

Ms. Joanne Wilkinson
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
25 St. Clair Avenue East, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON
M4T 1M2

December 30, 2013

Subject: Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine Project – Invitation to participate in the public hearing

Dear Ms. Wilkinson,

The Joint Review Panel (the Panel) responsible for assessing the potential environmental effects of the proposed Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine project (the Project) has completed its review of the responses to the supplemental information requests provided by Stillwater Canada Inc. (SCI), as well as the corresponding public comments, and has determined that there is sufficient information to proceed to the public hearing. The Panel's letter to SCI regarding sufficiency has been posted on the public registry for the Project: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p54755/97113E.pdf>².

The Panel also issued a Notice of Hearing, available at: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/document-eng.cfm?document=97234>. The public hearing will commence with General hearing sessions on **February 18, 2014** in Marathon, Ontario, followed by Community and Topic-specific hearing sessions.

The purpose of this letter is to invite Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to attend the public hearing and present its views on the Project and its environmental effects to the Panel. The Panel is aware of the expertise that exists in Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on matters associated with the environmental assessment of the Project. Therefore, the Panel, in accordance with section 20 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* and as outlined in sections 5.1 and 5.3 of its Terms of Reference, requests the participation of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in the public hearing.

The Panel invites Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to present its technical review on the potential environmental effects of the Project and to provide information and recommendations to the Panel as they relate to the department's expertise and mandate. Specifically, the Panel is interested in the department's expertise on the following:

- the potential effects of the Project;
- the proposed mitigation and compensation measures;
- the conclusions reached by the Proponent regarding the significance of the effects;
- the proposed monitoring and follow-up programs;

¹ CEAR# 612

² CEAR# 612

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- the extent to which concerns raised by your department during its review of the proposed project have been addressed; and
- recommendations for how best to address any remaining concerns.

Sufficient information and analysis should be provided to support Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's conclusions and recommendations, particularly if they differ from those presented by Stillwater Canada Inc. or other participants.

A preliminary hearing schedule is available at here: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p54755/97255E.pdf>. The Panel will be issuing a more detailed hearing schedule in the near future. Please note that the deadline for registration is **January 20, 2014** and the deadline to file your written submission with the Panel Secretariat is **February 7, 2014**. To register contact the Co-Panel Managers at address below with the hearing session(s) you intend on attending and the method of participation.

In addition the Panel asks for confirmation on receipt of this invitation and your department's intention on participating in the public hearing.

Additional details on how to register and participate in the public hearing and how the hearing will progress are provided in the Public Hearing Procedures, available on the public registry at: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p54755/91066E.pdf>³.

Any questions regarding this request or the public hearing may be addressed to Cindy Parker at (613) 948-2039 or Jeff Sewell at (705) 670-5872, Co-Panel Managers, or via email at MarathonMine.Review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

Lesley Griffiths
Panel Chair

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Cc Mr. Michael King

³ CEAR# 532