

March 12, 2021

Note to file- Information Session on Pine Point Mine Project EA Initiation Package – online meeting

This Note to File is a summary of an online meeting for the Pine Point Mine Project EA Initiation Package held March 12, 2021, 9:30 - noon. The Note to File lists online meeting participants, provides links to Review Board and Pine Point Mining Limited presentations, and summarizes questions and answers.

Participants

Pine Point Mining Limited and Golder Associates Andrew Williams, Kristine Mason, Damian Panayi, Leah James, Jesse O'Brien, Villa McConaghie, Lasha Young, John Virgl

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Chuck Hubert, Catherine Fairbairn, Jeremy Freeman, Catherine Janz, Kate Mansfield, Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Alan Ehrlich

Government of the Northwest Territories Albert Bourque (ENR), James Hodson (ENR), Jeremy Armitage (HSS), Morgan Moffitt (HSS), Lorraine Seale (Lands), Andrea Patenaude (ENR), Bryana Matthews (CIMP), Jane Fitzgerald (ENR), Dinah Elliott (ITI), Horatio Sam-Aggrey (Lands), Katie Rozestraten (Lands), Laurie McGregor (ENR), Dave Abernathy (CARD), Lee Ross (ENR), Krista Chin (ENR), Jamie Van Gulck (ARKTIS), Imran Maqsood (ENR), Tracey Covey (Lands), Jennifer Spencer-Hazenberg (ENR), Dianna Beck (ITI), Marie-Christine Belair (Lands), Lee Ross (ENR), LeeAnn Malley (ENR), Wendy Bidwell (ENR), Emily Ingarfield (Justice), Drew Stavinga (ARKTIS), Mike Byrne (ITI), Mark Paddey (ITI)

Government of Canada Krupesh Patel (ECCC), Dan Coombs (DFO), Trish Auser (ECCC), Alana Vigna (CIRNAC), Alexandra Taylor (PC), Jennifer Sabourin (ECCC), Jennifer Walsh (CIRNAC), Katie Bakker (CanNor), Melissa Gorman (HC), Sally Wong (DFO), Victoria Shore (ECCC), Trish Auser (ECCC), Ejeckam Reg (ECCC), Scott Kidds (TC), Kim Pawley (CIRNAC), Russell Wykes (CARD), Peter Unger (NRCan), Jason Quinn (NRCan) Rob Johnstone (NRCan), Michael Roesch (CIRNAC), JF Dufour (ECCC), Boyan Tracz (CanNor)

Fort Resolution Métis Government Shawn Mckay (FRMG), Katy Dimmer (Firelight), Anang Yashim (Firelight)

Deninu Kųé First Nation Patrick Simon, Mark d'Entremont,

K'atl'odeeche First Nation Patrick Riley

Fort Resolution (Hamlet)-Patrick Simon (Mayor)

Dene Tha First Nation Matt Munson, Fred Didzena

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Jacqueline Ho

Review Board presentation

The Review Board made the following presentation to start the EA Initiation package information meeting: [Review Board presentation](#)

Pine Point Mining Limited presentation

For the majority of the meeting, Pine Point Mining Limited made the following presentation about its EA Initiation Package: [Pine Point Mining Limited presentation](#)

Questions & Answers

Participants asked Pine Point Mining questions about their EA Initiation Package throughout the presentation. The following is a summary of those questions with answers from Pine Point Mining Limited and their consulting team. Questions answered by Review Board staff are noted.

Question Are we expected to submit information requests?

Answer (Review Board) The next step in this environmental assessment is the scoping phase where issues are identified, prioritized, and a Terms of Reference is prepared. Information requests from participants to the developer are not expected during the scoping phase. Participants are encouraged to speak directly with the developer if they have questions about the EA Initiation Package. The [Meeting report form](#) can be used to document these meetings for the public registry. The Review Board will issue a Notice of Proceeding on next steps during the scoping phase.

Question Please clarify plans for waste rock storage.

Answer (Pine Point Mining) There will be some waste rock piles on surface. We will try and use existing open pit and underground storage as much as possible, but there will be some waste rock piles left on surface at the end of mining.

Question Slide 26 shows a commitment to not discharge groundwater to surface water, but there's also discussion of groundwater going into existing open pits. Can you please confirm whether or not water will be discharged into surface water? Whether or not pits, some of which have fish, are included as surface water, is a topic for discussion.

Answer (Pine Point Mining) During the Cominco era some water was just deposited onto the ground surface. That created some problems. Our approach is to move water into available pits or underground. We would not just discharge water onto the ground.

Question How will some of the baseline data gathering that you are doing through the exploration Water Licence process feed into the mine plan? We would like to figure out how to reconcile different baseline datasets through the EA process.

Answer (Pine Point Mining) The short answer is that we will be updating the baseline dataset, likely through the Developer's Assessment Report. This would include groundwater, surface water, fish, water quality, and other items.

Question How will grout curtains be installed, maintained and closed in the underground?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) This is not my area of expertise, but this is what I know. A ring of holes is drilled around the deposit. Cement would be pumped down these holes (several inches in diameter) so you can form a continuous ring around the deposit. This would need to be in place before dewatering (to allow the grout to harden). The grout curtain would stay in place and our modelling shows that water would upwell into the curtained area and refill it with groundwater. We cannot remove the curtain, but over time the grout would degrade. More technical data will be provided through the EA.

Question Will you have an explosives manufacturing plant on site?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) I do not have the details at hand, but I imagine that we would. This would include storage for ANFO/emulsion and we will go through the required regulatory processes at the later stages of the EA and through permitting.

Question Will there be harmful substances in the tailings?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) There will be some chemical residues, but these materials are generally considered to not be environmentally impactful. All of these materials would be presented during the permitting phase and would go along with required Material Safety Data Sheets and safety protocols.

Question When do you expect to submit the Developer's Assessment Report?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) Preparation of the Developer's Assessment Report will begin once the Review Board produces the final Terms of Reference.

Answer (Review Board) The Review Board will do technical and community scoping meetings, proposed for mid-late April. The Review Board will then produce a draft Terms of Reference based on the scoping meetings for public review around mid-May. The Review Board will publish its final Terms of Reference in June.

Question Is there any more baseline studies or research happening in 2021?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) Yes, particularly on groundwater and water quality as well as fish (and if they've found their way into any of the open pits). Depending on what comes out of the Terms of Reference we may add more studies.

Question The groundwater injection plan has always been a concern, especially since this is a karst area. What type of hydrogeological studies have been done to investigate possible connection between this aquifer and Great Slave Lake, or disruption to the aquifer?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) We've applied for a groundwater exploration licence to do some of these studies and have started looking at this with the existing drill holes. We recognize that this is a karst area, which has contributed to the mineral deposit there as well. Great Slave Lake has received the groundwater from these deposits for millions of years. This will not change. We think that the studies we're trying to do will help us to understand the dynamics better and we will be able to provide more detail about this in the Developer's Assessment Report and later in the EA process.

Question Who is responsible for long term effects?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) We propose a 10 year period of monitoring after mine closure. Pine Point Mining Limited would remain responsible for the area until we achieve our closure objectives. These objectives would be approved by the relevant regulatory authorities.

Question Can you please describe what Indigenous Knowledge studies are currently being conducted on behalf of the FRMG and who's doing these studies?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) Indigenous Knowledge studies have not yet begun. Golder is still working with communities to establish a knowledge sharing agreement including how Indigenous Knowledge is collected, stored and used. We have been speaking with Lloyd Cardinal and Tim Heron of FRMG on this issue, but are still early in the stages and more information will be forthcoming. The study would not be led by Golder or Pine Point Mining Limited. The Indigenous Knowledge study would be led by communities and with community protocols in mind.

Question You've noted that brownfield sites will be reclaimed to the present state. Is there any thought of looking towards reclaiming existing disturbances in the area, beyond the present state, and moving towards net benefits?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) Pine Point Mining Limited has been exploring this at a high level with various levels of government. Pine Point Mining Limited will have people and equipment available at the site that we can use to help governments in their efforts to reclaim areas disturbed historically by Cominco. These areas are currently not managed by government, except for the old railbed which is managed by CARD (federal). We'd like to help if we can.

Question Where will you include an alternatives assessment in terms of looking at open pit mining versus underground mining, and if any community engagement factored into those decisions?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) The full discussion of alternatives analysis will be included in the DAR. It is not part of the EA initiation package.

Question Water quality criteria should be created with involvement of Indigenous governments to decide if the pits will be used for groundwater or other contaminated water that will have to be created or controlled through the project. Will you be including Indigenous governments in the conversation about how these pits will be used as water control structures?

Answer (Pine Point Mining) EA process is a co-management process and all interested parties are able to participate. We're just in the early stages of looking at depositing water in the pits and we'll continue to look at this throughout the EA. FRMG is welcome to be a part of the conversation moving forward.