Appendix 2.3B
Order Under Section 11
IN THE MATTER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT
S.B.C. 2002, c.43 (Act)
AND
AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED
BLACKWATER GOLD PROJECT

ORDER UNDER SECTION 11

WHEREAS:

A. New Gold Inc. (Proponent) proposes to develop the Blackwater Gold Project (proposed Project) near Vanderhoof, British Columbia;

B. The proposed Project constitutes a reviewable project, pursuant to Part 3 of the Reviewable Projects Regulation (B.C. Reg. 370/02), because the proposed Project is a new mineral mine facility that, during operations, will have a production capacity that exceeds 75,000 tonnes per year of mineral ore;

C. The Executive Director has delegated to the undersigned, powers and functions under the Act, including the power to issue orders under section 11 of the Act;

D. On November 5, 2012, the Executive Project Director issued an Order under section 10(1)(c) of the Act, stating that the proposed Project requires an environmental assessment certificate and that the Proponent may not proceed with the proposed Project without an assessment;

NOW THEREFORE:

Pursuant to section 11 of the Act, I order that the environmental assessment of the proposed Project be conducted according to the scope, procedures and methods set out in Schedules A, B and C to this Order.

Signed
Shelley Murphy
Executive Project Director
Environmental Assessment Office

Dated July 9, 2013

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PART A - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. DEFINITIONS FOR SCHEDULE A

“Aboriginal Consultation Plan” means a plan developed by the Proponent in consultation with Aboriginal Groups listed on Schedule B, and determined to be adequate by the Project Assessment Lead, which outlines how the Proponent will undertake procedural aspects of consultation with Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order on behalf of the Crown during the environmental assessment.

“Aboriginal Groups” means those aboriginal entities identified on Schedule B and C to this Order.

“Aboriginal Interests” means asserted or determined aboriginal rights, including title, and treaty rights.

“Act” has the same meaning as on page 1 of the Order.

“Application” means the Proponent’s application for an environmental assessment certificate for the proposed Project, made under section 16 of the Act.

“Application Information Requirements” means the information which must be in the Application, pursuant to sections 11(2) and 16(2) of the Act and section 4 of this Order.

“Application Review Stage” means that part of the environmental assessment that occurs after the Application has been accepted for review.

“Assessment Report” means the report, as defined in section 1 of the Act, and referred to in section 8 of this Order.

“Cumulative Effects” means the residual effects of the proposed Project that have the potential to interact with the effects of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects or activities.

“Environmental Assessment Office” means the office continued under section 2 of the Act.

“Executive Director” has the same meaning as Executive Director in section 1 of the Act.

“Ministers” has the same meaning as ministers in section 1 of the Act.

“Order” means this Order, which is issued under section 11 of the Act, including all schedules.

“Pre-Application Stage” means that part of the environmental assessment that occurs after an Order under section 10 of the Act has been issued and before an Application has been accepted for review.

“Project Assessment Lead” means an employee of the Environmental Assessment Office who has been delegated certain authorities to conduct the environmental assessment of the proposed Project by the Executive Director under the Act.
“Proponent” has the same meaning as on page 1 of the Order.

“proposed Project” has the same meaning as on page 1 of the Order.

“Public Consultation Plan” means a plan, developed by the Proponent and approved by the Project Assessment Lead, which outlines how the Proponent will undertake consultation with the public during the environmental assessment.

“Working Group” means the working group referred to in section 10 of this Order, including representatives of the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order and government agencies invited by the Project Assessment Lead to provide advice on issues related to the assessment of the proposed Project.

PART B - SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

2. SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1. The scope of the proposed Project consists of the following on-site and off-site components and activities in the area shown in Figures 1 and 2:

2.1.1. Mine site;

2.1.2. Open pit;

2.1.3. Overburden and waste rock dumps;

2.1.4. Ore and low grade ore stockpile;

2.1.5. Topsoil stockpiles, borrow pits;

2.1.6. Construction laydown area;

2.1.7. Tailings Storage Facility and associated structures;

2.1.8. Water management structures, including site runoff, ditches, diversion, and sediment and erosion control;

2.1.9. Plant site and facilities, including mill, conveyors, crushers;

2.1.10. Construction and operations camps;

2.1.11. Core logging area;

2.1.12. Explosives manufacturing and storage facilities;

2.1.13. Hazardous material storage and distribution;
2.1.14. On site infrastructure, facilities and services including: electrical substation and distribution; mine haul and access roads; truck shop; equipment and fuel storage areas and facilities; communications network; laboratories; safety and environmental control; potable water distribution and treatment; sewage treatment and disposal facilities; waste disposal facilities; non-hazardous waste incinerator, back up power generation facilities; gravel washing, screening and cement batch plants, maintenance, administration and warehouse facilities; emergency response facilities; and fire water distribution;

2.1.15. Water supply intake, pump stations, pipeline, equipment and associated access roads;

2.1.16. Electric transmission line connecting the mine site with an existing substation and related access roads;

2.1.17. Potential upgrades to Kluskus and Ootsa Forest Service Roads;

2.1.18. Transportation of workers, materials and equipment along the Forest Service Roads to the mine site;

2.1.19. On site roads, site access roads, and new road to connect mine site with the existing Forest Service Roads;

2.1.20. Other transportation infrastructure to service the Project, including potential airstrip, helicopter pad, rail spur lines and related facilities; and


PART C - SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

3.1. Pursuant to section 11(2)(b) of the Act, the scope of the assessment for the proposed Project will include consideration of:

3.1.1. potential adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects, including potential Cumulative Effects, and practical means to prevent or reduce to an acceptable level, any such potential adverse effects; and

3.1.2. potential adverse effects on the Aboriginal Interests of Aboriginal Groups and, to the extent appropriate, ways to avoid, mitigate or otherwise accommodate such potential adverse effects.
3.2. The scope of the assessment for the proposed Project excludes exploration activities or activities required to prepare the Application, whether or not authorized under other enactments.

PART D - ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES – PRE-APPLICATION STAGE

4. APPLICATION INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 In accordance with this Order and with any additional guidance provided by the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must prepare draft Application Information Requirements to identify the issues to be addressed and the information to be provided in its Application;

4.2 The Proponent must submit the draft Application Information Requirements, in formats acceptable to the Project Assessment Lead, to the Project Assessment Lead for review and comment;

4.3 The Proponent must incorporate any comments on the draft Application Information Requirements that the Project Assessment Lead determines are within the scope of the assessment, including comments from the Working Group, Aboriginal Groups, and the public, and submit the revised draft Application Information Requirements to the Project Assessment Lead;

4.4 Once the Project Assessment Lead is satisfied that comments identified under sections 4.2 and 4.3 of this Order have been adequately addressed, the Project Assessment Lead will issue the final Application Information Requirements to the Proponent.

5. PREPARING AND SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

5.1 The Proponent must prepare the Application in accordance with the Application Information Requirements, and must submit it to the Project Assessment Lead for evaluation and decision on whether to accept the Application for review.

5.2 Prior to submitting the Application to the Project Assessment Lead under section 5.1 of this Order, the Proponent must ensure that copies of the Application in the required formats have been delivered to the members of the Working Group and Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B, as specified by the Project Assessment Lead.

6. APPLYING FOR CONCURRENT PERMITTING

6.1 The Proponent, if applying for concurrent review of one or more applications for approvals under other enactments pursuant to section 4 of the Concurrent Approval Regulation, must submit the request to the Project
Assessment Lead no later than when the Proponent submits its Application under section 5.1 of this Order.

7. APPLICATION EVALUATION

7.1 The Project Assessment Lead, with the advice from the Working Group and Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order, as requested, will evaluate and decide whether the Application contains the information specified in the Application Information Requirements.

7.2 If, in the opinion of the Project Assessment Lead, the Application does not include the information required by the Application Information Requirements, the Project Assessment Lead will identify the deficiencies in writing and the Proponent will be required to revise the Application to address the deficiencies and re-submit the revised Application if the Proponent wishes to proceed with the assessment.

7.3 If the Application is accepted for review, the Proponent must supply the copies and quantities of the Application in formats acceptable to the Project Assessment Lead.

7.4 Prior to supplying the Application under section 7.3 of this Order, the Proponent must ensure that copies of the Application in the required formats have been delivered to the members of the Working Group and Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order, as specified by the Project Assessment Lead.

PART E - ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES – APPLICATION REVIEW STAGE

8. PREPARING THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

8.1. The Project Assessment Lead will prepare the Assessment Report.

8.2. Where requested, and within any time limit set by the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must respond to issues raised during the review of the Application that the Project Assessment Lead determines are within the scope of the assessment, including issues raised by the Working Group, Aboriginal Groups, and the public;

8.3. Aboriginal Groups on Schedule B to this Order, members of the Working Group and the Proponent will have an opportunity to provide the Project Assessment Lead with their respective comments on a draft of the Assessment Report, within timelines established by the Project Assessment Lead.
9. MINISTERIAL REFERRAL AND DECISION

9.1 The Project Assessment Lead will advise the Proponent, Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order, and members of the Working Group, of the date that the Assessment Report is referred to Ministers.

9.2 In accordance with section 17(4) of the Act, the Project Assessment Lead will deliver to the Proponent the decision of the Ministers, and the environmental assessment certificate, if granted. The Project Assessment Lead will inform Aboriginal Groups and members of the Working Group of the Ministers’ decision.

PART F – THE WORKING GROUP

10. THE WORKING GROUP

10.1 The Project Assessment Lead has established a Working Group.

10.2 Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order are invited to participate on the Working Group.

10.3 The Project Assessment Lead may form sub-groups of the Working Group to discuss specific issues in the environmental assessment.

10.4 When required by the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must participate in meetings of the Working Group or any sub-groups.

10.5 The Proponent must, when required by the Project Assessment Lead, consult with Working Group members on an individual basis as well as collectively through the Working Group, with respect to issues and information requirements related to the environmental assessment.

10.6 Where required by the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must prepare and submit to the Project Assessment Lead, within any time limits set, documentation on the issues raised by Working Group members, how those issues are addressed and a proposal for addressing outstanding issues, where the Project Assessment Lead determines the issues are within the scope of the assessment.

PART G – CONSULTATION WITH ABORIGINAL GROUPS

11. ABORIGINAL GROUPS CONSULTATION – PRE-APPLICATION STAGE

11.1 With respect to Aboriginal Groups listed on Schedule B to this Order:
11.1.1. For the purpose of developing the Application, the Proponent must consult with the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order with respect to the potential effects of the proposed Project on their Aboriginal Interests.

11.1.2. For the purposes of section 11.1.1, the Proponent must, within timelines established by the Project Assessment Lead, develop an Aboriginal Consultation Plan for the approval of the Project Assessment Lead. The Aboriginal Consultation Plan will describe how the Proponent intends to consult the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order during the Pre-Application and Application Review stages of the assessment. Prior to submitting the Aboriginal Consultation Plan to the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must provide the draft Plan to the Aboriginal Groups listed on Schedule B and must advise the Project Assessment Lead how such groups were consulted and what feedback was provided when submitting the Aboriginal Consultation Plan to the Project Assessment Lead.

11.1.3. The Proponent must advise the Project Assessment Lead and the respective Aboriginal Group(s) as early as practicable if the Proponent is unable to implement the consultation activities described in the materials referred to in section 11.1.2 of this Order.

11.1.4. As directed by the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must provide a response to comments received from Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order, to the satisfaction and within the timeframe specified by the Project Assessment Lead.

11.1.5. The Proponent must provide to the Project Assessment Lead, at times specified by the Project Assessment Lead, reports on the progress and results of the consultation activities specified in the Aboriginal Consultation Plan.

11.1.6. The Proponent must submit their reports on Aboriginal Consultation to the Aboriginal Groups listed on Schedule B for review and comment prior to submitting the reports to the Project Assessment Lead and must advise the Project Assessment Lead how such Aboriginal Groups were consulted and what feedback was provided when submitting the Aboriginal Consultation Report to the Project Assessment Lead.

11.1.7. The Proponent must include in its Application a report on consultations with the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order that the Proponent has already carried out in relation to the proposed Project, consistent with the approved Aboriginal Consultation Plan. The report must identify potentially affected Aboriginal Interests raised by those Aboriginal Groups, and identify measures to avoid or mitigate such potential adverse effects and/or
otherwise address or accommodate the concerns of those Aboriginal Groups, as appropriate.

11.1.8. The Proponent must forward the materials required under section 11.1.7 of this Order to the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order for review and comment before submitting the Application under section 16(1) of the Act and must provide the Project Assessment Lead with any comments received from those Aboriginal Groups.

11.1.9. The Project Assessment Lead will, in consultation with the Aboriginal Groups listed on Schedule B to this Order, assess the Proponent’s past and proposed consultation activities with those Aboriginal Groups. The Project Assessment Lead may, after assessing past and proposed plans, instruct the Proponent to undertake further consultation activities within the time limits set by the Project Assessment Lead, to ensure adequate consultation with those Aboriginal Groups during the review of the Application.

11.1.10. The Proponent must provide copies of the Application to the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order, as required by the Project Assessment Lead, in order that those Aboriginal Groups may respond to an invitation from the Project Assessment Lead to provide comments on the conformity of the Application with the Application Information Requirements pursuant to section 14.1.5.

12. ABORIGINAL GROUPS CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REVIEW STAGE

12.1. With respect to Aboriginal Groups listed on Schedule B to this Order:

12.1.1. The Proponent must provide copies of the Application to the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order, as required by the Project Assessment Lead, in order that those Aboriginal Groups may respond to an invitation from the Project Assessment Lead to submit comments on the Application, either through their participation in the Working Group or independently.

12.1.2. During the Application Review Stage, the Proponent, with the involvement of the Project Assessment Lead where appropriate, must make reasonable efforts to consult with the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order in accordance with the consultation process proposed in the Aboriginal Consultation Plan required under section 1.1.2 of this Order and any further consultation ordered by the Project Assessment Lead.

12.1.3. As directed by the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must provide a response to comments received from Aboriginal Groups.
listed in Schedule B to this Order, to the satisfaction and within the timeframe specified by the Project Assessment Lead;

12.1.4. During the Application Review Stage, the Proponent, within time limits set by the Project Assessment Lead, must provide to the Project Assessment Lead and Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order, a written report on the results of the consultation activities with those Aboriginal Groups, providing a response to comments received from those Aboriginal Groups, to the satisfaction and within the timeframe specified by the Project Assessment Lead.

13. CONSULTATION - GENERAL

13.1. Without limiting any of the requirements in sections 11 and 12, at the request of the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must provide the Project Assessment Lead with information the Project Assessment Lead considers relevant, to help fulfill the Province’s legal duty of consultation.

13.2. The Project Assessment Lead may require the Proponent to implement additional measures for consultation, mitigation and accommodation of impacts on Aboriginal Interests of Aboriginal Groups.

13.3. The Project Assessment Lead may, at any time, notify the Proponent in writing, that one or more Aboriginal Groups are to be added to Schedule B or C to this Order; and in so doing may identify any modifications to any of the procedures and obligations contained in the Order, having regard to status of the existing procedures and obligations at the time the addition to the definition is to be made.

14. ASPECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

14.1. The Project Assessment Lead will consult Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule B to this Order as follows:

14.1.1. Pursuant to 10.2, those Aboriginal Groups are invited by the Project Assessment Lead to participate as members of the Working Group;

14.1.2. The Project Assessment Lead will invite those Aboriginal Groups to identify their respective Aboriginal Interests that may be adversely affected by the proposed Project;

14.1.3. The Project Assessment Lead, or his or her delegate, will, at the request of one of those Aboriginal Groups, meet to discuss its Aboriginal Interests in relation to the proposed Project and measures to avoid, mitigate, address or otherwise accommodate potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal Interests, as appropriate;
14.1.4. Pursuant to section 4.3, the Project Assessment Lead will ensure those Aboriginal Groups have the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Application Information Requirements and will consider any comments;

14.1.5. Pursuant to section 7.1, the Project Assessment Lead will ensure that those Aboriginal Groups receive a copy of the Application and will invite comments from those Aboriginal Groups during the applicable legislated time period with regard to the conformity of the Application with the Application Information Requirements;

14.1.6. The Project Assessment Lead will consult with those Aboriginal Groups on the assessment, as set out in section 11.1.9 of this Order, of the Proponent’s past and proposed consultation activities with those Aboriginal Groups;

14.1.7. The Project Assessment Lead will ensure that those Aboriginal Groups receive a copy of the accepted Application and will invite comments from those Aboriginal Groups within established timelines during the Application Review;

14.1.8. The Project Assessment Lead will provide those Aboriginal Groups with an opportunity to provide the Project Assessment Lead with their respective comments on the draft Assessment Report within established timelines, as set out in section 8.3 of this Order;

14.1.9. The Project Assessment Lead will consult with those Aboriginal Groups on the draft Aboriginal consultation portion of the draft Assessment Report and consider comments received regarding the adequacy of Crown consultation, potential adverse effects to Aboriginal Interests, and identify measures to avoid or mitigate such potential adverse effects and/or to otherwise address or accommodate such potential adverse effects.

14.1.10. Within timelines established by the Project Assessment Lead, those Aboriginal Groups will have the opportunity to provide to the Environmental Assessment Office, a submission regarding their views on the Assessment Report. This submission will be included in the package of materials sent to Ministers when the proposed Project is referred to Ministers for decision.

14.2. Environmental Assessment Office will consult with the Aboriginal Groups listed in Schedule C to this Order by providing notification of, and relevant information at the following milestones, so that those Aboriginal Groups can be informed of the progress of the environmental assessment and have the opportunity to raise any issues to Environmental Assessment Office for discussion:

14.2.1. Issuance of the section 11 Order and any section 13 Orders;
14.2.2. Public comment period for the draft Application Information Requirements;
14.2.3. Approval of the final Application Information Requirements document;
14.2.4. Start of the review of the Application;
14.2.5. Public comment period for the Application; and
14.2.6. Decision on the Application.

PART H – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

15. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PRE-APPLICATION STAGE

15.1. The Proponent must, within timelines established by the Project Assessment Lead, develop a Public Consultation Plan to the satisfaction of the Project Assessment Lead. The Public Consultation Plan will describe how the Proponent intends to consult the public in the vicinity of the proposed Project during the Pre-Application Stage and Application Review Stage of the assessment with respect to the potential effects of the proposed Project on their interests.

15.2. The Proponent must advise the Project Assessment Lead as early as practicable if the Proponent is unable to implement the public consultation activities described in the materials referred to in section 15.1 of this Order.

15.3. The Project Assessment Lead will provide a public comment period of at least 30 days on the draft Application Information Requirements referred to in section 4 of this Order.

15.4. The Proponent must, within any time limits set by the Project Assessment Lead, respond to issues that are identified in comments submitted by the public during the formal comment period established in accordance with section 15.3 of this Order, and that the Project Assessment Lead has notified the Proponent are within the scope of the assessment.

15.5. The Proponent must include in its Application

15.5.1. a summary and evaluation of any public consultations that the Proponent has already carried out in relation to the proposed Project, consistent with the approved Public Consultation Plan, the issues raised by the public, how those issues were addressed and a proposal for addressing outstanding issues; and

15.5.2. A proposal for a public consultation program that the Proponent plans to carry out for the purposes of the review of the Application that reflects activities identified in the approved Public Consultation Plan.

15.6. The Project Assessment Lead will assess the Proponent’s past and proposed public consultation activities identified in the Application, and the Project Assessment Lead may, after assessing past and proposed
activities, instruct the Proponent to undertake further measures to ensure adequate public consultation during Application Review.

16. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REVIEW STAGE

16.1. The Proponent must undertake the activities outlined in the material required in section 15.1 of this Order, subject to any modification of that program ordered by the Project Assessment Lead under section 15.6, within the time limits specified by the Project Assessment Lead.

16.2. During the Application Review Stage of the assessment, the Project Assessment Lead will provide a public comment period of at least 30 days on the Application.

16.3. After completion of the public consultation program in accordance with section 16.1 of this Order, the Proponent, within time limits set by the Project Assessment Lead, must provide to the Project Assessment Lead a written report on the results of its public consultation activities, identifying views, issues and concerns raised by the public with respect to the proposed Project and how the Proponent intends to address them.

17. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - NOTIFICATION

17.1. Prior to the start of any formal public comment period, the Proponent, by means of newspaper advertisements, radio announcements or other means acceptable to the Project Assessment Lead, must provide public notice of:

17.1.1. the availability of the draft Application Information Requirements for public review and comment, and the time limits for the formal public comment period provided for in this Order;

17.1.2. the availability of the Application for public review and comment, and the time limits for the formal public comment period provided for in this Order; and

17.1.3. the date, time and location of any open houses held in respect of the proposed Project, whether organized by the Proponent or the Project Assessment Lead.

17.2. The Proponent must obtain approval from the Project Assessment Lead for the content, format and publication schedule for advertisements or announcements required under section 17.1 of this Order.

17.3. If more than one notice of an event is to be given, then, in accordance with section 5 of the Public Consultation Policy Regulation (B.C. Reg. 373/02), the first notice must appear:
17.3.1. in the case of a formal public comment period, at least 7 days prior to the date on which the formal public comment period commences; and,

17.3.2. in the case of an open house, at least 7 days prior to the date on which an open house is scheduled.

17.4. In making this Order, the public is hereby given access through the Project Information Centre to the information and records listed in section 6 of the Public Consultation Policy Regulation (B.C. Reg. 373/02), where such information and records are generated for the assessment of the proposed Project.

PART J - PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

18. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

18.1. Without limiting any of the requirements in this Order, at the request of the Project Assessment Lead, the Proponent must provide the Project Assessment Lead with any information or address any issues that the Project Assessment Lead considers necessary in order to complete the environmental assessment of the proposed Project.
Schedule B  Aboriginal Groups

Lhoosk’uz Dene Nation
Nadleh Whut’en First Nation
Saik’uz First Nation
Stellat’en First Nation
Ulkatcho First Nation
Schedule C Aboriginal Groups

Nazko First Nation

Skin Tyee Nation

Tsilhqot’in National Government