



**PRODIGY**  
GOLD INCORPORATED

## Magino Gold Project

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# MAGINO GOLD PROJECT

Finan Township, Algoma District, Ontario

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## CHAPTER 16: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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## 16.0 ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

### 16.1 Summary of Environmental Effects

Taking into consideration the design of the Project and additional mitigation measures identified throughout the assessment, no significant adverse effects were identified. The Magino Project is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse effects. The residual adverse effects of the Project were summarized in Section 7.8 of Chapter 7.

The Project is expected to result in several positive effects on the Social and Economic Environments and on Aboriginal Interests, largely in terms of its contributions to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community goals regarding population and economic growth. These positive effects are listed in Section 7.8 of Chapter 7.

The EIS examined the potential for cumulative effects of the Project in combination with other past, existing and future projects and activities considered to be either certain or reasonably foreseeable. The assessment identified very few other projects that could overlap with those of the Project to result in adverse cumulative effects. The assessment concluded that there are no significant adverse cumulative effects on the Atmospheric, Biophysical, and Human Environments.

The EIS examined the potential for the Project to result in environmental effects as well as personnel injuries to workers or members of the public as a result of a number of potential accidents and malfunctions, including:

- *Structural Failures:* These include open pit slope failure, TMF embankment failure, MRMF slope failure, overburden stockpile(s) slope failure; water quality control pond failure; and creek diversion failure;
- *Accidents:* These include an explosives accident, tailings pipeline failure, water pipeline failure, transportation accident (e.g., vehicle collision) with fuel or reagent shipment, and chemical spills within containment facilities; and
- *Other Malfunctions:* These include unexpected water quality effects, and project related fires.

Taking into consideration the design of the Project and various operational safeguards all of the potential accidents and malfunctions are considered to be unlikely and their environmental effects are considered to be not significant.

The EIS examines the potential effects of the environment on the Project, including the effects that might result from events such as flooding or drought; warmer temperatures; storms (ice, snow, and wind storms); forest fires; and earthquakes. These effects were considered to occur due to the variable nature of climate and the random nature of other events such as forest fires or earthquakes. With the exception of earthquakes, the frequency or duration of these events are projected to change due to global climate change. As such, the assessment of effects of the environment on the Project was undertaken in the context of climate change. Taking into consideration how the effects of these events would be mitigated through design and/or managed in an adaptive manner, the assessment concluded that there would be no significant adverse effects from the natural events examined. It also concluded that climate change trends have been adequately considered in the design and operations of the Project and do not change the conclusions of the environmental assessment.

## 16.2 Project Implications for Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

### 16.2.1 Aboriginal Groups Potentially Affected by the Project

Aboriginal groups, including First Nations and Métis in Canada, have Constitutionally-protected Aboriginal and treaty rights.

The Magino property is located within the Robinson-Superior Treaty area. The federal and provincial agencies have identified seven Aboriginal groups (First Nation and Métis) that may have interests in or potentially be affected by the proposed Project:

- Michipicoten First Nation (MFN);
- Missanabie Cree First Nation (MCFN);
- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO);
- Batchewana First Nation (BFN);
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN);
- Garden River First Nation (GRFN) and
- Pic Moberg First Nation (PMFN).

At the time of writing, the PMFN has declined participation in Prodigy Gold's Magino Mine Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Beginning in 2013, Prodigy has requested opportunities to engage Pic Moberg First Nation in the Project EA process, offering to give presentations and meet with PMFN Chief and Council and to host community open houses. PMFN has consistently informed both Prodigy and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) that they do not wish to participate in the Magino Project EA process or the review of the EIS, although they did advise that they would like to be advised if there are any changes to the scope/nature of the Project. Prodigy has taken the agreed-to approach with PMFN (and the Agency) of keeping the First Nation informed of key project updates and milestones. The Company will continue to inform and update Pic Moberg First Nation about the Project as well as the key milestones and EA documentation as it becomes available. The Agency has continued to request that Prodigy assess potential effects of the Project to PMFN. As such Prodigy has done so in Chapter 7 of the EIS based on secondary source information.

The MFN, PMFN are signatories to the Robinson-Superior Treaty and hold Aboriginal and treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap over lands surrendered to the Crown. The MFN reserve is located approximately 50 km south of the project; and the PMFN reserve is situated approximately 100 km northwest.

The RSMIN are the descendants of the 84 "half breeds"<sup>1</sup> who were recognized by the Crown as beneficiaries and annuitants under the Robinson Superior Treaty.

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<sup>1</sup> This term "half-breed" found in RSMIN's December 2013 Report is an historical reference to the Robinson Treaty (1850) and supporting documents/reports; it is used in reference to the historic Métis people who inhabited the Sault Ste. Marie area. For further information, refer to the following INAC treaty research report: INAC. (1986). Treaty Research Report – The Robinson Treaties (1850) prepared by Robert J. Surtees, Treaties and Historical Research Centre, INAC. Retrieved from the AADNC website: <https://www.aadnc-aadnc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028974/1100100028976>.

As the result of the engagement process with each Aboriginal group, it was determined that the footprint for the Magino Mine lies within the traditional territories of the MFN, MCFN, BFN and PMFN. The Aboriginal and treaty rights asserted by the MFN, MCFN, BFN and PMFN include hunting fishing and trapping as more particularly described in Chapter 7, Section 7.7.2.

### **16.2.2 History of Industrial and Other Human Activities**

As described in Chapter 3 above, the proposed Magino Project is located on lands with a history of mining activity. It is located on a brownfield site that was first industrially active over 80 years ago. Starting in 1925, McCarthy-Webb Goudreau Mines excavated test pits and trenches on the Magino property; the mine was active from 1935 through to 1938, and was closed in 1942. Mining was active again from 1987 to 1992. The property has been under exploration since 2000. The site has numerous structures from past operations, including a core shack, maintenance shop, mine portal and vent rise, old core shack/storage area and maintenance shop, telephone communications tower, inclined shaft and in-filled shaft collar, old mill foundation and cyanide tower, electrical substation, and mine offices. In addition to the mine, the property includes a tailings pond and polishing pond from previous operations.

### **16.2.3 Aboriginal Engagement in EIS Process**

Prodigy recognizes the importance of meaningful and ongoing engagement throughout the life of the Project, and in particular, during the EA and permitting phases. As described more fully in Chapter 12 and Appendix 5, Prodigy Gold has actively engaged with Aboriginal groups on the proposed Magino Mine Project since 2012. Aboriginal engagement processes have followed the respective protocols of each Aboriginal group. Guided by these protocols, Aboriginal engagement activities have been tailored to the communicated needs and priorities of each group.

Prodigy has had discussions with Aboriginal groups on how each group would like to be engaged in the Project. Prodigy has requested and followed direction from each respective First Nation and Métis group in terms of how they would like Prodigy to engage with both Chief and Council/Leadership and general membership.

Prodigy has been engaging with Aboriginal groups identified by the federal and provincial agencies. Prodigy has reviewed and followed the Agency's 2013 EIS Guidelines to direct its engagement with Aboriginal groups. Prodigy has also reviewed Federal government guidance documents on how to work with and engage Aboriginal groups during a Federal EA process<sup>2</sup>.

Between 2012 and 2014, Prodigy Gold met with each of the Aboriginal groups identified by the relevant government agencies as potentially having an interest in the project area to discuss the proposed Project, review the potential effects on the environment, including the lands and resources used by each aboriginal group and the EA process (including the identification of Valued Components). As part of its engagement process, Prodigy Gold provided MFN, MCFN, BFN, MNO and RSMIN with a copy of its draft EIS documentation for review; responded to the

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<sup>2</sup> Federal guidance documents reviewed by Prodigy Gold and which have informed the proponent's engagement with Aboriginal groups can be found at: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. (2016). Aboriginal Consultation in Federal Environmental Assessment. Retrieved from the CEAA website: <https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=ED06FC83-1>

questions and concerns raised by Aboriginal groups, the particulars are set forth in Chapter 12; incorporated feedback and comments on the proposed Project.

Following the 2014 preparation and review of the working draft EIS, Prodigy Gold provided Aboriginal groups with updated current information and built upon knowledge and understanding developed through the proponent's previous engagement activities with Aboriginal groups. Throughout the engagement process, Prodigy Gold ensured that there were sufficient opportunities for both leadership and membership of Aboriginal groups to review and provide feedback. Any concerns or potential impacts identified by the aboriginal groups were substantially addressed and incorporated in the EIS documentation, as more fully explained in Chapter 12 (Aboriginal Engagement). In addition to the early engagement process, Prodigy Gold has negotiated long term agreements with MFN, MCFN, BFN and MNO which establishes a process for on-going engagement as the project develops.

#### **16.2.4 Aboriginal Interests Effects Assessment**

Existing conditions for the three Aboriginal Interest Valued Components (VCs) - Aboriginal Employment and Business Opportunities, Traditional Use of Lands and Resources, and Aboriginal Cultural Activities and Special Places - are described in Chapter 4, Section 4.6. As noted in Chapter 4, Section 4.6, the data sources used to describe the existing conditions on information for Aboriginal Interests include:

- Direct Engagement with Aboriginal Groups from 2012 to 2016 (it is noted that engagement with various Groups started at different times, varying with direction from the Agency and the Province, and the interests of each Group);
- Aboriginal Groups' websites;
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) website;
- INAC First Nation Profiles;
- Statistics Canada Census Data (2006, 2011<sup>3</sup>); and
- Traditional Knowledge Studies/Traditional Land Use Studies (TKS/TLUS) and other reports provided to Prodigy by some Aboriginal groups.

As described in Chapter 12, Prodigy is at different stages in the engagement process with each Aboriginal group. For some groups, engagement has been ongoing for some time and consequently more information is available (e.g., MFN, MCFN, BFN, and MNO); whereas engagement with others is at early stages (e.g., GRFN). The availability and quality of primary source information (e.g., interviews, profiles) and secondary source information (e.g., Statistics Canada census data; reports) varies for each Aboriginal group. In Chapter 4, Section 4.6, each Aboriginal group is described in terms of introductory information, and the three Aboriginal Interest VCs.

In Chapter 7, Section 7.7, the potential effects of the Project with respect to Aboriginal Interests (Aboriginal Employment and Business Opportunities, Traditional Use of Lands and Resources, and Aboriginal Cultural Activities and Special Places) are assessed. Potential effects on Aboriginal Employment and Business Opportunities were not predicted on a group-by-group basis, but more generally. Prodigy is discussing and developing various types of bilateral

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<sup>3</sup> The release of data from the 2016 census will not be initiated by Statistics Canada until 2017.

agreements with First Nation and Métis groups which will address Aboriginal interests in employment and business opportunities.

Traditional Knowledge Studies/Traditional Land Use Studies (TKS/TLUS) studies and other reports have been provided by the following Aboriginal groups for the Prodigy EIS:

- Michipicoten First Nation (Hamilton, 2014);
- Missanabie Cree First Nation (MERC, 2014);
- Métis Nation of Ontario (Shared Value Solutions, 2014);
- Batchewana First Nation (Hensel, 2015);
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN, 2013).

These studies provided an important source of information that assisted Prodigy in describing the existing environment and predicting potential Project effects for the Traditional Use of Lands and Resources VC (Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering) and the Aboriginal Cultural Activities and Special Places VC (Aboriginal Cultural Activities, Spiritual Sites, Trails and Camps, and Archaeological Sites). The effects assessment for each of these VCs considered the TKS/TLUS information provided by each of the Aboriginal groups and where Project-specific information was provided is reported and assessed in Chapter 7, Section 7.7. Information on existing conditions with respect to the indicators for the Traditional Use of Land and Resources VC for individual Aboriginal groups is limited to those that provided TKS/TLUS information to Prodigy (see Chapter 4, Section 4.6.5). At the time of writing, Project-specific information on Traditional Use of Lands and Resources is not available for PMFN; PMFN has declined participation in the EA. Potential effects on PMFN's Traditional Use of Lands and Resources cannot be assessed in the absence of TKS/TLUS information from them.

The assessment of potential effects on Traditional Use of Lands and Resources and Aboriginal Cultural Activities and Special Places also considered the results of effects assessments from other disciplines, reported elsewhere in the EIS:

- Atmospheric Environment: Air Quality (Section 7.2.1), Noise (Section 7.2.2), Vibration (Section 7.2.3), Light (Section 7.2.4);
- Physical Environment: Visual Assessment (Section 7.3.6);
- Biological Environment: Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 7.4.1), Terrestrial Vegetation (Section 7.4.2), Significant Wildlife Habitat (Section 7.4.4), Migratory and Breeding Birds (Section 7.4.5), Mammals (Section 7.4.6); and
- Human Health Risk Assessment (Chapter 10).

In summary, there are no significant adverse effects of the Project on the Traditional Use of Lands and Resources (Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering) or Aboriginal Cultural Activities and Special Places (Aboriginal Cultural Activities, Spiritual Sites, Trails and Camps, and Archaeological Sites).

The TKS/TLUS and other reports prepared by the consultants retained directly from the Aboriginal groups did not always distinguish between current and historical traditional and cultural uses. None of the TKS/TLUS and other reports indicated that the areas used in the PSA, LSA or RSA were of particularly high value, or were unique to the area used by an Aboriginal group for traditional activities. As previously stated, the PSA and LSA are already affected by historic and current mining activities but there are alternative locations in the LSA, RSA and beyond that are used by Aboriginal groups for traditional and cultural activities such as

hunting, fishing and trapping and that can provide an alternative to uses that may be displaced from the PSA (e.g., gathering) or disrupted in the LSA and RSA.

In some cases, the TKS/TLUS and other reports indicated that there was a higher concentration of traditional and cultural uses by a group beyond the PSA, LSA and RSA (MFN, MCFN, and BFN). The RSMIN's report did not include site-specific use information. Given the relatively limited traditional and cultural activities identified in the PSA/LSA/RSA and given the historic and current industrial use of the area, in addition to the identification of alternate locations within their traditional lands suitable for traditional activities, the potential adverse effects on Traditional Use of Lands and Resources (Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering) are insignificant.

The BFN were explicit in their conclusion: Section 7 (p. 12) of the BFN TK Assessment report stated the following: "During the course of the information collection from Community Members and a review of all available second source information completed as a part of this project, no uses were highlighted which create a potential no-go area within and in proximity to the (Magino Gold Project) area." (*This last sentence was emphasized in bold text in the BFN TK Assessment report*).

Taking into consideration the design of the Project, the results of the effects analysis, and the mitigation measures that will be implemented for the Atmospheric Environment and Physical Environment disciplines, the only mitigation measure identified with respect to Aboriginal Cultural Activities and Special Places is the formation of an Environmental Monitoring Committee. Aboriginal groups that have been involved in the Project's environmental assessment process will be invited to participate on this Committee, which will participate in reviewing mitigation and monitoring plans, and reviewing all monitoring results.

Adaptive management will be based on periodic reporting of indicators related to Traditional Use of Lands and Resources/Aboriginal Cultural Activities and Special Places for the Project, and ongoing engagement with Aboriginal groups. Prodigy is committed to ongoing engagement with Aboriginal groups throughout all Project phases, as part of a *Public and Stakeholder Engagement Plan*. Relevant effects management measures and/or other commitments related to the atmospheric and biological environments will be consolidated and reflected in the *Air Quality and Noise Abatement Plan*, *Water Management Plan*, *Environmental Monitoring Plan*, and *Fish Habitat Compensation Plan* for the Project. The company will discuss with Aboriginal groups (through the Environmental Monitoring Committee) and others the method for confirming key indicators, reporting and responding to monitoring results. Key indicators for the Project will be monitored by Prodigy.

Prodigy Gold has worked diligently with the various Aboriginal groups to understand all of the Aboriginal Interests in the PSA or the surrounding area and to ensure that all Aboriginal concerns with respect to potential effects and mitigation (e.g., avoiding and or minimizing impacts to sensitive or significant traditional land use resources in the area) have been identified and fully addressed. Given that no significant adverse effects have been identified with respect to the Traditional Use of Land and Resources, or Aboriginal Cultural Activities or Special Places (see Chapter 7, Section 7.7), there is no impact on the Aboriginal and Treaty rights asserted and identified throughout the engagement process.

### 16.2.5 Conclusion

As described above, the Magino property is a brownfield site used for mining activities for several generations, over which time Aboriginal peoples who use the area have become accustomed to the disturbances created by the mine site during its several cycles of development, operation, and closure. Prodigy Gold has engaged with Aboriginal groups since 2012, during which time they have provided input into the implementation of the EA and design of the Project itself. Furthermore, engagement with Aboriginal groups and the assessment of information collected for the TK studies and other reports in the context of the proposed Project has concluded that the Project will not impact their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

### 16.3 Environmental Management System

Prodigy's Environmental Management System (EMS) defines the sequence of "**Policy – Planning – Implementation and Operation – Checking and Corrective Actions – Management Review Process**" that must be in place to ensure that the Magino Project is executed in an environmentally and socially acceptable manner, and in a spirit of **continuous improvement** that employs adaptive management principles. An overview of Prodigy's Environmental Management System (EMS) is presented in TSD 20.

The EMS system and its associated management plans are "**Life of Project**" Management Plans. They apply from the onset of the site preparation phase, through the construction, operations and closure phases of the Project. Application of the principles of continuous improvement and adaptive management ensures that the environmental management plans are appropriate for the level of activities on site at all times. Adaptive management is the application of mitigation measures when review processes identify potentially adverse effects. The application of adaptive management measures could require the approval of a regulatory authority.

The EMS and its management plans are the tools which will be used by Prodigy to ensure that the Company's objectives and environmental commitment are achieved. The Company acknowledges that the Management Plans will require updating on a regular basis to ensure they capture/incorporate the requirements outlined in the terms and conditions of the Project authorization and permits, as well as other commitments made to Aboriginal and local communities.

Key elements of these plans are execution and line of accountability within the Company's organization to ensure that the objectives of the plan are met. As the Project advances through its various phases of development (construction, operation and closure), the on-site organizational structure of the site management team will change. However, the fundamental commitments made by the Company, as embodied in the EMS and its management plans, will remain. Furthermore, the process of continual improvement (review and adaptive management) may also occasionally introduce changes for some components of the management plans. The management plans are tools designed to manage change, while ensuring that the Company's objectives and environmental commitments are achieved.

Prodigy does not expect the core content of these management plans to change significantly over the life of the Project. However, certain sections of each plan will be updated regularly:

- Changes in regulations affecting the Project;

- Roles and Responsibilities will adapt to the evolving organizational structure on-site and off-site;
- Monitoring requirements, objectives and thresholds will be adapted on the basis of an annual review of monitoring information collected in the previous year (adaptive management); and
- Changes in reporting requirements as directed by the licensing authority.

The EMS and its accompanying management plans presented in TSD 20 are listed in Table 16-1. The EMS and its accompanying plans apply to all phases of the Project.

**Table 16-1: List of EMPs for the Magino Project**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>General Management Plans</b>		
TSD 20-1	Environmental Management System (EMS)	Describes the overarching framework for environmental, safety and health management
TSD 20-2	Health & Safety Management Plan	Focusses on occupational health and safety and requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.1-Ontario
TSD 20-3	Emergency Response and Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan (ERSPC)	Aligns with Ontario Regulation 224/07 for requirements of the management of spill prevention and contingency
TSD 20-4	Hazardous Substances Management Plan	Focusses on hazardous material and hazardous waste.
TSD 20-5	Waste Management Plan	Focusses on non-hazardous waste
TSD 20-6	Construction Environmental Protection Plan	Outlines environmental protection procedures implemented for the construction activities
TSD 20-7	Crisis Management Plan	Provides procedures for coping with "Level 3" emergencies or catastrophic events at the site
TSD 20-8	Mine Material Management Plan	Outlines management of materials extracted from the mine pit
TSD 20-9	Site Security, Roads and Traffic Management Plan	
TSD 20-10	Fire Preparedness and Prevention Plan	
TSD 20-20	Preliminary Closure and Reclamation Plan	Describes site closure and post closure monitoring
<b>VECs - Biophysical Valued Ecological Components Management Plans</b>		
TSD 20-11	Air Quality and Noise Abatement Plan	Targets VECs of air quality, noise, vibration, greenhouse gases and climate change

Document	Title	Description
TSD 20-12	Water Management Plan	Targets management of all water sources/streams at the site (quantity and quality)
TSD 20-13	Environmental Monitoring Plan	Regroups all environmental monitoring activities
TSD 20-14	Fish Habitat Compensation Plan	Satisfies requirements of the Fisheries Act
<b>VSECs - Valued Socioeconomic Components Management Plans</b>		
TSD 20-21	Human resources Management Plan	Focuses on employment opportunities for residents and Indigenous communities, training, and commercial opportunities
TSD 20-22	Historic Resources Plan	Focuses on the identification of historic and cultural sites
TSD 20-23	Public and Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Focuses on communication with stakeholders and other interested persons.

#### 16.4 Preliminary Follow-up and Monitoring Program

The purpose of a Follow-up and Monitoring Program is to:

- Verify the accuracy of the EA of a designated project; and
- Determine the effectiveness of any mitigation measures.

The follow up and monitoring program is expected to:

- Provide for adaptive management in the event environmental effects are different from expected, new information becomes available, or mitigation measures prove to be less effective than anticipated; and
- Communicate the follow up results to Project stakeholders and Aboriginal groups who are party to the program, and to provide for their input into program results.

The Magino EIS Guidelines (2013) state that “the EIS shall present a preliminary follow-up program in particular for areas where scientific uncertainty exists in the prediction of effects”. Prodigy expects that the finalization of a detailed monitoring program occur through consultation with Federal and Provincial government agencies, Aboriginal groups, the public and other stakeholders.

The follow up monitoring program is captured in Prodigy’s Environmental Management System under the Environmental Monitoring Plan (TSD 20-11).

#### 16.5 Table of Commitments

A table of commitments is currently in preparation.

#### 16.6 Conclusions

This EIS fulfils the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012* and is based on EA Guidelines issued by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the

Agency) in November 2013. Prodigy was asked to submit this EIS and any supporting technical studies requested to the Agency, in its capacity as the Responsible Authority.

The EIS concludes that taking into account the design of the Project and the implementation of the identified mitigation measures, the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Furthermore, Prodigy's Environmental Management System and its associated monitoring and follow-up plans will ensure that the environmental safeguards outlined in the EIS are implemented; that the accuracy of the predictions made in the EIS are verified; and that the mitigation measures implemented are effective.

In moving forward with the Project, Prodigy is committed to operating in a safe, environmentally responsible and cost efficient manner, while honouring commitments to the communities where it operates. This has been demonstrated over the past 4 years through Prodigy's contributions to the Aboriginal and local communities in its support of local events, organizations, fundraisers and health and educational initiatives. Finally, Prodigy is fully committed to ongoing engagement with government authorities, Aboriginal groups, industry stakeholders, and the public.

## **16.7 References**

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52). (2014). Retrieved from the Justice Department of Canada website: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.21/index.html>