

Additional Information Request #20

Assessment of the Alternative Rail Load-Out Location in Schreiber, ON

In SIR #1, SCI was requested to provide an update on the preferred rail load out locations based on an assessment of alternatives, including an assessment of impulsive sound emission levels from rail shunting operations at the rail load-out locations.

In response, SCI informed the Panel that three of eight potential sites have been shortlisted – two located in Marathon and one in Schreiber. In its response, SCI described the potential location of the Schreiber option and its relative advantages and disadvantages including the effect of shunting operations, but did not mention what consultation has occurred with the community of Schreiber with respect to a rail load-out facility potentially being located in that community.

- Describe what consultation has occurred with the community of Schreiber, and the results of the consultation, with respect to the identification of its rail load-out facility as a potential alternative location for the transportation of concentrate.

SCI Response

In 2011, the Township of Schreiber was initially contacted by Stillwater's representative to discuss the Project and complete baseline socioeconomic studies. During this time, the rail load out options in Marathon continued to be preferred options. SCI did however, provide Project information and public session notices and included the Township of Schreiber and the Schreiber Public library on the distribution list to receive copies of documentation associated with the Environmental Assessment.

As the possibility of selling the Marathon Pulp property became known to SCI and as the CP Rail communications expanded, it was determined that additional rail load out options may need to be considered at this planning stage to ensure alternatives were available if previous options were no longer present. CP Rail had indicated that operation plans were changing and would reduce frequency of stops at locations with limited numbers of rail cars. With regards to the Marathon Pulp property, until relationships could be established with the potential buyers, there was uncertainty in the availability of that location. A business decision was made at this planning stage, to consider other options.

Since submitting SIR #1, consultation has occurred with municipal officials at the Township of Schreiber on the Project and EIS and specifically on the potential use of the CP rail yard as one of the alternative locations for the rail load out facility for concentrate shipping. No concerns were expressed about this option or about the Project as a whole, and support was expressed for both.