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New Gold Inc. (Proponent) is submitting an Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate/Environmental Impact Statement (Application) pursuant to section 16 of the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* (BC *EAA*) (Government of BC 2002) as part of the requirements to develop the Project, which is a new open pit gold and silver mine and ore processing facilities. The Project will be located 110 kilometres (km) southwest of Vanderhoof in central British Columbia. The mine is expected to have a nominal milling rate capacity of 60,000 t/d (22 Mt/y) over 17 years.

This Application is organized in four sections:

- Part A: introduces the Project and provide background information;
- Part B: identifies the Project's potential environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health effects, including cumulative effects and the significance of residual effects in accordance with the provincial and federal Environmental Assessment (EA) processes;
- Part C: identifies Aboriginal groups, and their rights and interests, that could potentially be affected by the proposed Project; and
- Part D: provides the conclusions of the assessment and demonstrates that all potential adverse effects of the project have been identified, assessed, and avoided or mitigated where practicable.

The Application provides information to satisfy the requirements of the final approved Application Information Requirements (AIR) for the Project, formally issued by the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) on 15 May 2014. The Application further provides information to satisfy the requirements of the Blackwater Gold Project Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for an EA issued by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency) on 19 February 2013.

The AIR specifies the information needed to conduct a provincial EA, and these specifications are provided by the Proponent in the Application. This Application complies with the requirements of the AIR and the Order under section 11 of the BC *EAA*.

During the course of preparing this Application, the Proponent has completed baseline studies for the environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health components of the Project, developed a detailed Project Description, and has responded to feedback from the BC EAO Working Group consisting of federal and provincial agencies, local communities, and Aboriginal groups to garner and respond to feedback concerning the Project. The Proponent hosted a number of community meetings and open houses to collect public feedback, including from Aboriginal groups. These processes and activities formed a framework that guided development of the Valued Components (VCs) that appear in this Application, issues scoping, and identification of temporal and spatial boundaries for the Project. The effects assessment presented in the Application follows the methodology outlined in the AIR.