. Focus groups ran for two hours and each session was audio recorded.

Following an initial welcome and round of introductions, facilitators provided a brief description of each proposed project and used a moderator's guide with a specific list of questions and probes (Appendix G). Questions were selected and developed based on the requirements of the Nisga'a Economic, Social, and Cultural Impact Assessment Guidelines³, the Work Plan, and information gaps identified by the Environmental Assessment team. As such, questions focused on four main aspects of potential effects on Nisga'a citizens: economic, social, cultural, and incremental/cumulative.

Focus group interviews can be spontaneous and organic in their implementation and facilitators need to be flexible to maintain the flow of discussion. Respondents are free to give views on any aspect of the discussion. As such, the questions were not scripted or necessarily ordered exactly the way they are laid out in the moderator's guide; however, facilitators asked all of the main questions and themes at each focus group. Similarly, different moderation styles were used depending on the participant type. For instance, in order for youth to relate to the questions, which they often found abstract and difficult to respond to, researchers found it helpful to ask them what they liked and disliked about their community and how these things might change with an influx of people, with new job opportunities, etc. Each facilitator also provided opportunities for quieter participants to speak. A \$50 honorarium was distributed to each participant at the end of each session.

2.4 ANALYSIS

Focus group data were analyzed by grouping the content of the notes thematically and by participant type. Authors synthesized the information according to broad, overarching themes and where appropriate, by more specific sub-themes. The audio recordings were consulted for clarification when necessary.

As focus group interviews are not statistically representative of the larger Nisga'a population, authors were cautious not to over-generalize observations and statements made by participants as being indicative of an overarching sentiment that could be rationalized as being "the" Nisga'a sentiment. The participants are individuals, each with their own sets of experiences and beliefs that shaped not only how they responded to the questions, but also *how* they participated in the first place (i.e., some individuals are likely to agree with other participants to create a sense of shared rapport rather than express an opinion that may be unpopular or divergent). Nevertheless, analysis of the notes and the thematic grouping enable authors to pick out key concerns, issues, and interests raised by the groups. Commonly held views are reported on, as well as divergent views on issues of importance to participants. The following section (Section 3) details the findings and analysis of the focus group interviews.

³ The NLG Economic, Social, and Cultural Impact Assessment Guidelines provide a comprehensive approach to the analysis of specific economic, social, and cultural effects that may arise during the construction, operation, and closure of the KMP. The objective is to evaluate the potential effects of the mine on the well-being of the Nisga'a people, including those living in the Nisga'a villages, and Nisga'a living in Terrace, Prince Rupert, and other parts of British Columbia.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 OVERVIEW

This section highlights the specific findings and analysis of the data collected from focus group interviews. Initial subsections provide an overview of the findings by participant type as well as by location. Although not specifically a part of the interview questions, additional findings with respect to the environment are also included due to the frequency with which this theme emerged in each of the focus groups. The remainder of this section is broadly organized around views on migration, followed by economic, social, cultural, and cumulative/incremental issues.

3.1.1 Findings by Participant Type

Elders, many of whom had lived in the Nass Valley for most of their lives (on and off) had seen a great deal of environmental, social, and cultural change during their lifetimes. They were particularly clear about the need for economic development for Nisga'a communities and the Nisga'a Nation and were notably concerned about the younger generations, especially with respect to opportunities for the youth. Elders valued education and training opportunities for youth and younger generations. Most considered themselves too old for mine-related work, and many were already retired. Elders recalled both the beneficial and negative social and community changes that arose when some of the more isolated villages were connected with roads and bridges. For the most part, elders (both in the Nass Valley and in urban communities) placed great significance on the importance of environmental quality. They noted that any mining operations in the vicinity would have to ensure there would be no impacts to the environment, which could affect harvesting activities, wildlife, and the water. Water quality and aquatic/marine life were viewed with particular importance. Many elders, particularly men, had held various resource type jobs in the past (logging, working in canneries, and some mining experience). As such, they were familiar with shift work and did not view such work rotations negatively.

Men were by far the most vocal on the topics of employment and training, asking numerous questions about the employment process and how to ensure Nisga'a citizens were prepared for employment when opportunities arose. Each discussion of the benefits of employment included a note on environmental protection as a counter weight. Nisga'a men in cities were very comfortable with the idea of shift work; they placed a very high importance on the value of employment, and expressed a willingness to more readily adapt to, or make sacrifices for, employment than other groups. Men in urban areas reported less involvement in harvesting activities and indicated less involvement in ceremonies and feasts as compared to men residing in the Nass Valley. Although harvesting activities are more common within the villages, male residents in the Nass Valley reported varying levels of involvement in harvesting activities.

Women considered a wider variety of topics related to the potential mine projects than other participant types. Attitudes towards employment and training were similar to those of men; however, fewer women expressed personal interest in employment at mine sites. Women discussed childcare and country foods in depth; two topics not touched on in detail by other groups. Women often raised concerns around safety, security, and family well-being when considering demographic changes related to local mining projects and the effects of shift work on the family. Urban women also placed higher importance on gaining employment and reported less participation in harvesting, ceremonies, and feasts as compared to women residing in the Nass Valley. Nonetheless, women in urban centres discussed the importance of country foods and continued access to country foods.

Youth interview sessions had the lowest attendance and participation. In part, youth were unfamiliar with mining projects or their implications for employment. Participants aged 15 or 16 seemed further removed

from discussions as compared to older youth (aged 17 or 18) who may have given more consideration as to their plans for further schooling or employment after high school. Nevertheless, youth perspectives were similar to those of other groups. For instance, they identified housing availability and community stability as community issues that may be affected by in- or out-migration resulting from the potential mine projects. Community-based implications of shift work and work camps were more difficult for youth to fully comprehend; however many respondents made insightful observations on these topics which have been incorporated into subsequent sections of this report. On occasion, participants provided creative responses related to potential impacts to culture. One youth, for instance, suggested the development of a dedicated facility to teach youth traditional harvesting and processing methods if adults were going to be away for shift work. They were also strong advocates for the natural environment and made comments such as “one mine is enough, save mother earth” and seemed to understand how changes to the environment could affect their way of life.

3.1.2 Findings by Location

Participant views were fairly consistent throughout the four villages, as well as in the three urban communities. In contrast, differences were noted between the Nass Valley participants and those in urban centres. Participants living in the Nass Valley tended to join in resource harvesting activities and cultural events more than participants living outside of the Nass Valley. However, participants from the urban communities still strongly valued the continued ability of the Nisga'a Nation to harvest resources and maintain the culture. Out of the three urban communities, participants in Terrace were the most likely to return to the Nass Valley for harvesting activities and cultural events. There were seemingly stronger ties between Terrace and the Nass Valley than with other urban communities due to the Nass Valley's proximity to the Nisga'a villages and the regular flow of residents travelling to Terrace for groceries and supplies. Terrace participants were most likely to visit the Nass Valley, followed by participants from Prince Rupert, and then Vancouver.

Many participants living in Prince Rupert and Terrace felt excluded and/or marginalized for not living in the villages. They felt they were considered as “outsiders” by village residents and not eligible to the same benefits and rights enjoyed by Nisga'a citizens living in the Nass Valley. Both village- and urban-based participants discussed what they perceived as the unfair distribution of opportunities and benefits among Nisga'a citizens by Nisga'a governments. However, this perception was more pronounced and widely held in the urban communities. Some urban participants perceived that Nass Valley residents were more likely to “party” and that people living outside the Nisga'a territory have a different mindset. However, the converse was also discussed. In Vancouver, certain participants used the term “culture shock” to describe what it would be like to move to the villages after being accustomed to living in a large city with all of its amenities and diversity. In general, urban participants were not considering moving to the Nass Valley in the near future. Further, most would prefer to stay in their current location even if they were employed at the mines.

3.1.3 Additional Findings

The potential environmental impacts of the proposed mine projects were consistently discussed throughout the focus group sessions. Nisga'a participants brought forward a number of questions and discussion points on environmental management and protection even though questions focused on the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of the projects. Participants discussed specific environmental concerns at length, and spoke about the connectedness of environmental systems and the need to adopt a holistic view towards ecological and community well-being.

The optimism expressed in relation to mining-related opportunities was strong, though this sentiment was nearly always paired with caution with respect to the environment. The temporary nature of mining was noted, particularly with respect to KMP's proposed 16-year mine life, in contrast with the

potential longer term environmental effects; eg., “people come and people go, the main thing we should be worried about is the effect on the land.” Conversations about environmental effects often included the notion of Aboriginal people as “stewards of the land” and concern for the next generation. One male participant stated:

We’re going to be here for a long time so we consider wildlife and the environment. The Nisga’a Nation will be impacted—we’ve seen that with the harvesting of forest resources. Logging companies harvest all the resources. And the fishing companies—they set up canneries at the mouth of the Nass and fish until all the fish are gone. They want to get all the money out of Nisga’a and our land.

Water quality and potential effects to harvesting activities (discussed in Section 3.5.1) were the most commonly cited environmental concerns, followed by health concerns related to mining (see Section 3.4.2).

3.2 MIGRATION

Views on migration were mixed, although an urban/village difference was notable. In general, the vast majority of participants living in the villages had no concerns or were even optimistic about a population influx, provided that there were sufficient housing and community service upgrades to address the needs of this influx. Available housing was frequently mentioned as a barrier to any potential in-migration. One village-based elder noted that they would like to see a city in the Nass Valley. In contrast, a number of participants felt that limited influx would occur, despite the opening of the mines, due to lack of housing, lack of economic diversity, and limited amenities as compared to those available to urban-based citizens. Overall, participants in all groups did not think that out-migration would likely occur because of the mining projects.

Village participants seemed to feel that an increase in population would be beneficial because it would bring in more local businesses; boost the local economy while simultaneously eliminating the informal (bootleg) economy; and increase available funds for educational, health, and social services. Village participants (particularly elders and older adults) spoke about the relatively recent building of roads and bridges to Gitwinksihlkw and Gingolx. They noted that this ended the isolation of these communities and enabled some growth there, though some negative effects were also felt, such as the diminished sense of community cohesion.

Youth, in particular, were enthusiastic about an increase in population. They believed it would increase social and recreational opportunities (more activity centres would be built) and would help with the boredom many claimed to suffer from living in small communities. However, some youth also noted that seeing new faces in the communities because of in-migration could make them feel less safe.

Among village-based participants, there was a sense that more jobs in the vicinity of the Nass Valley, Kitsault in particular, would result in in-migration. However, many urban participants noted they would prefer to commute to the mine sites from their current location rather than move to, or return to, the Nass Valley. In general, Nisga’a who had lived in the Nass Valley but moved away to one of the three cities did so for one of the following reasons:

- insufficient housing;
- to pursue adult education;
- to have increased access to, or what was perceived to be a better quality of education for their children, as well as health care and social services; and
- for social and cultural reasons (for example, due to a perception that certain aspects of village life were unfair or disagreeable).

A number of urban-based Nisga'a citizens said they would consider moving to one of the villages if there was work locally; however, housing would need to be available for them to consider this. Many also noted that it would depend on the types of jobs available.

A number of participants noted that in-migration could involve an influx of non-Nisga'a residents, as the villages are no longer reserves and could be attractive to anyone. Many participants spoke about the openness and welcoming nature of the Nisga'a culture and even suggested that non-Nisga'a in-migrants may be interested in attending Nisga'a cultural events.

3.3 ECONOMIC EFFECTS

Overall, participants strongly valued economic development for their communities and, more broadly, for the Nisga'a Nation. Unemployment is high in Nisga'a communities (particularly in the villages); fishing and forestry have both declined, and many canneries have closed. The majority of participants are cautiously optimistic about the benefits a local mining industry could have on Nass Valley communities, as well as on Prince Rupert and Terrace. Participants expressed a need for environmental and economic balance. For example, one participant stated, "our ecology is our economy" while another questioned whether money was the most important thing for the Nisga'a people. Participants, particularly those living in the villages, almost unanimously desired better housing, more and improved services, and more local businesses. Jobs and increased local spending were viewed as means for achieving these improvements.

3.3.1 Employment

Employment, particularly with respect to high-wage mining positions, was consistently cited among all groups as the biggest potential benefit, should the mining projects proceed. Participants tended not to differentiate much between the two projects when discussing employment; the fact that there would be jobs in the Nass Area meant that there would be new and welcomed employment opportunities for Nisga'a people, particularly if transportation was provided. A lack of local employment opportunities in the Nass Valley was cited as a major reason for why people leave the villages, or choose not to return from urban communities to the villages. One village Chief noted that his government was trying to create local employment because many existing families would prefer not to leave the Nass Valley for work. His impression was that many young people would want to remain and work at the KMP mine site because of its proximity to the villages.

Overall, men asserted a greater interest in mine employment than women did; however, a notable number of women also expressed personal interest in mine employment. This gender-based difference may have stemmed from a lack of information about the types of jobs that might be available during the life of the projects (i.e., non-labour jobs). The main themes discussed included the potential number of Nisga'a people that could be hired, human resources, fairness and transparency of hiring policies (in relation to the companies and NLG's involvement in hiring), access to higher paying positions, and childcare. Nisga'a women discussed childcare in depth, and generally viewed childcare as a barrier to shift work; men did not discuss the issue at all. Some of the benefits of employment cited by participants included better self-esteem, stability, ending dependence on social assistance, higher income to improve their family's standard of living (including housing improvements, or purchase of a house, or a larger house), and giving people something productive to do. In turn, these would help decrease substance misuse, particularly in the villages.

There were many questions related to how many Nisga'a people would be hired to work at the proposed projects. This often led to group discussions around a perception of favouritism within the Nisga'a Nation and the NLG with respect to the distribution of opportunities, hiring based on merit as opposed to geographic location or ethnicity, and experiences of outsiders taking local jobs.

Some participants suggested that a neutral third-party should liaise between the village governments and/or NLG and that mining companies should coordinate the hiring of Nisga'a employees as opposed to the NLG on its own. While many felt mining companies should commit to hiring a particular proportion of Nisga'a people, others believed that hiring should be based on merit since stated "preferential hiring" could perpetuate a dependency mindset. However, another participant stated that they did not want companies to be dissuaded from hiring Nisga'a due to a company's desire to avoid negatively affecting Nisga'a communities (with another participant adding that this could even be a company's strategy to avoid employing Nisga'a citizens).

Participants talked in depth about concerns related to outsourcing jobs to individuals from outside the Nass Area, the northwest region, and the province. Some participants expressed cynicism that the jobs generated during the projects' Construction and Operation phases would actually benefit the Nisga'a. These participants were concerned that a combination of lack of training/readiness among Nisga'a village-based residents and the companies' perceived desire to hire workers with fewer attachments to the land would contribute to fewer opportunities for Nisga'a citizens.

Another highly discussed theme related to the type of employment and job opportunities that would be available to Nisga'a citizens. Many participants noted that they would like to see Nisga'a citizens in professional and skilled positions, as opposed to general labour positions. Elders also expressed concern that youth may choose to obtain mine employment prior to completing high school, which would not facilitate higher levels of training and education for Nisga'a people generally. Many participants noted that they would like to see Nisga'a people assume senior management positions with decision-making power including human resources, finances, and all aspects of the companies' operations. Employment directly from high school was perceived to limit people to positions in general labour.

Many focus group participants spoke about the longevity of the mines and associated economic opportunities, particularly in the context of KMP's 16-year mine life. Respondents in many groups questioned what would happen to workers trained and employed for a number of years at the mines once the mines closed. Further, mining opportunities would only be viewed positively if the projects left behind a healthy environment as well as a legacy of outstanding economic benefits and opportunities. It was generally felt that socio-economic benefits would accrue not just to the young, who might be employed at the mines, but would improve the living standards for all. In contrast, a small number of participants believed that mining income might be squandered and/or not spent in the villages, but elsewhere (particularly due to the current lack of a business or retail base).

3.3.2 Training

A few male focus group participants in the villages or in the northwest had taken some mining training, and at least one participant was actively employed by a mine. Training was consistently discussed as integral to enabling Nisga'a to take advantage of employment opportunities. Nisga'a citizens were interested in understanding what types of jobs would be available and the related training required for each position. Many participants discussed a need to hold training in the villages, as opposed to a single location, to enable younger Nisga'a to participate and to increase the accessibility of training programs to all Nass Valley residents. Some participants were concerned whether enough time had been allowed for Nisga'a people to train for mine employment (particularly with respect to the KMP, due to its potential construction start date).

Participants debated whether the mining companies or the NLG should provide training. Those who felt the NLG should provide training placed importance on the location of training, while those who thought the mining companies should provide training were more concerned that training be formally linked to eventual employment. Training was also discussed as one of the more positive features of mine

employment. Participants noted that increasing skill sets would not only enable Nisga'a to obtain mine employment but could have other applications as well. Some stated that the variety of training made available might diversify the skill sets of Nisga'a people. Many participants in various groups noted that the Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a Institute offers some mining training, with one participant stating that additional industrial and mining courses needed to be offered in the village.

Elders, in particular, spoke about the need for young people not only to have opportunities to work, but also that a work ethic was crucial for acquiring and maintaining work. They cited potential additional benefits, such as taking responsibility and initiative, becoming educated, and being financially responsible. One elder expressed concern that high school students, enticed by mining wages, will drop out before graduation in order to start working. A few participants thought that it might set the education bar too low if emphasis is put on only achieving a high school diploma. In contrast, another elder believed that Nisga'a *have* been preparing for these employment opportunities, but that contractors have been flown in and out from various sites and that local Nisga'a residents have remained "standing outside the door."

3.3.3 Community Investment and Revenue Sharing

Participants in multiple focus groups promoted the idea of community investment and discussed a variety of ways in which the mining proponents could contribute to infrastructure, services, and programs, especially in the villages. Participants placed great importance on the notion of giving back to communities, particularly for the longer term. Specific contributions included funding for the Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a Institution, a community swimming pool, recreation centres, as well as funding for language programs.

Various elders at the focus groups spoke about the possibility of revenue sharing between the mining companies and the Nisga'a Nation as compensation for resources extracted from Nisga'a lands. Elders explained that while Nisga'a own the assets, benefits are reaped by companies and their investors rather than the Nisga'a themselves. A number of elders felt that Aboriginal peoples have been significantly affected by the past misuse of their lands and resources by others. They noted that, going forward, a different approach was required when interacting with companies wishing to work on their lands.

3.3.4 Local Businesses

Nisga'a focus group participants expressed a unanimous desire to have additional businesses located in the Nisga'a Villages. A number of participants believed that potential increased populations and incomes associated with mining opportunities would stimulate new businesses development. In contrast, others felt that populations were not likely to increase, that few or no Nisga'a people would be employed and consequently, no new local businesses would be established. Further, it was noted that without additional local businesses, the villages do not have the capacity to benefit from increased incomes associated with those who do obtain mine-related employment. In brief, while many participants felt that local communities could benefit economically, others believed an increase in local wealth would flow to Terrace and beyond.

Some participants discussed the notion that if the proposed mine projects are developed, additional services may be required. Examples included light industrial trucking, as well as transportation or mechanical services for those travelling the Nisga'a Highway. They further noted that Nisga'a people based in the Nass Valley could start small businesses and provide these services. The challenges of sustaining a business in the Nass Valley was commonly discussed in all focus group locations, particularly as these potential businesses would need to compete with larger economic centres such as Terrace, and to a lesser extent Prince Rupert. More optimistic participants thought that the demands

from the mines, and associated population and spending increases, would be good for local business. Examples of potential businesses suggested include:

- a transportation ferry or water taxi service to the KMP mine site from Gingolx;
- a trucking business;
- a local airport based in the Nass Valley;
- accommodations (hotels and bed-and-breakfasts);
- bus shuttle services to the mine sites;
- increased tourism (including fishing lodges and wilderness guides);
- port capacity for import/export;
- grocery stores and food suppliers;
- clothing stores, restaurants, and cafes;
- food processing; and
- a market for local art.

One individual stated that his local trucking business would benefit if the mining proponents used his trucks.

3.4 SOCIAL EFFECTS

3.4.1 Community Infrastructure, Facilities, and Services

Overall, any effects to facilities, infrastructure, and services (such as health, education, recreation, emergency services, social services, water/sewer systems, and roads) were based on the potential increase in population. Generally, focus group participants stated increased village populations would necessitate increases or upgrades to services and facilities. Schools and teachers were an exception, as participants in some villages felt current school facilities and teachers had the capacity to take on additional students due to low enrolment. Participants also stated that investment to help expand educational programming would be welcome. In some instances, women stated they could step in if necessary to provide community services such as childcare (and in one instance, fire services) if people were away working. The lack of facilities and services were also commonly discussed as a deterrent for people to in-migrate to the Nass Valley.

Insufficient housing supply in the Nisga'a Villages was consistently cited as a major issue and was discussed by all groups as the main barrier preventing Nisga'a from returning or considering a return to the Nass Valley. Current housing conditions were described as overcrowded with multiple generations and extended families residing in one house. Further, participants described a desire for higher density complexes, trailer courts, and elders housing.

Apartment complexes were sometimes thought of as desirable for young people and potential mine employees, while some participants described trailer courts as ideal for young families. Many participants noted that waiting lists for housing were long, even for families. Consequently, a few participants suggested that the addition of only two families could potentially cause a problem.

Participants who disagreed that housing would be a challenge should population growth occur believed newcomers would purchase serviced lots that have recently been developed by the NLG and build their own houses. Nisga'a focus group participants discussed changes to home ownership enacted by the

Nisga'a Final Agreement that enable Nisga'a citizens to own their homes. Participants who believed housing would not be an issue stated home ownership would be positive for the Nisga'a Nation, as the NLG will begin to collect property taxes in the near future. As such, newcomers and homebuyers would create revenue for the development of community facilities and services. However, due to the current low employment levels within the village communities, there was uncertainty as to how residents could contribute to any new tax requirement.

Many participants living in the Nass Valley believed health services were insufficient and that there was a need for elder care, home visits, shorter wait times, more nurses, doctors and specialists, and more diagnostic equipment. Several participants reported that they went to Terrace to access health care. One participant in the Nass Valley reported it was faster to drive from Laxgalts'ap to Terrace to see a doctor than to wait to see one in the village.

Focus group participants reported sewer and water services had been upgraded in a few of the villages and were thought to have the capacity to accommodate population growth. Within the context of this discussion, one participant was concerned about chemical disposal at the proposed KSM mine as his community's recently upgraded water system draws drinking water from the Nass River.

Discussions around the use of local roads for the transportation of materials and mine employees included concerns about increased traffic accidents, children and employee safety, and current road conditions. Participants were divided on whether or not traffic accidents would be an issue, with some participants indicating an increase in traffic would lead to increases in accidents generally, while other participants stated accidents were not a concern. Women wondered about the safety of children if many trucks would be travelling through the Nisga'a Villages. Many participants stated local roads—particularly the Cranberry Connector—would need to be upgraded if traffic increased. Specific improvements noted included: widening the road in certain places, upgrading the one-lane bridges to two-lane bridges, adding traffic lights, and communicating haul schedules to local communities.

With respect to local roads and increased traffic, women discussed the expansion of the local road system that connects the Nisga'a Villages to each other and to other communities. Women stated the villages were connected within the past two decades, which had both positive and negative outcomes. One woman stated that “the elders predicted bad things would happen when the roads opened, that the new road wouldn't just help us to get out but that other's would be able to get in. They said if we wanted to get out, we had to be willing to let the bad in.” Another woman felt community roads had an impact on culture and reported a decrease in community cohesion, stating “people don't go the important events...we don't have unity anymore, we are divided.” Several other participants mirrored this sentiment and stated that prior to the introduction of the roads, people in the Nisga'a Villages were closer, there was more cooperation, and people knew their neighbours more than they do today. Nisga'a elders indicated while there were some negative effects, the end of isolation was a major benefit. A number of participants, including youth, also noted that community cohesion could also be negatively affected by potential in-migration, as residents would no longer feel like “everyone knows each other.”

Discussions around mine-related accidents focused on emergency response and the ability to transport workers effectively from the mine site to a location where they could receive the necessary care. Other topics included safety protocols and mandatory safety meetings.

3.4.2 Shift Work

Focus group participants were divided as to whether the impacts of shift work would be positive or negative. While some participants preferred a two-week rotation, other participants indicated that a

three-week on and off rotation was preferred, as this enabled workers to spend more time with their families, and participate in resource harvesting, cultural events, and ceremonies. Other participants discussed the challenges that this type of work schedule might cause for families, such as children having an absent parent, challenges to relationships (jealousy, distance, loneliness), and the “single parent” nature of the spouse remaining at home. Some participants thought shift work would have the greatest impact on younger families, whereas youth noted shift work might be less problematic for Nisga’a people because in their culture children and youth are raised by different family members. Most participants stated that shift work might be difficult but the income made this a worthwhile challenge.

Participants were also divided as to the impact of increased incomes from mine employment. Some participants felt workers would use their money in a positive way, such as buying or upgrading a home and paying bills, while other participants thought workers might spend their money on partying. Women, specifically, noted that substance misuse often leads to other issues such as family violence. Another concern related to shift work and increased incomes was that workers would not come home on their time off. Participants, women in particular, thought workers might go to Terrace or elsewhere, as there is currently nowhere to spend money in the villages. Other participants thought workers might go to Terrace or elsewhere to drink, use drugs, or gamble. One female participant was concerned about possible negative repercussions of men (including non-Nisga’a) on shift work coming into the villages on their days off and creating an unsafe environment for women and girls.

Participants who had prior knowledge of shift work, either through their own participation or through that of their partner or family member, viewed it in a more positive light. In comparison, participants who did not have any experience with or knowledge of shift work had a more negative view. Generally, urban Nisga’a participants were more familiar with shift work and believed although there was an adjustment period, but people adapted to it. At the same time, many participants, particularly of the older generation, had experience with shift work through forestry and commercial fishing. Urban participants also stated that many Nisga’a were currently working away from home for extended periods due to a lack of local employment opportunities.

3.4.3 Work Camps

Female focus group participants in all locations advocated for dry work camps and random drug and alcohol testing. Women, in particular, were concerned that mine workers would go to camp and only spend half the time working or would spend all their money on drugs and alcohol before they came home. Some participants thought it did not matter whether or not the camps were dry and that people would have access to substances in the camp. Some female participants were concerned about the safety of female workers in work camps and queried whether camps would be co-ed and whether there would be security personnel at the camps.

Participants indicated a preference for establishing small mining towns as opposed to work camps because families can remain together and small towns generally provide a variety of facilities and services. One participant stated there was greater accountability within families when they were able to live together.

3.4.4 Community Well-Being and Health

Focus group participants commonly raised the issue of substance misuse when responding to questions about how a sudden peak in incomes combined with a shift rotation schedule might affect community and family life. However, many noted that this issue had improved in recent years. Some women and elders stated that substance misuse is connected to the ongoing effects of residential schools. Many discussed a need for more healing and rehabilitation centres for individuals who wanted to enter

into recovery. Participants explained that resources for recovery programs were limited and were sometimes only available to those in extremely dire need. Several participants expressed a need for a more proactive approach that would reach more people and be more effective in the end.

Participants stated Nisga'a people are still struggling with these and others issues and that the Nisga'a Nation did not need additional struggles associated with mines (e.g., environmental or social). Most participants acknowledged substance misuse was currently an issue in Nisga'a communities, both in the villages and in the cities; however, many were not concerned the issue would become worse as a result of shift work, work camps, and increased incomes. Many participants described the use of substances as an individual choice and stated certain people would likely spend their income irresponsibly but others would improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. Another participant thought the combination of shift work, work camps, and increased incomes would necessitate an increased police presence in the Nisga'a Villages. Others believed there was sufficient police presence already.

Many participants expressed a concern that mining projects would contribute to health problems locally due to environmental contamination (particularly air and water). In many focus groups, participants noted concern over higher incidences of cancer and other diseases among the Nisga'a. A high proportion of these participants speculated that this spike in illness was related to previous operations at Kitsault, notably tailing disposal, an idea that was usually supported by other participants.

3.5 CULTURAL EFFECTS

3.5.1 Land-based Activities

Overall, focus group participants expressed a strong affinity between land-based activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping and plant harvesting, and Nisga'a culture and identity. Participants stressed that mining developments should not degrade the environment or natural resources as this would negatively affect these activities. The importance of fishing (salmon, oolichan, halibut, sea lion), including shellfish harvesting (crab, cockles, clams) was discussed by virtually all groups at some length. The Nass River and the inlets near Gingolx, including Alice Arm, were held in high importance. Participants in several groups noted they hunted, fished, harvested plant medicines and cedar, and had trap lines in the Kitsault area. These participants worried that redevelopment of the Kitsault mine site would negatively affect these activities due to the contamination of water, or by scaring off wildlife and changing the migratory routes of some animals due to noise.

Some participants thought the particular individuals participating in harvesting activities might change if local people were to obtain mine employment (i.e., current harvesters might hire others to do the harvesting and processing for them if they were unavailable and away for work). Others believed that mine employees would hunt and fish on their weeks off, although some elders noted that when logging was a predominant activity people spent less time hunting and more time in town. Some males stated there would be no impact on harvesting practices due to the current lack of participation in harvesting, further noting that most people buy groceries in stores. Another man stated very few people live off the land today, but those who did shared with others. Youth, who appeared to value harvesting activities, were unsure of whether resource harvesting activities would change because of the introduction of mines and mine employment. As a precaution, some suggested that mining proponents could develop a facility where youth could learn to harvest resources.

As previously noted, Nisga'a focus group participants living in the Nass Valley were more likely to participate in harvesting activities than Nisga'a living in Terrace, and especially in Prince Rupert.

Nisga'a living in Vancouver did not practice harvesting activities and returned infrequently to the Nass Valley. However, Nisga'a participants living in all locations emphasized the importance of harvesting to the Nisga'a culture, regardless of whether or not they or their families currently harvested. Men were more likely to hunt than women were, although women participated in processing. Many participants discussed harvesting as a means of supplementing a store-based diet, which saved them a significant amount of money. Others discussed how the accessibility of Terrace by road (especially now that Gingolx and Gitwinksihlkw are both connected by bridge and road to the other villages and Terrace) had made store-bought groceries more accessible and thus contributed to changes in the Nisga'a diet.

Most participants did not believe that an increase in population (Nisga'a or non-Nisga'a/non-Aboriginal) would affect land-based activities other than by providing additional or replacement people to assist with harvesting and processing. Some concern was expressed around increased access to resources (mainly wildlife and mushrooms) by outsiders.

Many participants feared that an accident involving hazardous materials, especially a chemical spill, would do irreparable damage to the environment and waterways, which would have long-lasting negative effects on their harvesting activities and on certain cultural practices (e.g., the ability to harvest materials required for regalia or cedar for carvings). The high level of concern associated with water contamination by a large proportion of participants appears to be linked to a widely held belief (held not only in the villages, but also by urban citizens as far away as Vancouver) that previous operations at the old Kitsault mine significantly contaminated the local waters of Alice Arm. A commonly relayed anecdote was that of finding king crabs in atypical habitat. It is believed that the king crabs were forced to migrate to new habitat because of the chemicals that had been dumped or leaked into the inlet. This caused a great deal of concern to local residents who did not understand what the previous mining company had been doing with their submarine tailing disposal. Consequently, there is still a strongly held sentiment amongst the Nisga'a that the mining company operated in a non-transparent manner. In virtually every single focus group (save those with youth), this issue about previous contamination of the waters around Kitsault was raised and many questions were asked about how Avanti would ensure that the same problem did not occur again. This experience has very much shaped popular opinion about the environmental effects of mining and, as such, concerns about the impacts of mining on fishing and seafood harvesting was very common in relation to both proposed mines.

Impacts to country foods was a topic discussed mainly by Nisga'a women and included food security (including access), weighing the positive and negative aspects of the mine projects, and the frequency of consumption. Urban women talked about their reliance on country foods not only for cultural reasons but also for economic reasons. One woman stated that if country foods were affected by the proposed mine projects "there would be a major effect, [country] food is lifeline for us, when you can't go to the store, you eat jarred food." Another woman in the Nass Valley stated, "I could not imagine if one aspect of our food was taken away...how drastically that would affect our future, our children, our economy. We would become apathetic. We would have no drive."

Within Terrace and Prince Rupert, unemployment is high and women described a heavy reliance on country foods. Another woman stated, "all the jobs and benefits of the mines do not outweigh our environment because we live off our wild food." One women's focus group discussed a concern about the upgrading and extending of the road to the proposed KMP site. This group felt that mushroom picking areas would be negatively affected because the area would become more accessible to other people.

Participants (both men and women) expressed concerns related to the effects mine tailings might have on seafood and discussed the Kitsault mine of the past. Men commented that if people who obtain mine employment were unable to participate in harvesting and processing it would change the relationship

people have with food, which would result in changes to culture. One man stated the options were to “either work for money to buy food, or stay home and be able to get your own food.”

3.5.2 Feasts and Ceremonies

The majority of Nisga'a focus group participants described the Nisga'a culture as very strong and did not feel the proposed mine projects would have any notable impact on cultural feasts and ceremonies. Many participants mentioned that if certain people were away for work, others would attend cultural events and assume any cultural responsibilities on their behalf. However, most participants indicated that in the case of a death, the person who is the undertaker must be present (based on clan, heredity, and family tradition, someone is selected from outside the immediate and extended family of the deceased to oversee the funeral and ceremonial arrangements).

Several focus group participants indicated that they had quit jobs that would not provide them with time off to fulfill their cultural duties as undertaker or allow them the requisite amount of time off to grieve for a family member in the Nisga'a tradition. One participant stated that although it is preferred that Nisga'a people attend as many ceremonies and feasts as possible, if someone passes away the undertaker *must* return to fulfill their cultural obligation. Nisga'a participants hoped mine companies would respect Nisga'a culture in this way and provide an employee with sufficient time off if the situation arises. Many participants stated that other important cultural ceremonies such as stone moving feasts and weddings are known up to two years in advance and time off could be planned accordingly. Although this perspective was expressed almost unanimously throughout the focus groups, one urban participant stated that even if a person was an undertaker they could find someone else to fill in for them if they were away at work.

Several participants offered that if someone is away for work and unable to attend a ceremony or feast, it helps if they can send money. Many participants stated that mine proponents should respect Nisga'a culture and allow for some flexibility as the Nisga'a have their cultural calendar prepared up to two years in advance and, as such, know most of their cultural obligations ahead of time. One participant stated there will be high turn-over if scheduling flexibility does not exist. Others voiced their displeasure at the idea of having to choose between income and culture and wondered if once people had money they would be more inclined to travel or participate in other activities, stating that “money pulls you away from your cultural duties.”

Alternatively, participants stated that having income would make it easier to host feasts and thought people might give more generously at feasts where money is raised. Further, some believed that more Nisga'a citizens might attend events as a result of income access, as those who are not currently able to contribute financially sometimes refrain from participating because it is an uncomfortable situation for them (the donation process takes place publicly at Nisga'a feasts). In general, there was a sense that work was important and people would be willing to juggle other responsibilities to the best of their ability in order to maintain work; however, mining companies should be sensitive to and understanding about the importance of cultural duties. In this regard, it was suggested that there be Nisga'a on staff in a human resources or liaison capacity to help bridge cultural differences.

Urban participants reported high participation in dance groups (even in Vancouver) and noted that feasts also took place in Terrace and Prince Rupert. Urban participants stated that the mine projects will not change culture, and noted that the culture has survived for thousands of years. Urban participants noted that should local people gain mine employment, they may have enough money to donate to or join dance groups and could buy the supplies to make more regalia. These participants indicated they did not attend Hobiye (the Nisga'a new year celebration) due to the high costs

involved, and theorized that if more people were gainfully employed with mine companies, participation in feasts and ceremonies might increase.

3.5.3 Language

Overall, focus group participants did not think the proposed mine projects would affect the Nisga'a language. Many participants believed the Nisga'a language was undergoing revitalization and held this in high regard. However, the majority of participants were not fluent in Nisga'a. Participants generally did not see links between mine development and associated economic, social, and demographic changes and the transmission of the Nisga'a language. Participants noted that the Nisga'a language is used in Nisga'a cultural events like feasts and as such, it will continue to be used and transmitted. Several participants thought the mines could positively affect the language by providing financial support for school language programs. Participant described language revitalization efforts, such as the new First Voices iPhone software application for Nisga'a language, and Nisga'a language classes offered in schools and elsewhere. Youth thought newcomers to the villages would want to learn the Nisga'a language so they would understand what was being said at feasts and ceremonies.

3.6 CUMULATIVE AND INCREMENTAL EFFECTS

When asked about their opinions regarding the degree of mining development that would be acceptable in the local area, participants stated that one or two mines was enough (or more than enough), until the actual social, economic, and environmental impacts of the first mines were known. The overall concern was not community-based, but rather that additional mines would create too great a strain on the environment and environmental systems, and would potentially result in environmental damage. Although many participants noted that additional mine projects could create additional employment opportunities, which they considered to be positive, this discussion usually ended by considering what the "land can sustain." Some participants expressed a concern that resources would be depleted too quickly, and wondered why additional mines could not be developed over time (i.e., sequentially as opposed to concurrently). Others questioned whether one mine might prove to be too much for the environment and thought the NLG would not allow more than two mines.

A number of participants stated they were unable to answer questions related to cumulative and incremental effects until they knew (had experienced) the potential impacts of one mine. One participant expressed concern about additional mines providing employment to all Nisga'a people residing in the villages. She questioned how many people would continue to reside in the villages and how the villages would change as a result of mine employment. Some youth expressed a concern about the villages turning into cities and thought they would not be able to recognize their own backyards. Most participants concluded that "the decision will have to be made based on how the mines will affect us in the long run."

4. Summary

In March and April 2012, Seabridge and Avanti undertook 25 focus groups with Nisga'a citizens. Focus group interviews were one of the methods of responding to the Nisga'a Guidelines put forth by the NLG and further described in the *KSM/KMP Work Plan for Assessment of Nisga'a Economic, Social, and Cultural Impacts* (Seabridge 2011). Led by Rescan, 16 focus groups were held in the four Nass Valley villages, four in Terrace, four in Prince Rupert, and one in Vancouver. In each location, focus groups were held with youth, elders, and adult men and women—except in Vancouver where only one single-mixed focus group was held. In total, 206 individuals participated in the focus groups.

The focus groups are intended to provide supplementary data about the perspectives of Nisga'a citizens in relation to the potential social, cultural, and economic impacts of the proposed KSM and KMP projects, both of which lie within, or partially within, the Nass Area. Participants' views varied broadly; however, the key emergent themes were the economy and the environment. Participants desired economic development in Nisga'a communities (both in the Nass Valley and in the cities) and for the Nisga'a Nation and welcomed increases in job opportunities and local businesses. Training and the mining companies' hiring policies were considered to be important factors in whether or not, or how many, Nisga'a citizens would benefit from local mining development. Participants' views were mixed about whether or not the mining projects would result in notable in-migration to the Nass Valley; however, it was noted that many social services (including education and health) would likely need upgrading or augmenting in order to accommodate and/or encourage population growth. In particular, housing was commonly described as the key barrier to growth in the Nass Valley.

While the majority of focus group participants welcomed economic growth and job opportunities, this was nearly always coupled with concern about the potential environmental effects of the proposed projects on wildlife, fish, human health, and harvesting activities. Participants asked many questions about the mining companies' specific environmental management policies and designs, and desired more information and interaction (e.g., public engagement) between the companies and the communities. Participants held harvesting activities, feasts, and ceremonies in high regard, regardless of how many participants actually participated in these activities currently. Similarly, the Nisga'a language was highly regarded as important to Nisga'a culture, although few participants spoke the language fluently. Overall, the participants displayed a flexible attitude and explained that cultural activities, including the Nisga'a language, the feasting system, and harvesting activities would continue unfettered regardless of the development of the two mines, assuming that the proponents assured environmental health and safety.

References

Definitions of the acronyms and abbreviations used in this reference list can be found in the Glossary and Abbreviations section.

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Appendix A

Call for Participants

Call for Participants

Group Interviews/Focus Groups

Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge Gold), Avanti Mining Inc. (Avanti) and the Nisga'a Lisims Government invite you to participate in an upcoming group interview in your village.

The group interview is a follow-up on a survey of social, economic, resource use and culture impacts (SERC Survey) conducted with Nisga'a citizens last summer and fall. The purpose of the group interviews is to hear more from Nisga'a citizens about how you think mining projects could affect your life, your community, and the Nisga'a Nation.

Participants will receive a 50\$ honorarium for their time.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Gitlaxt'aamiks

Monday March 12th

Youth (age 15-19): 4pm-6pm

Elders: 4pm-6pm

Women: 7pm-9pm

Men: 7pm-9pm

Gitwinksihlkw

Tuesday March 13th

Youth (age 15-19): 4pm-6pm

Elders: 9am-11am

Women: 7pm-9pm

Men: 7pm-9pm

Laxgalts'ap

Wednesday March 14th

Youth (age 15-19): 4pm-6pm

Elders: 4pm-6pm

Women: 7pm-9pm

Men: 7pm-9pm

Gingolx

Thursday March 15th

Youth (age 15-19): 5pm-7pm

Elders: 3pm-5pm

Women: 7:30pm-9:30pm

Men: 7:30pm-9:30pm

If you are interested in participating please sign up at your Village Government Office. Spaces are limited and participants will be registered on a first-come first-serve basis.

Appendix B

Laxgalts'ap Group Interview Registration

Laxgalts'ap Group Interview Registration- YOUTH GROUP
Wednesday March 14th
Youth Room (Community Centre), 4pm-6pm

Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge Gold) and the Nisga'a Lisims Government invite you to participate in an upcoming group interview in your village. The group interview is a follow-up to a survey of social, economic, resource use and culture impacts (SERC Survey) conducted with Nisga'a citizens last summer and fall. The purpose of the group interview is to hear more from Nisga'a citizens about how you think mining projects could affect your life, your community, and the Nisga'a Nation.

YOUTH INTERVIEW (Age 15-19)

Rescan Environmental Services (Rescan), the group that is leading the group interviews, will contact you with more information. Please provide a phone number (or e-mail).

Please sign-up by March 8th, 2012. Participants will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

1. Name:

7. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

2. Name:

8. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

3. Name:

9. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

4. Name:

10. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

5. Name:

11. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

6. Name:

12. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Participants will receive a 50\$ honorarium for their time. Light refreshments will be provided.

Laxgalts'ap Group Interview Registration- ELDERS GROUP
Wednesday March 14th
Classroom (Community Centre), 4pm-6pm

Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge Gold) and the Nisga'a Lisims Government invite you to participate in an upcoming group interview in your village. The group interview is a follow-up to a survey of social, economic, resource use and culture impacts (SERC Survey) conducted with Nisga'a citizens last summer and fall. The purpose of the group interview is to hear more from Nisga'a citizens about how you think mining projects could affect your life, your community, and the Nisga'a Nation.

ELDERS INTERVIEW

Rescan Environmental Services (Rescan), the group that is leading the group interviews, will contact you with more information. Please provide a phone number (or e-mail).

Please sign-up by March 8th, 2012. Participants will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

1. Name:

7. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

2. Name:

8. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

3. Name:

9. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

4. Name:

10. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

5. Name:

11. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

6. Name:

12. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Participants will receive a 50\$ honorarium for their time. Light refreshments will be provided.

Laxgalts'ap Group Interview Registration- WOMEN'S GROUP
Wednesday March 14th
Youth Room (Community Centre), 7pm-9pm

Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge Gold) and the Nisga'a Lisims Government invite you to participate in an upcoming group interview in your village. The group interview is a follow-up to a survey of social, economic, resource use and culture impacts (SERC Survey) conducted with Nisga'a citizens last summer and fall. The purpose of the group interview is to hear more from Nisga'a citizens about how you think mining projects could affect your life, your community, and the Nisga'a Nation.

WOMENS' INTERVIEW

Rescan Environmental Services (Rescan), the group that is leading the group interviews, will contact you with more information. Please provide a phone number (or e-mail).

Please sign-up by March 8th, 2012. Participants will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

1. Name:

7. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

2. Name:

8. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

3. Name:

9. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

4. Name:

10. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

5. Name:

11. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

6. Name:

12. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Participants will receive a 50\$ honorarium for their time. Light refreshments will be provided.

Laxgalts'ap Group Interview Registration- MEN'S GROUP
Wednesday March 14th
Classroom (Communirachty Centre), 7pm-9pm

Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge Gold) and the Nisga'a Lisims Government invite you to participate in an upcoming group interview in your village. The group interview is a follow-up to a survey of social, economic, resource use and culture impacts (SERC Survey) conducted with Nisga'a citizens last summer and fall. The purpose of the group interview is to hear more from Nisga'a citizens about how you think mining projects could affect your life, your community, and the Nisga'a Nation.

MENS' INTERVIEW

Rescan Environmental Services (Rescan), the group that is leading the group interviews, will contact you with more information. Please provide a phone number (or e-mail).

Please sign-up by March 8th, 2012. Participants will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

1. Name:

7. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

2. Name:

8. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

3. Name:

9. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

4. Name:

10. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

5. Name:

11. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

6. Name:

12. Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Participants will receive a 50\$ honorarium for their time. Light refreshments will be provided.

Appendix C

Nisga'a Group Interviews/Focus Groups - Informed
Consent Form



Rescan™ Environmental Services Ltd.

Sixth Floor, 1111 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6E 2J3
Telephone: (604) 689-9460
Facsimile: (604) 687-4277
e-mail: rescan@rescan.com

Nisga'a Group Interviews/Focus Groups

Informed Consent Form

Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge), Avanti Mining Inc. (Avanti), and the Nisga'a Lisims Government invite you to participate in a group interview. This group interview involves a guided discussion about how you think mining projects may affect Nisga'a citizens, Nisga'a villages, and the Nisga'a Nation. The group interview is being conducted to satisfy aspects of the Nisga'a Final Agreement as it pertains to the environmental assessment of the proposed KSM (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell) mine and the proposed Kitsault mine.

Confidentiality: The group interview is non-confidential and the general results of the group interviews may be used in two environmental assessments (KSM mine and the Kitsault mine). Your name will not appear in any document nor will it be attached to any quotes that may be used in the final report. The session will be recorded to ensure the accuracy of discussions. All research materials will be kept for a three year period in a locked filing cabinet and/or password protected computer. At the end of two years all research materials will be destroyed in accordance with the Tri-Council Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2010).

You have the right to discontinue your participation in the focus group at any point. You also have the right to refuse to answer any question(s) without repercussions.

Your signature below indicates that you consent to participate in this focus group and that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records.

Print Your Name

Sign Your Name

Date



Appendix D

KSM Project

Appendix D1. Overview / Components

Appendix D2. Environmental Management / Human Environment Studies

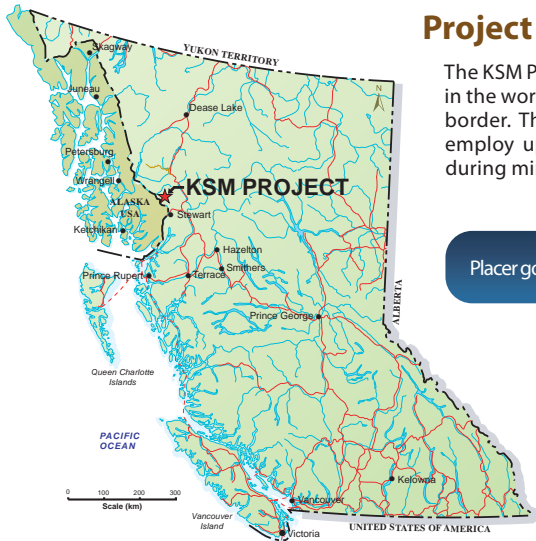
Appendix D3. Natural Environment Studies

Appendix D4. Regulatory Review / Environmental Assessment (EA)
Process

KSM PROJECT



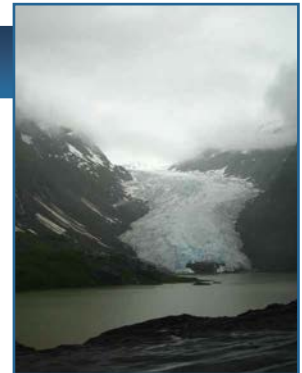
Project Overview



Project Overview

The KSM Project is a proposal to build a mine at the site of one of the largest undeveloped gold resources in the world. The project is located about 65 km northwest of Stewart and 30 km northeast of the Alaska border. The now-closed Eskay Creek mine is located about 20 km to the northwest. The project will employ up to 1,100 people during construction and will create approximately 930 permanent jobs during mine operations.

Placer gold was discovered in the proposed KSM Project area in the late 1800s.



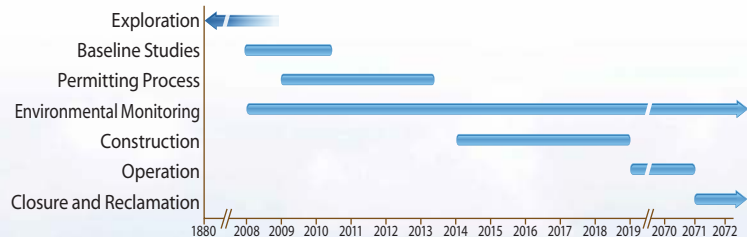
Project Details

- The KSM Project is made up of four large gold and copper deposits. The total resources identified to date are described in the following table:

Category	Tonnes (000)	Gold Grade (g/t)	Gold Ounces (000)	Copper Grade (%)	Copper Lbs (millions)
Measured	677,600	0.64	13,943	0.17	2,539
Indicated	1,871,700	0.52	31,380	0.23	9,322
Inferred	1,100,300	0.41	14,470	0.17	4,181
Total	3,649,600		59,793		16,042

- Within this total, the preliminary feasibility study update (2011) determined that these deposits contain proven and probable reserves of 38.5 million ounces of gold and 9.9 billion pounds of copper.
- The Kerr, Sulphurets and Mitchell deposits will be mined as open pits using earth-moving equipment. Mitchell will be mined as an underground operation later in the mine life. Iron Cap will only be mined as an underground operation.
- The mine will produce about 120,000 tonnes of ore per day.
- Trucks will take the gold/copper concentrate to Stewart for transport by ship to market.
- The proposed mine has a 50-55 year life. This duration creates multi-generation job opportunities.
- The project's capital cost is estimated at approximately US \$4.7 billion.
- During operation, the project will generate significant tax revenues and royalties to governments.

Timeline



Project Components

Eskay Creek Road

- Controlled access to limit effects on fish and wildlife.
- 35 km addition to existing road.
- Bridge over Unuk River.

Teigen Access Road

- 14 km access road to Highway 37.
- Controlled access limits effects on fish and wildlife.

Transmission Line

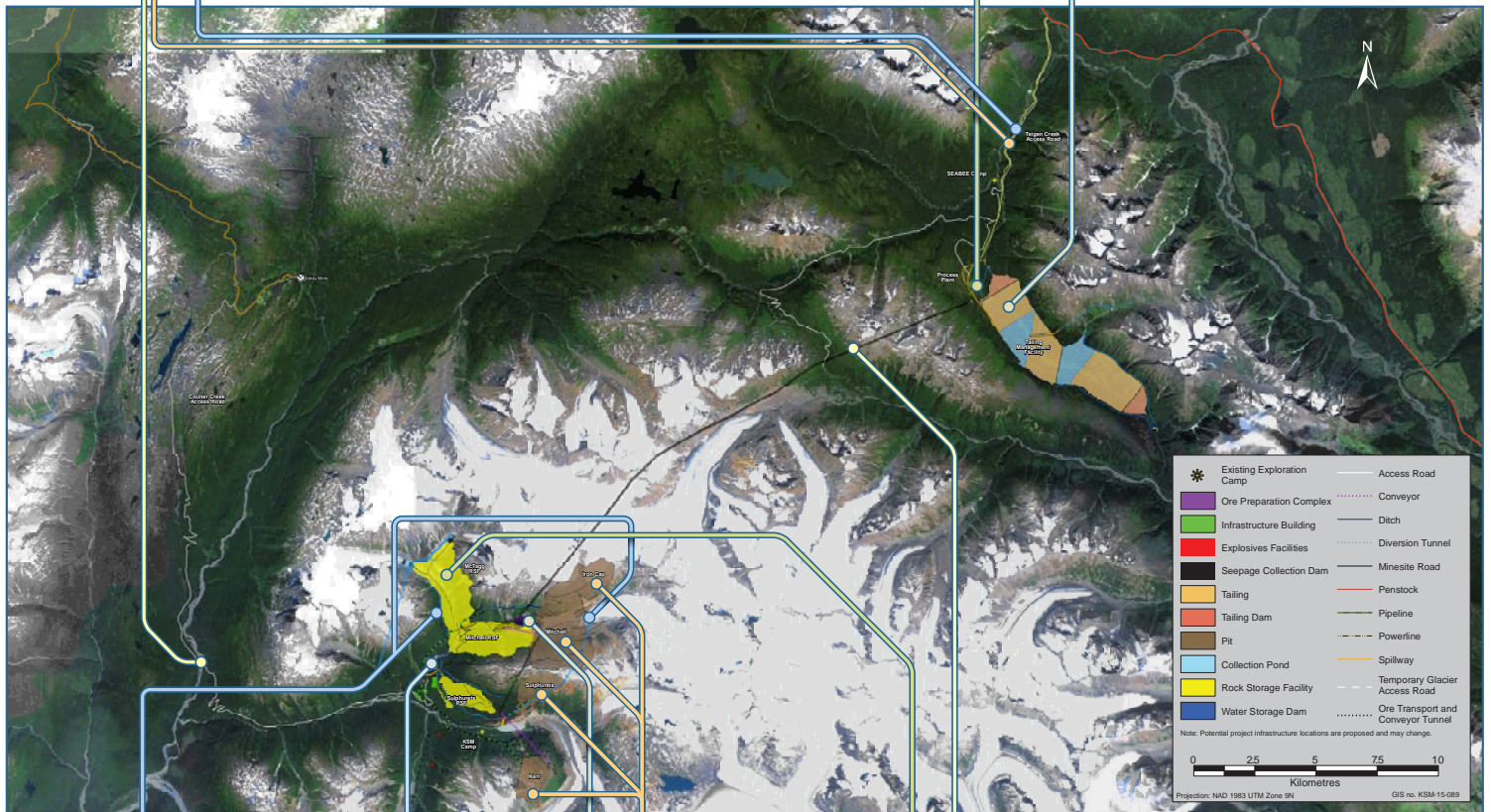
- Parallels Teigen Creek access road.
- Provides link to provincial electricity grid.

Processing Plant

- Located near the end of the ore transport tunnels.
- Copper, gold and molybdenum are separated from the ore using a flotation process.
- Cyanide, used to extract more gold, is recovered and residual cyanide is subjected to two separate destruction methods.
- Copper, molybdenum and gold are trucked off-site for further processing.
- Ground ore with metals removed, "tailing," is pumped to the tailing management facility.
- Camp nearby to house employees.

Tailing Management Facility

- Dams constructed with locally quarried rock and non-sulphide bearing tailing.
- Sulphide bearing tailing submerged in the centre of the facility to ensure permanent saturation.
- Dams at either end have low permeability cores.
- Seepage collection dams downstream of tailing dams.



Water Treatment Facilities

- Dam on lower Mitchell Creek collects drainage from the Mitchell Pit and rock storage facilities.
- Drainage from facilities piped to the dam.
- Water piped by gravity to a treatment plant.
- Turbine installed in the pipeline generates electricity.
- Camp nearby to house employees.

Ore Preparation Complex

- Ore is crushed and transported on a conveyor to the processing plant.

Diversion Tunnels

- Two tunnels (Mitchell and McTagg) divert water away from the Mitchell Pit and rock storage facilities.
- Keep fresh water away from surface disturbances, maintaining water quality.
- Water discharging through tunnels is directed through turbines to generate electricity to supplement power from the provincial grid.
- Will remain in operation after closure and will supply power to water treatment facilities.

The Kerr, Sulphurets and Mitchell deposits will be mined as open pits using earth-moving equipment. Mitchell will be mined as an underground operation later in the mine life. Iron Cap will only be mined as an underground operation.

TOTAL measured and indicated resources of the four deposits:

- Gold: 45.3 million ounces
- Copper: 11.9 billion pounds
- Silver: 256 million ounces
- Molybdenum: 291 million pounds

Ore Transport Tunnels

- Parallel pair of tunnels.
- Required to access the processing plant and tailing management facility from mine sites.
- Each tunnel will be about 23 km long with an access about 7 km from the northern end.
- Parallel tunnels with cross connections provide an escape route and enable ventilation during construction.
- Tunnels include a conveyor, diesel pipeline and transmission line.

Rock Storage Facilities (RSF)

- Stores non-ore rock removed to access ore.
- Ditches and tunnels divert surface run-off.
- RSF drainage collected and treated.
- Covered with overburden and vegetated at closure.

For more information on the project please contact us at community@seabridgegold.net or visit www.seabridgegold.net

For more information on the environmental assessment process please contact the Environmental Assessment Office at eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca or visit www.eao.gov.bc.ca

KSM PROJECT



Environmental Management

Seabridge recognizes that mining affects the environment. We will work with the provincial and federal governments, Aboriginal peoples, and local communities to minimize potentially adverse project effects, discuss options, and plan for successful mine closure and reclamation.

Project Design

Design provisions to protect the environment include:

- Tailing Management Facility located in an area with easily managed surface water flows.
- Water management plan for the proposed mining area to minimize effects on natural watercourses and treat affected water.
- Diversion tunnels to direct clean water around areas disturbed by mining.
- Run-of-river hydro-electric generation of green energy in diversions and process streams.
- Use of energy efficient equipment will reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Conveyor to transport ore through a tunnel from the mine site to the processing plant.
- Use of existing access roads as much as possible to minimize additional road construction.
- Use of access roads limited to authorized personnel, along with restrictions on employee hunting and fishing, to prevent harvesting pressure on fish and wildlife.

The KSM Project has been designed, and will be developed and operated, using the highest practicable standards of environmental management.

Project Operations

Operating policies will include:

- Use of best environmental practices.
- Spill avoidance and spill control plans.
- Emergency response plans.
- Reduce, re-use, recycle initiatives to minimize waste.
- Ongoing energy efficiency initiatives.
- Adaptive management towards continual improvement.
- Ongoing community engagement.

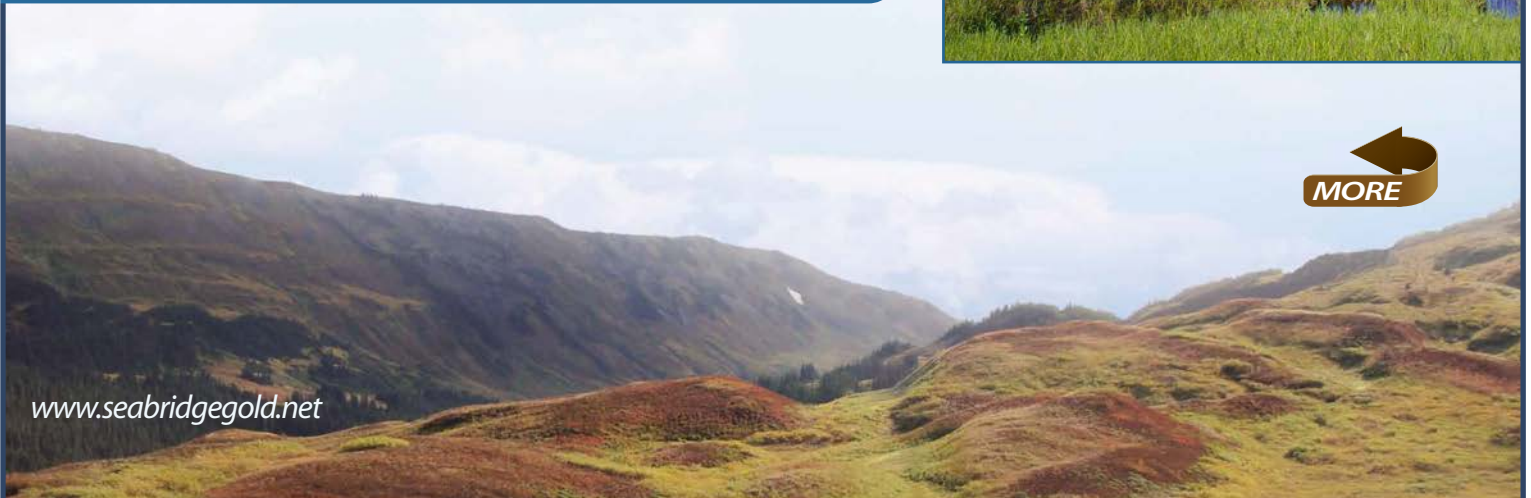
Project Closure

Reclamation and monitoring:

- Financial security will be provided to ensure
 - appropriate restoration of the site when mining ceases.
 - ongoing water treatment and monitoring.
- An approved fish habitat compensation plan to replace affected fish habitat.



The Nass River, located downstream of the project, has one of British Columbia's most viable commercial salmon fisheries. Protecting this resource is essential for developing a sustainable project.



Human Environment Studies

Seabridge is conducting studies to understand the current human environment near the proposed KSM Project. This will help to assess potential project effects on regional residents.

Socio-Economics

Socio-economic studies have identified the social, economic, heritage, and health components of regional and local communities that could potentially be affected by the proposed project.

- This information is used to guide the project's design and operation. It also helps to enhance community benefits and opportunities while minimizing potentially negative effects.

Archaeology

The archaeological study identifies archaeological and historical sites within the proposed KSM Project area.

- Multiple archaeological sites were found, and are now protected.
- Historic land use sites, primarily associated with prospecting and mineral exploration, were located and recorded.



Traditional Knowledge

Local Aboriginals' traditional knowledge (TK) provides valuable information important to a comprehensive environmental assessment process.

- TK may include information about wildlife and habitat as well as traditional, historical and on-going land uses with links to the social and cultural aspects of local communities.
- The KSM Project Team recognizes the sensitive nature of TK and seeks to work collaboratively with Aboriginal knowledge holders in a mutually beneficial manner.

Country Foods

This study evaluates the quality of foods potentially harvested in the proposed project area.

- Studies determine the naturally-occurring levels of metals found in plant and animal species that could be harvested within the project area. This information is used to monitor the quality of food species within or surrounding the proposed project site once development is underway.



Land and Resource Use

Land and resource use studies identify land users and owners and their activities in the proposed KSM Project area and surroundings. Potential project effects on existing land use are determined, and appropriate mitigations are developed. Potential land users and owners include:

- Aboriginal peoples
- Hunters, trappers and fishers
- Guide outfitters
- Tourism and recreation operators
- Private property owners
- Users of parks and protected areas
- Mining, oil and gas tenure holders
- Forestry tenure holders



Seabridge is dedicated to establishing strong relationships with the communities surrounding the proposed KSM Project site. We initiated our community engagement process in 2008. We will continue to seek the involvement of local Aboriginal peoples, regional towns, and interested parties as the project proposal develops. In addition to creating approximately 930 direct jobs during operations, Seabridge is committed to hiring local employees, sourcing from local firms, and supporting local businesses wherever possible.

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For more information on the environmental assessment process please contact the Environmental Assessment Office at eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca or visit www.eao.gov.bc.ca



Natural Environment Studies

The proposed KSM Project will be developed under strict environmental guidelines and will undergo a comprehensive regulatory review. The project must obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate and acquire various permits prior to development. The protection of water quality, fisheries and wildlife are top priorities.

Environmental baseline studies determine the current state of environmental components that could be affected by the project, prior to developing the site. This information is used to avoid, or minimize, potential adverse effects, while maximizing positive effects of the project. Baseline studies were initiated in 2008. Certain studies are ongoing and will continue throughout 2012.

The KSM Project will be developed in a manner consistent with the management direction provided by the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine Land and Resource Management Plan and the draft Nass South Sustainable Resource Management Plan.

Fisheries

Comprehensive fish and fish habitat assessments have been conducted at stream crossings along all proposed primary road alignments and at the proposed mine and tailing management facility.



- Fish are not present in Sulphurets and Mitchell Creeks, in part because of the naturally low pH levels and high metal contents of these streams.
- Fish tissue has been tested for baseline metals concentrations.
- Fish inventory surveys have been conducted using electrofishing, gillnets, minnow traps and beach seines.
- Habitat compensation studies are exploring the creation of optimal fish habitats to compensate for disturbed areas.

Aquatics and Water Quality

Aquatic biology, sediment and water quality baseline studies have been completed for a broad area within and surrounding the proposed project site.

- Stream, river and lake water and sediment have been tested for metals, nutrients, ions, and other characteristics.
- Aquatics surveys of algae, benthic invertebrates (e.g. clams, worms, insects), and plankton have been conducted.
- Toxicity testing of select stream waters has been conducted to help classify water prior to project development.



Wildlife

Comprehensive wildlife studies have confirmed the presence of 121 wildlife species, including 94 species of birds, within the proposed project area.

- Common species in the vicinity include moose, grizzly and black bear, mountain goat, and a variety of breeding birds, raptors, and waterfowl.
- Grizzly bear DNA analysis has been conducted using hair samples to determine population size and distribution in the proposed project area.
- Habitat suitability mapping studies have been conducted for key mammals to identify prime habitat.



Vegetation

The vegetation study program describes the terrestrial ecosystems and vegetation by:

- Surveying and mapping ecosystems throughout the study area using aerial photography and satellite imagery.
- Surveying rare plant species and communities, and invasive species.
- Testing baseline metal concentrations in plant tissue (focusing on species that may be consumed by humans, or by animals that may be consumed by people).



Natural Environment Studies

Geochemistry

Oxidation of KSM's naturally occurring mineral deposits now causes some springs to have low, or acid, pH levels (less than 3 compared to a neutral value of 7). Mitchell Creek is influenced by these springs and during the spring and early summer it is highly acidic (pH levels 2.5 to 4). Additionally, streams in the area have naturally high levels of elements such as arsenic, cadmium, copper, iron and zinc.

- Extensive rock and water sample testing has been conducted (over 2,000 rock samples and monthly water samples).
- A geochemical deposit model and a water quality model are being developed to assist with mine design and management planning.



Surface Water and Groundwater

The study of the movement, distribution and quality of groundwater and surface water is being conducted to design the mine in a way that protects water quality and function.

- Installed groundwater monitoring wells throughout the study area and conducted groundwater sampling.
- A groundwater model is being developed to help mitigate project effects to the groundwater system.
- Monitoring of the Mitchell Glacier.
- Continuous monitoring of streams and rivers at 17 hydrometric stations in the proposed project area, and modeling of flows.

Meteorology and Air Quality

An on-going study program is defining the local climate to support project design and to enable a thorough effects assessment of the proposed project.

- Installed automated meteorology stations near proposed open pits and the tailing management facility. Data being collected include:
 - Wind speed and direction
 - Air temperature
 - Relative humidity
 - Snow depth
 - Total precipitation
 - Global solar radiation
 - Visibility
- Surveying snow courses/transects in the project area for engineering design and water management.
- Visibility sensor allows projection of times when production may be affected by fog or falling snow.
- Installation and monitoring of dustfall collectors to measure baseline air quality.



Soils and Terrain

Field studies have resulted in detailed data on soil type (physical and chemical properties) in the project area and along the proposed access roads.

- Information is being used to develop site reclamation and soil handling plans for mine closure.
- Landform mapping has been carried out using aerial photo interpretation.



Wetlands

Wetlands studies and activities to determine wetland function and distribution have been conducted in areas that could potentially be affected by project infrastructure.

- Following extensive surveying of the proposed project area, wetland ecosystems have been mapped and classified.
- No "red listed" (endangered, threatened, or extirpated) wetlands have been identified in the study area.



Soil horizons are indicated in this photo of a test pit

For more information on the project please contact us at community@seabridgegold.net or visit www.seabridgegold.net

For more information on the environmental assessment process please contact the Environmental Assessment Office at eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca or visit www.eao.gov.bc.ca

KSM PROJECT

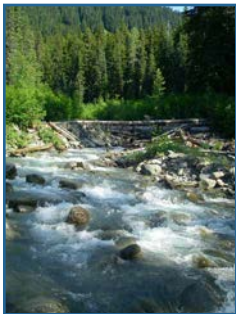


Regulatory Review

Typically, to establish a large operating mine in British Columbia, the project must be reviewed and approved under the *BC Environmental Assessment Act* (BCEAA) and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). These acts and associated regulations define thresholds or triggers that determine the requirements for review. In the case of the KSM Project, the BC process is triggered by the rate of ore production. The federal process is triggered by the requirement for federal agencies to issue permits or approvals for fish habitat effects, road crossings over navigable streams, etc. The BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) coordinates the provincial and federal government harmonized review process.

Permitting

Permits, granted by provincial and federal regulatory bodies, are needed throughout the life of the project. The permits grant the project authority to carry out specified activities. There will be additional opportunities for public input during the permitting process. Provincial and federal permits and approvals for project development cannot be issued until the respective environmental assessment processes have been successfully completed.



BC Governments Permits and Licenses

- Environmental Assessment Certificate
- Permit Approving Work System & Reclamation Program
- Water Licence
- Licence to Cut
- Special Use Permit – Plant Access Road, Extension of Eskay Road
- Road Use Permit
- Licence of Occupation
- Pipeline Permit – Diesel Pipeline
- Surface Lease – Mine Site Facilities
- Waste Management Permit
- Camp Operation Permits (Drinking Water, Sewage, Disposal, Sanitation and Food Handling)

Enabling Legislation

- BC Environmental Assessment Act*
- Mines Act*
- Water Act*
- Forest Act*
- Forest Act*
- Forest Act*
- Land Act*
- Pipeline Act*
- Land Act*
- Environmental Management Act*
- Health Act/Environmental Management Act*

Federal Governments Approvals and Licenses

- CEAA Approval
- Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER)
- Fish Habitat Compensation Agreement
- Navigable Water: Stream Crossings Authorization
- Explosives Factory Licence
- Ammonium Nitrate Storage Facilities
- Radio Licences

Enabling Legislation

- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*
- Fisheries Act/Environment Canada*
- Fisheries Act*
- Navigable Waters Protection Act*
- Explosives Act*
- Canada Transportation Act*
- Radio Communication Act*

MORE



Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

EA Process

Project Milestones

Early Project Definition

March 2008: Seabridge submits the KSM Project Description to EAO.

April 2008: EAO issues Section 10 Order requiring an EA Certificate for the KSM Project.

March 2008 - December 2009: Seabridge conducts environmental and social baseline studies, community engagement activities, and consultation with regulatory agencies and Aboriginal groups to confirm scope and depth of studies.

Definition of Project Scope, Issues and Assessment

March 2008 - ongoing: Community engagement activities with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal governments, regulatory agencies, interest groups and the general public to share project information and obtain feedback for consideration in the EA.

July 2009: CEA Agency determines KSM Project must undergo a comprehensive study EA review under the CEAA.

November 2009: EAO issues Section 11 Order defining the EA process, including which groups require consultation.

December 2009 - ongoing: Seabridge employs environmental and social baseline studies in development of the project design.

June 2010: CEA Agency releases a Draft Comprehensive Study Scope of Assessment document for public review.

June - July 2010: Public Open Houses in Northwest BC to share project information and invite public comments on the draft Application Information Requirements.

June 25 - July 26, 2010: EAO administers a public comment period for the project.

January 2011: EAO issues the final Application Information Requirements outlining the detailed requirements of the environmental assessment.

Fall 2012: EA Certificate Application submission.

Application Review

Fall 2012 - Spring 2013: 180-day review phase, including public comment period, following EA Application submission. Seabridge will respond to all comments received and will submit the responses to EAO.

Fall 2012 - Spring 2013: Seabridge continues its consultation program throughout the review period.

Spring 2013: Provincial and federal governments prepare assessment reports.

Project Decisions

Spring - Summer 2013: Provincial ministers determine whether to issue an EA Certificate within 45 days of receiving recommendations from EAO.

Spring - Summer 2013: Federal Minister of Environment determines whether the proposed project will create a significant environmental effect, enabling issuance of federal permits.

Permits, granted by provincial and federal regulatory bodies, are needed throughout the life of the project. The permits grant the project approval to carry out specified activities. Once regulatory approvals are granted, it is expected to take an additional five years of construction and start-up before the mine is operational.

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For more information on the environmental assessment process please contact the Environmental Assessment Office at eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca or visit www.eao.gov.bc.ca

Appendix E

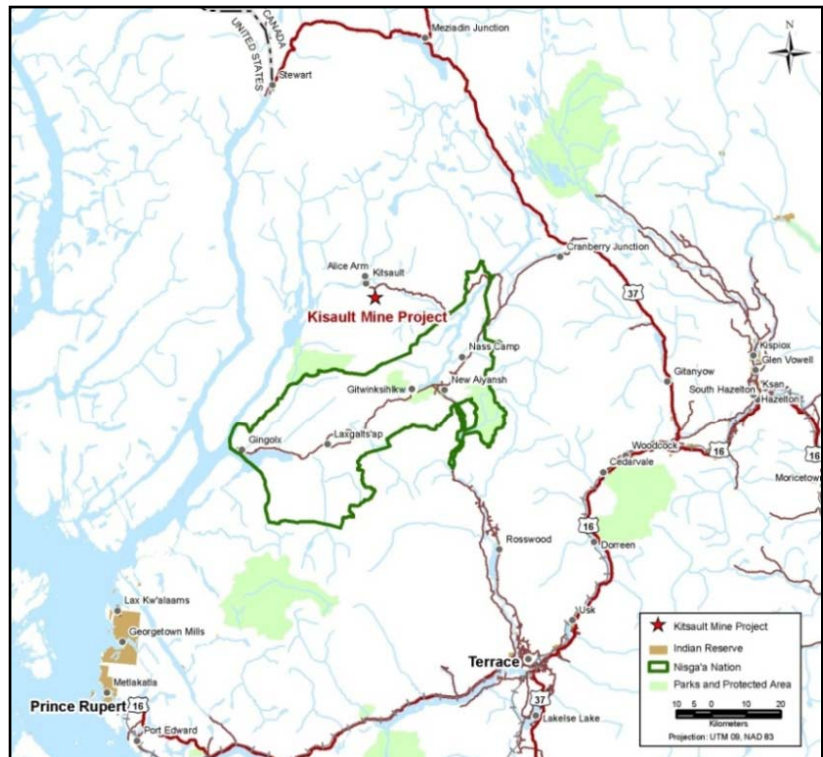
The Kitsault Molybdenum Project

The Kitsault Molybdenum Project

The Kitsault Molybdenum Project is a proposed open-pit molybdenum mining and milling operation in northwest BC. It is located on the shore of Alice Arm, approximately 130 km north of Terrace.

The property has three known molybdenum ore deposits: Kitsault, Bell Moly, and Roundy Creek. The only deposit being proposed for development is Kitsault.

Avanti Mining Inc. (Avanti) is the Canadian natural resource company that is proposing to develop the Project. Avanti is publicly listed (TSX-V: AVT), and has offices in Vancouver, BC and Denver, CO.



Project Components

- Kitsault pit (re-opening of an existing open pit mine)
- Waste rock management facility
- Ore processing facilities
- Tailings management facility
- Support facilities and infrastructure (personnel camp, equipment maintenance shops, access roads, power lines, barge loading and unloading facility, water management diversions and pipelines)

Schedule

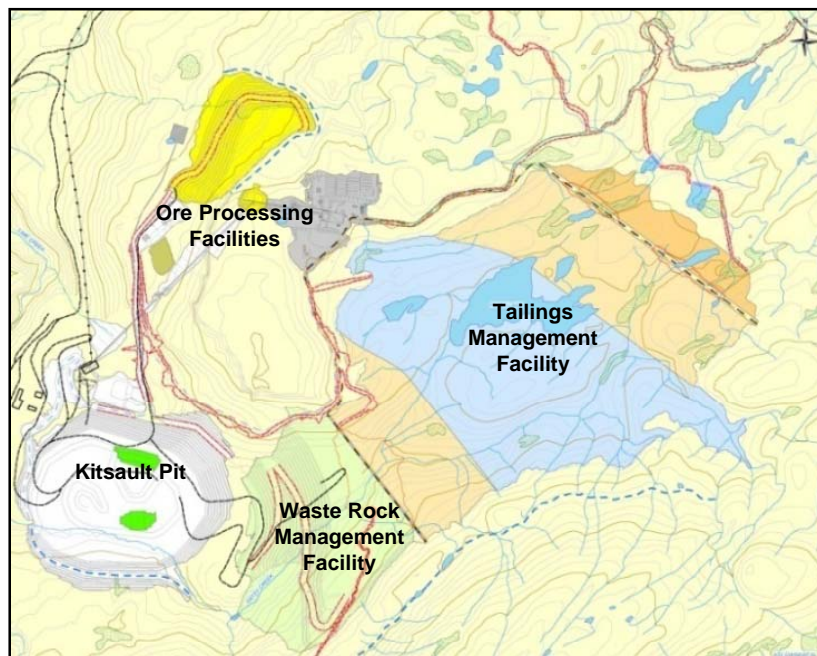
Subject to all required approvals, the Project is anticipated to commence construction in 2012 and begin operations in 2014.

1. Feasibility Study (complete)
2. Basic engineering (2011)
3. Detailed engineering and procurement (2012)
4. Construction (2012-2013)
5. Operations (2014-2030)
6. Closure and reclamation (2030)

Production Volume

The volume of ore at Kitsault is estimated at 232.7 million tonnes, with an average molybdenum grade of 0.081%. Ore will be mined from the pit using drilling and blasting methods, then loaded into trucks and delivered for processing at the onsite plant.

Molybdenum concentrate will be packaged and shipped to port. The mine life is estimated to be 16 years, at a processing rate of 40,000 tonnes per day.



Waste Rock and Tailings

Land disturbance will be minimized, and existing features will be used for waste rock and tailings management facilities wherever possible.

Waste rock refers to non-ore-containing rock, which will be mined from the pit over the life of the Project. The majority will be stored in the waste rock management facility. The remainder of the waste rock will be used for construction projects such as the tailings management facility.

Tailings refer to the fine ground rock that remains after the molybdenum is removed from the ore during processing. A tailings management facility has been designed for secure and permanent storage of the tailings.

Environmental Approach

The highest standards of environmental protection and compliance, as well as health and safety will be maintained throughout all Project phases.



Monitoring of Baseline Climatic and Air Quality Conditions

The Project must satisfy the strict regulatory requirements of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia (including those specified under the Environmental Assessment process).

Avanti is also committed to satisfying the high environmental standards of the Nisga'a Lisims Government.

The Environmental Assessment process requires Avanti to assess all potential effects of the Project on environmental components (land, water, air), the health of humans and non-human organisms (vegetation, wildlife, fish), as well as economic, social, and heritage components.

Avanti's team of environmental professionals has thoroughly characterized baseline conditions over the past 2 years, to ensure that any potential effects of the Project on the environment will be identified.



Environmental Monitoring

Avanti's Commitments

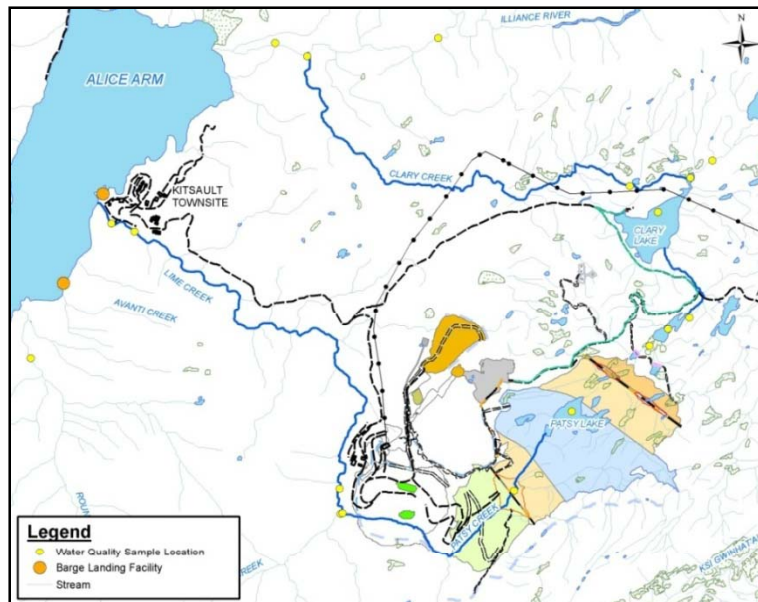
- Establish and adhere to environmental policies and procedures throughout all Project phases
- Adhere to a strict monitoring and reporting program
- Establish a zero tolerance safety culture
- Adhere to the highest health standards
- Conduct all activities in a fully transparent manner

Water Quality

Effects to receiving water bodies (principally Lime Creek, Clary Lake and Alice Arm) will be minimized through treatment of all process water and contact water (runoff and seepage) prior to discharge.

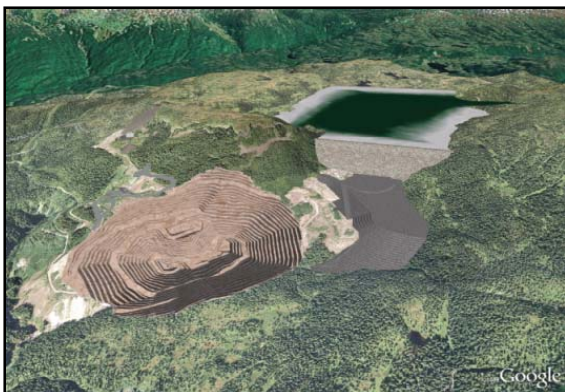
The principal treatment facility will be the tailings management facility. Fresh water diversions will be constructed around the waste rock dumps and tailings management facility.

Avanti is committed to additional water treatment, should the operations monitoring program indicate it is necessary.



Reclamation and Closure

At closure, most mine infrastructure and facilities will be removed. The open pit will be allowed to fill with water. The tailings management facility and re-sloped waste rock management facility will remain. Their surfaces, and all soils in the area, will be stabilized and re-vegetated to support the local ecosystem. Some roads will remain, in order to allow access for post-closure monitoring programs. Monitoring will include water quality from the tailings management facility.



Artist Rendering: Site During Operations



Artist Rendering: Site Post-Closure

Work Force and Employment Opportunities

The Project will contribute to communities surrounding the mine and throughout BC over its 16 year mine life. Avanti is committed to helping develop sustainable local business opportunities, with an estimated 900 indirect jobs providing goods and services to the mine.

Construction

The construction workforce is estimated to peak at approximately 700 workers. Positions will include:

- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Mechanical and Millwrights
- Electricians and Control Technicians
- Supervisory and Administrative Personnel
- Service and Maintenance Specialists
- Environmental Compliance and Health Services

Operations

The operations workforce is estimated to be over 350 workers. Construction personnel are anticipated to transition into operations positions such as:

- Plant Operators
- Line Superintendents
- Mine Truck Drivers
- Mine Shovel Operators
- Engineering and Technical Specialists
- Administration Personnel
- Service and Maintenance Specialists
- Environmental Compliance and Health Services



Safety

Avanti will ensure that the best possible health and safety practices are followed, including “best practice” compliance with all safety regulations. The Project will be certified to the highest standards of safety by OSAS 18001, will provide specialized safety training, and will provide Workers Compensation coverage for all employees.

Nisga'a Nation Involvement and Benefits



Avanti is committed to honouring the provisions of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, working with the Nisga'a Lisims Government, and the Nisga'a People.

Avanti values open communication and a positive relationship with the Nisga'a Nation.

Avanti wants the Project to set a standard for relationships between the mineral sector and local communities, including the Nisga'a Nation and aboriginal groups.

Avanti will give preferential treatment to individuals from the Nisga'a Nation for employment and contracts for services. Avanti will also provide support to students from the Nisga'a Nation that wish to pursue careers in the resource development and environmental fields.

Public and Community Input

Avanti is committed to open and ongoing communications with local communities.

We want Nisga'a Nation citizens, the public, and interested groups to have easy access to information, answers to their questions, and the ability to provide input as the Project develops.

You can provide input by:

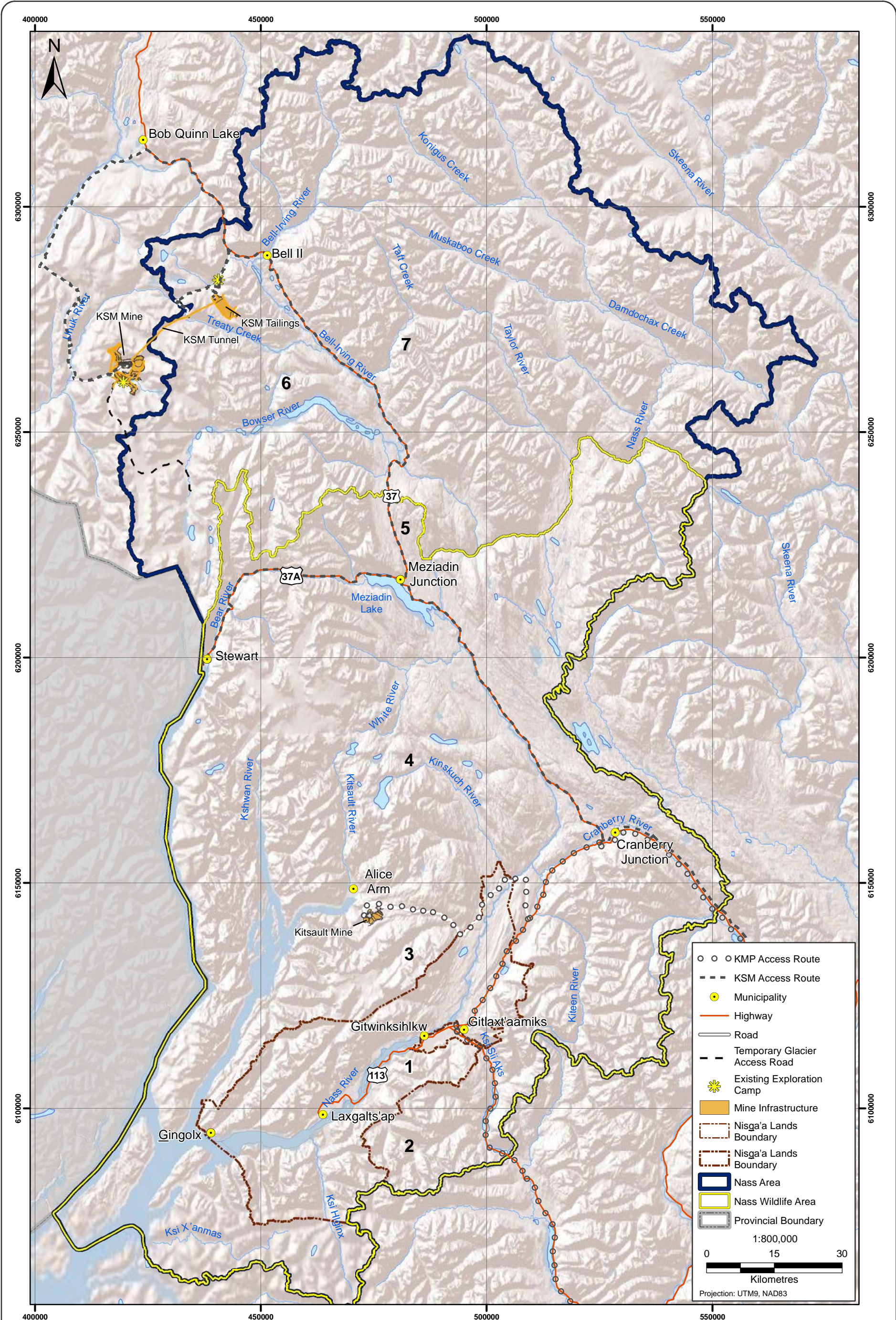
- Attending community meetings
- Visiting with the Project team
- Discussing community questions or concerns
- Comments, forms, letters, or emails to Avanti
- Reviewing Project documentation and the Environmental Assessment process, which is available through the Avanti web site, and the BC Environmental Assessment Office.

www.avantimining.com / www.bceao.gov.bc.ca



Appendix F

Overview of Nass Area



Overview of Nass Area

Appendix G

Nisga'a ESCIA Focus Group Research - Moderator's Guide
- Shortened Version

Nisga'a ESCIA Focus Group Research

Moderator's Guide- Shortened Version

1 Set up (30 mins at least)

- Set up catering
- Info materials for both projects available on side table
- Large Nass Area map center table with sticky notes (or wall)
- Flip chart on stand or wall and felts
- Consent Forms ready
- Sign-in Sheet (compare to names on existing sign-up list)
- On hand:
 - NLG endorsement letter

2 Opening remarks (20 minutes)

- Welcome and thank everyone
- Introduce moderators
- Fill out name cards
- Pass around sign-in sheet
- **Housekeeping items:**

2.1 Consent Forms (5 mins)

- Group interview is a follow-up on a survey of social, economic, resource use and culture impacts (SERC Survey) conducted with Nisga'a citizens last summer and fall.
- Purpose of group interviews is to hear more from Nisga'a citizens about how you think mining projects could affect your life, your community, and the Nisga'a Nation.
- SERC survey and the focus groups are designed to address aspects of the Nisga'a Final Agreement and were developed in collaboration with the Nisga'a Lisims Government.
- Group interview is non-confidential. Information shared in this setting may be used in two environmental assessments (KSM mine and Kitsault mine).
- Your name will not appear in any documents. General results of the group interviews will be discussed in reports.
- Quotes may be used, but the speaker's name will not be stated.
- Session recorded to ensure the accuracy of notes taken and to help provide an accurate summary of the discussion we're having today.

2.2 Group introductions (2 mins)

- Ensure name cards are filled out.
- Ask if everyone knows each other. If not, do a quick round table of short introductions.

2.3 Explain the focus group structure and process (3 mins)

- Asking questions about how you think potential mining projects could affect your life, your community and the Nisga'a Nation with regards to the economy, social services and well-being, and culture.
- Before getting started we will briefly:
 - describe the two potential mine projects in question
 - summarize the SERC survey results
- Ground rules of engagement (respect, listening, waiting your turn to speak, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to speak).
- Explain how the name cards will be used to manage the speakers list (or equivalent technique).

2.4 Description of Mines (5 mins)

Kitsault Mine (show on map)

- Avanti Mining Inc (Avanti) is proposing to redevelop and operate a molybdenum mine at Kitsault, near Alice Arm
- Located in the Nass Area and Nass Wildlife Area
- Mine operated during late 70s and early 80s under different companies (Avanti conducting exploratory drilling since 2008)
- Will be open pit, truck and shovel operation
- 40,000 tonnes of ore per day
- Tailing storage facility (mine waste storage) in the Patsy Lake drainage
- Currently in Environmental Assessment process
- If mine is approved to go ahead, mine would employ:
 - up to 700 workers during construction (over two years) starting in 2012
 - approximately 300 people over 16 year life of mine starting 2014
- on-site accommodation for workers
- workers transported by bus from communities in region and to and from Terrace airport

KSM Mine (show on map)

- Seabridge Gold Inc (Seabridge) is proposing to develop an open pit gold and copper (some silver and molybdenum) 65 km northwest of Stewart BC
- Mix of open pit, truck and shovel operation and underground mining
- 120,000 tonnes of ore per day
- Parts of the mine including the Tailing Management Facility (mine waste) partly overlap into the Nass Area.
- The Tailing Management Facility (mine waste storage) located in upper south and north Teigen Creek areas. These creeks flow into the Bell-Irving River, which flows into the Nass.
- Currently in Environmental Assessment process.
- If mine is approved to go ahead, mine would employ:
 - up to 1100 people during 5 years of construction starting 2013

- approximately 930 full-time jobs during operations starting in 2018 and lasting for 50-55 years.
- on-site accommodation for workers.
- workers transported by bus from communities in region and to and from Terrace airport .

2.5 Presentation: Summary of SERC and NBS results (5 mins)- *optional*

- 405 Nisga'a citizens participated in the SERC survey (Social, Economic, Resource Use, and Cultural Survey) between August and October 2011.
- Citizens surveyed lived in the Nisga'a Villages as well as outside of the Nass Valley
- Key Results:
 - Nisga'a living on Nisga'a lands eat more wild foods (seafood, wild meat, wild berries/plants) than those living off Nisga'a lands
 - On a scale of 1-7, 60% of those surveyed rated their understanding and ability to use the Nisga'a language as 1 or 2 (low end scale)
 - In 2010, about 20% of those surveyed who were not retired were unemployed
 - In terms of employment:
 - NLG main employer
 - 5.9% have worked in mining industry
 - 42% interested in mine construction work
 - 45% interested in mine operation work
 - Half of respondents were interested in at least one of the two phases of employment
 - Nearly one half of employable respondents are likely to consider a job in a remote location
 - 22.5% respondents living off Nisga'a lands were likely to return to the Nass valley in the next five years, compared to 21% if the mines were to proceed
 - About 25% of respondents living on Nisga'a lands were likely to leave Nass Valley in next five years, compared to about 31% if mines were to proceed.

3 Questions and Discussion (90 mins)

- Restate the focus of the discussion, i.e. to generate feedback and understanding about the economic, social and cultural impacts of proposed mine projects (KSM and Kitsault) on Nisga'a citizens and their communities.
- Optional quick brainstorm with the group to get people thinking about potential impacts.

3.1 Question 1: economic impacts (20 mins)

Okay, given what you have just heard about these projects and other things you might know about them and other mines, we would like to talk to you now about how you think this could affect life around here. To get us started we have a list of questions that we would like to use to guide our conversation.

- **So, if we focus first of all on the local economy, that is, on local businesses and employment...**

- **what sorts of opportunities do you think there might be for people here (if one or both mines were to go ahead)?**

Probes:

- **Do you think people will move away because of the mines?**
 - **Why do you think that?**
 - **Do you think it would be a little or a lot of people?**
- **If one or both mines went ahead, do you think Nisga'a citizens living outside the Nass valley would move to the villages because of the work and other opportunities?**
 - **Why do you think that?**
 - **Do you think it would be a little or a lot of people?**
- **So, overall, what sort of impacts do you think that the mine could have on the future of your community?**
 - **Again, thinking in terms of jobs and money and economic opportunities or challenges.**

3.2 Question 2: social impacts (30 mins)

So, let's say that at least some people are going to get jobs working at the mine and some Nisga'a people living in Terrace, or Rupert, or even Vancouver decide that they want to move back to Nisga'a country.

- **What would you consider to be a lot of people moving back?**
- **And if that many new people came here, how would that affect life in the community?**
- Probes 1-3: especially with adult women and men
 - **1: How do you think things like social services, education, health and well-being might be affected?**
 - What are the potential impacts on medical, education, emergency, and social services in the communities?
 - Do people think there are enough doctors, hospital beds, health programs, teachers, classroom space, and other social services to accommodate and influx of people?
 - **2: How do you think things like emergency services and infrastructure (sewage, water, roads) might be affected?**
 - Do people think there are enough firemen and fire trucks, RCMP, and other social services to accommodate and influx of people?
 - Are you concerned in any way about roadways, sewer and water systems being strained by additional people?

- **3: In what ways do you think the mines could increase the risk of accidents happening to people?**
 - **Maybe in relation to working on the mine or in other situations, say in relation to increased road traffic?**
- Probe 4: especially with adult women and youth:

If people work at the mine(s) it is likely that they will be on a shift rotation of something like three weeks on and three weeks off.

- **4: What sorts of impacts do you think such changes in people's habits and routines could this have on family or community life?**
 - **Do think this could lead to any kinds of problems in the home or in the community?**

There have been studies that show that sometimes in remote communities that changes in community life, due to people working shifts, spending time away from home, people having lots of money when they are off and so on can lead to a variety of problems.

- **Do you think something like that could happen here?**
 - **What sorts of problems or changes do you foresee?**

3.3 Question 3: cultural impacts (30 mins)

Okay, let's change gears one more time here and talk about cultural issues, cultural practices and activities.

- **What ways do you think that this project will affect Nisga'a culture?**

Probes:

- **What sorts of effects might it have on traditional ceremonies and occasions?**
- **In what ways might the Nisga'a language be affected?**
- **What do you think the effects might be on Nisga'a culture to have Nisga'a people come back to the Nass, including some Nisga'a who have possibly never even lived here before?**
 - **What sorts of changes can you foresee?**

[without leading people it would be great to get the conversation to consider whether an influx of people from outside will dilute Nisga'a culture with outside influence or lead to reconnections and reinvigoration of culture as people from 'away' get (re)introduced to their cultural heritage, roots and territory]

- **How might an influx of Nisga'a citizens affect other cultural practices, especially those sorts of activities tied to the land?**
 - **Things like hunting and fishing?**
 - **Other traditional practices and use and access to 'country food'?**

Probes:

- **For example, if people are working at the mine for 3 weeks on, 3 weeks off, what sort of impact might this have on cultural activities and traditions?**
 - **How would this impact the use of Nisga'a language?**
- **Do you foresee any benefits for Nisga'a language use that might come about as a result of the mine?**
 - **Could the mine present any sort of opportunity for strengthening the use of Nisga'a language?**

3.4 Question 4: explore incremental and cumulative effect (10 mins)

- **Finally, what if this isn't the only project to go ahead in this region?**
 - **What sorts of changes would you expect if say, three or four major mining projects were started up here in NW BC?**
- **How would things change around the ways people make and spend money and so on?**
- **What sorts of opportunities do you think there would be?**
- **What sorts of problems do you think there would be?**

And possibly:

- **Do you think it would be better or worse in the future if it were just one mine project or many?**

4 Conclusion (10 mins)

Summarize you've heard a lot of insightful comments during the session.

- **Is there anything they would like to add?**
- **Ask for any additional comments or insights that may have come up during the conversation?**

Potentially ask for feedback on the session itself and whether or not they have any advice as to how it could be improved.

Honorarium

Thank everyone for their participation and disperse honorariums.

Ensure people sign their name stating they have received their honorarium.