

**New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project – Reference Number 63928
Federal Review Panel**

Response to Undertaking

During the public hearing of this matter, Taseko Mines Limited undertook on August 22, 2013 to provide more information concerning the access control measure of reducing road density in order to help the Panel better determine the effectiveness of the access management proposed.

The Panel requested ‘Please define the area over which this goal is intended, e.g., along the transmission line right-of-way or throughout a larger area around the transmission line.’ The following is filed in response to that request.

Response Summary


Taseko’s access management planning is intended to be directed towards the larger area around the transmission line for the entire length of the right-of-way.

Discussion

The issue of increased access arising from the transmission line was first addressed in the 2009 EIS for the Prosperity Project at which time Taseko identified their support of the development of a public access plan in coordination with the Ministry of Forests and Range, First Nations and Ministry of Environment to protect wildlife and heritage values. Taseko stated they would work with the landowners and grazing tenure holders to develop procedures that could be implemented during construction and maintenance of the corridor that helps restrict ATV access. At that time, these measures were directed at the transmission line itself.

During the 2010 Panel review process for the Prosperity Project, it was heard in the communities that there were existing issues as a result of the existing access roads and trails across the plateau, and no provincial strategy in place to address these issues. It was identified to Taseko the importance of avoiding constructing new roads for transmission line construction, and of building the transmission line in such a way to minimize access along the linear route by using natural barriers, boulders, and vegetation.

Following the Panel review process, Taseko conducted ground-truthing in 2010 confirm that no new roads are required to be constructed to access the transmission line corridor.



In the 2012 EIS for New Prosperity, to further address the concerns raised in the previous Panel review regarding excessive hunting, recreational impacts on cultural areas of importance to First Nations, and lack of core habitat for grizzly bear, Taseko committed to access management planning with regulatory agencies, First Nations, private land owners and other industries to take advantage of equipment on site during transmission line construction to decommission access where possible. This decommissioning work was envisioned to be for roads and trails in the immediate vicinity of, enroute to, and/or those that interact with, the transmission line. The external boundaries for this decommissioning work have not been identified. The overarching goal is to ensure no incremental effect of the transmission line, in combination with forest harvesting, on wildlife, aboriginal interests and land owners/tenure holders from hunters and recreationists.