



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

February 4th, 2022

Panel Secretariat for the Marathon Palladium Project

Jason Patchell

Co-Panel Manager, Marathon Palladium Project

c/o Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

marathonminereview-examenminemarathon@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Subject: Participation of Natural Resources Canada at the Public Hearings for the Marathon Palladium Project

Dear Panel Secretariat,

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is responding to your invitation of December 17, 2021(CIAR#962) to participate in the public hearings of the Marathon Palladium Project and to provide a technical written submission.

NRCan is participating as a Federal Authority in the environmental assessment of the Marathon Palladium Project by providing scientific and technical advice pursuant to Section 20 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

The mandate of NRCan is broadly to support the sustainable use of Canada's natural resources and for this review, NRCan has provided a wide range of expertise from the Geological Survey of Canada, CanmetMINING and the Canadian Forest Service.

NRCan's written submission will summarise our review and findings and provide recommendations to the Joint review Panel where appropriate. The main topic areas for NRCan's written submission will include hydrogeology, geological characterization of the project area, acid rock drainage and potential for metal leaching; potential impacts of the project footprint on forests, including available data sources relating to cumulative effects on the forested landbase in the region.

By this letter, NRCan is registering as a group for the Topic-Specific session of the hearings. NRCan's hearing presentations will highlight key aspects of our written submission and we propose 20 minutes visual presentations on the following three topics:

- **Geology**

Presentation on NRCan's review of the geological characterization of the local and regional bedrock geology of the project area.

- **Acid-rock drainage and metal leaching (ARD-ML)**

Presentation of NRCan's review of the geochemical characterization of the projects' mine waste and potential for metal leaching.

- **Hydrogeology**

Presentation of NRCan's review of the hydrogeological numerical model and the potential impacts of the project on local and regional groundwater quantity and flow.

Marie-Eve Lenghan, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer for the Office of Chief Scientist of NRCan is the main contact for the Project. NRCan will not require a translator and will not be represented by legal counsel.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie-Eve Lenghan by email at
<email address removed>

Sincerely,
Original signed by

Caroline Cloutier, Senior Director Impact Assessment and Science Capacity
Office of the Chief Scientist
Natural Resources Canada