

4 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Summary of Indigenous Peoples Engagement Before the Updates

AMNS is committed to developing a long-term, positive and productive relationship with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia based on principles of mutual respect, transparency, honesty and integrity, and a partnership approach to engagement. Meaningful engagement is a key component of the Project and began as part of planning and environmental assessment of the Touquoy Gold Project over a decade ago. The engagement has focused on building relationships with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO), as well as the community members, staff and Chief and Council of nearby Mi'kmaq communities, specifically Millbrook First Nation, and Sipekne'katik First Nation. AMNS has, and will continue to, exchange important Project information and answer questions; discuss the concerns and interests of the Mi'kmaq, including traditional and current use and the importance of the area; discuss potential impacts on the Mi'kmaq and develop avoidance and mitigations strategies together to address their concerns; and, to develop opportunities for involvement in environmental monitoring, and other aspects of the Project.

The focus of engagement has, and will continue to be, with the Assembly, the KMKNO, and the communities of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik. Focused engagement has and will continue with Millbrook due to their proximity to the Project. Aligning mutual interests, such as environmental protection specifically related to current use of land and resources for traditional purposes, is a core part of the engagement.

4.1.2 Summary of Updates to Indigenous Peoples Engagement

Participation of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia has been ongoing to identify impacts to the Mi'kmaq, in consideration of traditional knowledge as part mine planning and development of the EIS. AMNS respects the consultation, decision-making and governance structures that the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia have put in place within their organizations and communities. The focus of engagement has, and will continue to be, with the Assembly, the KMKNO, and the communities of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik. Engagement has and will continue with Millbrook due to their proximity to the Project. Aligning mutual interests, such as environmental protection specifically related to current use of land and resources for traditional purposes, is a core part of the engagement.

With the receipt of Information Requests from the Agency after AMNS submitted the EIS in 2017 and revised 2019 EIS (AMNS 2017 and 2019), AMNS has continued to engage with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on a regular basis to better understand existing land uses. Millbrook initiated a Traditional Land and Resource Use Study (TLRUS) in 2018 and delivered the results in 2019 just prior to the revised 2019 EIS (i.e., response Round 1 Information Requests submission [AMNS 2019]). AMNS has been working with Millbrook to review TLRUS results and continue ongoing and regular engagement throughout the Round 2, Information Requests (IR2) process.

The two closest Mi'kmaq communities of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations have registered total populations of 1,995 and 2,771, respectively (CBU 2020). As stated above, the two communities have chosen to represent themselves directly in consultation with the Crown. There are two communities near the Beaver Dam Mine Project: Beaver Lake IR 17 (49.4 ha) is located approximately 5 km southwest from the Beaver Dam Mine Site, and Sheet Harbour IR 36 (32.7 ha) is located 20 km south of the Project. Both these reserves belong to the Millbrook First Nation which is located in Truro, Nova Scotia, 54 km northwest of the Beaver Dam Mine Site. Beaver Lake Indian Reserve (IR) 17 with an on-reserve population of about 21 and Sheet Harbour IR 36 with an on-reserve population of about 25 (Statistics Canada 2017).

Updates have been focused on engagement as well as information that has become available since the submission of the 2019 Revised EIS. This includes but not limited to responses to IR2.

Table 4.1-1: Updated Subsections from the 2019 Revised Environmental Impact Statement – Indigenous Peoples

Section 4 from the 2019 Revised EIS Submission (February 28, 2019)	Updated in 2021	Reason for Update
4.1 Objectives	Yes	Ongoing and continued engagement
4.2 Indigenous People in Nova Scotia	Yes	Ongoing and continued engagement
4.3 Engagement Strategy	Yes	Ongoing and continued engagement
4.4 Indigenous Peoples Engagement Activities	Yes	Ongoing and continued engagement
4.5 Key Issues Raised and Proponent Responses	Yes	Ongoing and continued engagement
4.6 Ongoing Indigenous Peoples Engagement	Yes	Ongoing and continued engagement

4.2 Objectives

AMNS is committed to developing a long-term, positive and productive relationship with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia based on principles of mutual respect, transparency, honesty and integrity, and a partnership approach to engagement. Meaningful engagement is a key component of the Project and began as part of planning and environmental assessment of the Touquoy Gold Project over a decade ago. The engagement has focused on building relationships with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO), as well as the community members, staff and Chief and Council of nearby Mi'kmaq communities, specifically Millbrook First Nation, and Sipekne'katik First Nation. AMNS has, and will continue to, exchange important Project information and answer questions; discuss the concerns and interests of the Mi'kmaq, including traditional and current use and the importance of the area; discuss potential impacts on the Mi'kmaq and develop avoidance and mitigations strategies together to address their concerns; and, to develop opportunities for involvement in environmental monitoring, and other aspects of the Project.

The Beaver Dam Mine Project EIS Guidelines prepared by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC; formerly the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency [CEAA 2016]) provides guidance on specific aspects of Mi'kmaq engagement. For Mi'kmaq groups with potential to be most affected by the Project, it was expected that AMNS would strive toward developing a productive and constructive relationship based on ongoing dialogue with the groups to support information gathering and effects assessment. Further, the *Province of Nova Scotia's Proponent's Guide: The Role of Proponents in Crown Consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, 2011* provides guidance on engaging with Indigenous groups. AMNS continues to follow the guidance from the federal and provincial governments and intends to build on and strengthen the relationship developed with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia during the past decade.

As per Supreme Court of Canada instruction and subsequent guidance from governments, such as the Updated Guidelines for Federal Officials to Fulfill the Duty to Consult (Government of Canada, 2011) and AMNS's Guide: Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia (Province of Nova Scotia, 2012), the Crown may delegate procedural aspects of consultation to proponents. However, the duty to consult, and constitutional obligation remains with the Crown. As noted in the EIS Guidelines (CEAA 2016) the results of the AMNS's Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia engagement program "helps to contribute to the Crown's understanding of any potential adverse impacts of the project on potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights, title and related interests, and the effectiveness of measures proposed to avoid or minimise those impacts".

The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process is the forum for the Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia, and Canada to resolve issues related to Mi'kmaq treaty rights, Aboriginal rights, including Aboriginal title, and Mi'kmaq governance. The process involves the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia as represented by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the provincial and federal governments. Both the federal and provincial governments have requirements for consultation under the *Updated Guidelines for Federal Officials to Fulfill the Duty to Consult: 2011*, and the *Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference*. Further, the *Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment Regulations* include a requirement to identify concerns of Indigenous People about potential adverse effects and steps taken, or proposed to be taken, by AMNS to address concerns, as well as the steps taken to identify these concerns.

Participation of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia has been ongoing to identify impacts to the Mi'kmaq, in consideration of traditional knowledge as part mine planning and development of the EIS. AMNS respects the consultation, decision-making and governance structures that the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia have put in place within their organizations and communities. The focus of engagement has, and will continue to be, with the Assembly, the KMKNO, and the communities of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik. Focused engagement has and will continue with Millbrook due to their proximity to the Project. Aligning mutual interests, such as environmental protection specifically related to current use of land and resources for traditional purposes, is a core part of the engagement.

With the receipt of Information Requests from the Agency after AMNS submitted the EIS in 2017 and revised 2019 EIS (AGC 2017 and AMNS 2019), AMNS has continued to engage with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on a regular basis to better understand existing land uses. Millbrook initiated a Traditional Land and Resource Use Study (TLRUS) in 2018 and delivered the results in 2019 just prior to the revised 2019 EIS (i.e., responses Round 1 Information Requests [AMNS 2019]). AMNS has been working with Millbrook to review TLRUS results and continue ongoing and regular engagement throughout the IR2 process.

4.3 Indigenous People in Nova Scotia

The Mi'kmaq are the original people of Nova Scotia and remain the predominant Indigenous Peoples within the Province. The courts have confirmed that the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia have both Aboriginal and Treaty rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*. The nature and extent of those rights, as well as the responsibilities and authorities of governments with respect to those rights, are the subject of negotiation between the federal and provincial governments and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, as described above.

The Mi'kmaq Nation of Nova Scotia has a general interest in all lands and resources as the Mi'kmaq Nation maintain that they did not give up their land rights through treaty, voluntary cessation, or otherwise. The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia maintains a claim of Aboriginal title to the lands and waters of Nova Scotia and adjacent areas of the offshore.

As part of the Umbrella and Framework Agreements developed for the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process, a draft Consultation Terms of Reference (TOR) was adopted in 2007. After a three-year pilot period the thirteen Mi'kmaq communities, through the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, signed the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation TOR in 2010 with the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia. The TOR lays out a process for the parties to follow when governments wish to consult with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The Made-in-Nova Scotia Negotiation Process and the historic development of the Consultation TOR are based on the principle of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia as one Mi'kmaq Nation.

Nova Scotia has thirteen Mi'kmaq First Nations with a total registered population of 16,760 as of 2017, including both on- and off-reserve populations (AANDC 2019). The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs (ANSMC) represents all thirteen communities in dealings with the Crown. The Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) is the administrative group that represents the ANSMC in the consultation and negotiations with the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada. Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations have chosen to consult through their own community Chief and Councils, rather than the KMKNO.

As part of engagement of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, the following are groups who were listed in the EIS Guidelines (CEAA 2016) as being possibly affected by the Project. These include the thirteen Mi'kmaq First Nations in Nova Scotia, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and the KMKNO:

- Acadia First Nation;
- Annapolis Valley First Nation;
- Bear River First Nation;
- Potlotek First Nation;
- Eskasoni First Nation;
- Glooscap First Nation;
- Membertou First Nation;
- Millbrook First Nation;
- Paq'tnkek (Afton) First Nation;
- Pictou Landing First Nation;
- Sipekne'katik First Nation;
- Wagmatcook First Nation;
- We'koqma'q First Nation; and
- Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the KMKNO.

In addition, the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) is a self-governing authority for the community of Mi'kmaq or other Indigenous Peoples residing off-reserve in Nova Scotia. The Native Council has established thirteen geographic zones encompassing the Province of Nova Scotia and has an elected Office of Chief and President.

The two closest Mi'kmaq communities of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations have registered total populations of 1,995 and 2,771, respectively (CBU 2020). As stated above, the two communities have chosen to represent themselves directly in consultation with the Crown. There are two communities near the Beaver Dam Mine Project: Beaver Lake IR 17 (49.4 ha) is located approximately 5 km southwest from the Beaver Dam Mine Site, and Sheet Harbour IR 36 (32.7 ha) is located 20 km south of the Project. Both these reserves belong to the Millbrook First Nation which is located in Truro, Nova Scotia, 54 km northwest of the Beaver Dam Mine Site. Beaver Lake IR 17 with an on-reserve population of about 21 and Sheet Harbour IR 36 with an on-reserve population of about 25 (Statistics Canada 2017).

AMNS's approach to Mi'kmaq engagement and development of the EIS has respected the current framework for engaging the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia – providing Project information, summaries of Project conclusions, descriptions of mitigation measures and monitoring programs through a variety of methods (direct face to face meetings, written correspondence, virtual meetings and phone calls) to the KMKNO, Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations.

AMNS has used a similar approach to the discussion of potential benefits and opportunities related to the Project – focusing on discussions with the ANSMC/KMKNO, Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nation communities. Focused engagement has and will continue with Millbrook due to their proximity to the Project.

4.4 Key Engagement Activities

As part of an overall Indigenous Peoples Plan, AMNS's approach to Mi'kmaq engagement allows for flexibility to permit adaptation based on discussions and feedback from the Mi'kmaq and ongoing development of AMNS's projects.

AMNS uses the following methods, depending on the need, to engage with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia:

- one-window regulatory meetings;
- face-to-face meetings with Mi'kmaq organizations, Chiefs and Councils and communities;
- one point of contact for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia;
- phone calls;
- emails;
- dropbox and FTP sites for document sharing;
- Mi'kmaq community open houses;
- public open houses and town hall meetings;
- site visits and tours;
- newsletters and regular Project Updates; and
- website and other digital and social media.

In addition to AMNS's engagement program related to the EIS the following elements are being discussed to further develop the company's decade-long relationship with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia – one that has been built on mutual understanding and transparency, maintaining flexibility and open lines of communication to adjust implementation as the relationship and Project develops:

- Providing opportunities and benefits to all Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia. Benefits can take the form of, but are not limited to, opportunities for training and capacity building, contracting and procurement, support for education and employment. Supporting cultural and traditional activities of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia; and providing cultural learning exchange opportunities for mining staff.
- Engagement to date has been positive and productive; the relationship was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ANSMC through the KMKNO from 2014 to 2016 with a renewed MOU proposed in 2018 and pending approval by ANSMC. AMNS initiated the engagement program for the Beaver Dam Mine Project in early 2016 with Mi'kmaq community open houses and Public open houses to provide general information on the proposed Project to all interested community members. The public open houses were followed by a series of face-to-face meetings with Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations, and the KMKNO through to the end of 2020. Information regarding the EIS and the EA process was shared and discussed during these meetings, including archaeological reports, summaries of potential impacts and mitigations, and other key details of the Project. AMNS also arranged a tour of the area and invited both Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC).

In 2016, AMNS developed its strategy for Mi'kmaq engagement to coincide with the start of construction of the permitted Touquoy Gold Mine and the development of the EA for the Beaver Dam Mine Project. These elements listed below are specific to Mi'kmaq engagement and are often supported by community engagement activities listed above. These elements of the Mi'kmaq engagement strategy will be built upon over time as the Project develops.

In 2018, AMNS continued to exchange information with the KMKNO, and Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations, and attempted to organize meetings to discuss Project information, traditional and current use of the area by the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, and potential impacts and mitigations. Millbrook undertook a TLRUS in 2018 and delivered the results to AMNS in early 2019, just prior to submission of the Round 1 IR responses to the CEA Agency. Meetings were held to discuss further IR requests, the integration of TLRUS and land use data into the EIS, and the ongoing engagement process through 2019 and 2020.

AMNS met with the ANSMC/KMKNO in early 2020, prior to the global pandemic that was declared on March 11, 2020. Since that time, AMNS continued internal work to further understand any potential impacts of the proposed project on Mi'kmaq rights, such as ensuring all Indigenous perspectives that have already been shared with AMNS were considered, and any additional opportunities to understand specific impacts on current and traditional practices and perspectives identified. It is anticipated that these discussions will continue during the EIS review process.

AMNS suspended all Project-related engagement activities in early March 2020 as everyone began to contend with protection and prevention in communities, and the associated uncertainties and risks. AMNS kept in contact with communities during Nova Scotia's "lockdown" period from March to June 2020, through 2020, and again in 2021 and moved all engagement activity online.

It is anticipated that engagement and technical sessions will continue throughout and beyond the current environmental assessment process. This will include on-going dialogue regarding potential impacts on Mi'kmaq communities, and AMNS is committed to continuing those discussions. AMNS looks forward to receiving on-going feedback and commits to discussing with Millbrook First Nation how best to address their feedback into Project design, mitigation and monitoring measures and potentially additional monitoring and mitigation measures.

A record of all engagement activities conducted between 2016 and the current date is provided in the Summary of Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Engagement Activities in Appendix A.5.

4.5 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Engagement Activities

The objective of Mi'kmaq engagement relative to the development of the EIS for the Project is to gather views from Mi'kmaq groups with respect to both potential environmental effects of the Project and the potential adverse impacts of the Project on potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights, title, and related interests.

While broader engagement on the Touquoy Project has occurred for over a decade and will continue as per the Mi'kmaq engagement strategy, specific public engagement activities have occurred to support the EA for the Project since the federal process was commenced in December 2015.

These include aspects specific to the Project including:

- CLC, where two members were appointed by their Chief and Council as representatives of Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik First Nation. Although Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik First Nation have both withdrawn from the CLC, AMNS will continue to invite them to the CLC as guests.
- Open houses, specifically two community open houses occurred in May 2016 on lands of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations prior to the two public open houses.
- Presentations to Chief and Council of Millbrook First Nation and of Sipekne'katik First Nation, as well as the Benefits Committee Chiefs of the Assembly.

- Meetings, information sharing and correspondence with the KMKNO and thirteen Mi'kmaq First Nations of Nova Scotia, as well as the Nova Scotia Native Council for the purpose of good governance.
- Mini employment fairs set up in collaboration with staff of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations, as well as sharing of employment opportunities with Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations and the KMKNO, with Mi'kmaq employment during the construction of the Touquoy Gold Project exceeding ten percent.
- Ongoing dialogue on formal agreements in terms of participation and benefits sharing with Millbrook First Nation, Sipekne'katik First Nation and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs.
- Participation of staff of KMKNO and Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations in a site visit and tour of the proposed Beaver Dam Mine Project with provincial and federal regulators on November 29, 2016.
- Use of many tools for Mi'kmaq engagement that are used for the general community engagement, such as newsletters, signage, website, email and other digital media, media and press releases, meetings with local residents, and a complaints response procedure.
- Two Open Houses in January 2018 with Millbrook First Nation (one in Millbrook and one in Sheet Harbour) to address specific technical questions.
- Review of Project mitigation and monitoring with Sipekne'katik and KMKNO on September 12 and September 18, 2018, respectively.
- An online/virtual meeting was held with Millbrook First Nation's Chief and Council in early May 2020 to provide an overview of the Beaver Dam Mine Project and other Proponent projects to new council members.
- A Plain Language Summary (PLS) was prepared and shared with Millbrook First Nation on September 1, 2020, with the KMKNO on November 2, 2020 and with the Sipekne'katik First Nation on May 7, 2021.
- As part of on-going engagement and Project discussions specifically with the Millbrook First Nation, a draft Summary of Effects document outlining preliminary Project summaries, mitigation measures and cumulative effects was shared with the community in September 2020.
- On February 16, 2021, a draft response to Round 2 Information Requests CEAA 2-48 and CEAA 2-49 were shared with the Millbrook First Nation to support pending Millbrook community meetings that were being planned. This draft response and associated mapping were also reviewed in a virtual meeting with Gerald Gloade on February 3, 2021.
- On April 1, 2021, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia draft section of the EIS was shared with the Millbrook First Nation for review and feedback. The purpose of this review was twofold:
 - a request to validate and provide feedback of impact conclusions and proposed mitigation; and
 - to provide feedback on the level of specificity regarding the referencing of data in the TLRUS and to ensure the presentation is acceptable in consideration that the TLRUS is considered restricted and confidential.
- Millbrook First Nation shared a report entitled *Beaver Dam Community Consultation Report* with AMNS on June 2, 2021. This report provides community feedback on Project summary of impacts, mitigation measures, and proposed suitable alternative areas. AMNS provided preliminary response to the report on June 7, 2021. A summary of this report and AMNS responses is provided in Section 6.14.9.1.
- Millbrook First Nation provided a letter stating opposition to the mine based on concerns regarding health and environment issued on June 8, 2021. AMNS provided a response on June 30, 2021 acknowledging Millbrook First Nations concerns and

AMNS's commitment to work together to find viable solutions and further community involvement through ongoing engagement.

- On October 14, 2021, updates to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia section of the EIS was reviewed in person with Gerald Gloade at Millbrook First Nation.
- A Project Update letter was shared with Millbrook First Nation on October 15, 2021 describing a minor adjustment in noise modelling outputs due to an adjustment to include the most recent Haul Road alignment, resulting in a change in the size of the Indirect Wildlife Environmental Effects Zone.

These meetings, calls, site visits and correspondence are included in the summary of engagement activities conducted with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia since EA commencement in December 2015 and are provided in Appendix A.5.

4.5.1 Community Open Houses

As discussed in Section 3.4.1 of this EIS, four open houses were held in May 2016; two of these were open to the public while the other two were specific to community members of Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik First Nation.

The two Mi'kmaq community open houses were advertised by staff of each community. In addition, community members were invited to attend the two public open houses if convenient (held on May 18, 2016 in Middle Musquodoboit and on May 19, 2016 in Sheet Harbour). The dates and locations for the two Mi'kmaq community open houses were:

- May 16, 2016 at Millbrook Community Hall, 72 Church Rd, Truro; and
- May 17, 2016 at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (Church Basement), Indian Brook.

The format and layout were the same for all community open houses. Each open house was hosted from 3pm to 8pm with refreshments provided. Upon entry, attendees were asked to sign in and were provided a comment form to complete at end of their visit. Maps were also available for viewing on table and a 3D model of the Beaver Dam Mine Site was used to demonstrate the existing conditions, proposed full mine development (including pit and waste rock pile) and reclamation of the site.

A total of fifteen panels were placed on easels with AMNS and its consultants hosting the panels. After a welcome and introduction to AMNS and their Projects' background (three panels), an overview of open pit mining, process of gold recovery, and economic benefits of the projects was provided (three panels). The next three panels provided an update on the Touquoy Gold Project which was soon to begin construction (June 2016). Before the one closing panel, the five panels focused on the Beaver Dam Mine Project and the engagement opportunities, specifically:

- presentation of the site location, the gold deposit and the existing site features;
- map of the proposed site plan at the Beaver Dam Mine Site;
- information on the transportation of ore, including both options considered for the route and the trucking rate;
- overview of the EA process for the Project including the ongoing baseline studies for the VCs and the regulatory process with opportunities for public participation; and
- opportunities for community and Mi'kmaq engagement, including an overview of the CLC and an invitation for expressions of interest from residents who are interested in joining the CLC.

A total of 32 interested community members attended these two open houses. Millbrook First Nation had a total of 16 attendees with 9 providing name and/or contact information. Sipekne'katik First Nation had a total of 16 attendees with 14 providing name

and/or contact information. In total, four comment forms were completed; many attendees expressed an interest in employment and some provided resumes to AMNS.

To address specific technical questions posed by Millbrook First Nation, AMNS held two information sessions at Millbrook First Nation in Truro and Sheet Harbour IR #36 in Sheet Harbour in January 2018 that provided information on:

- Cyanide;
- Reclamation and Contingency Planning;
- Ore Processing and Mine Processes; and
- Haul Road information.

Both information sessions included 17 poster boards which provided detailed information on each topic area. The poster boards showed, among other things, a map of the proposed location of mine infrastructure, an infographic that detailed ore processing, specific information on cyanide handling, shipping and use, a map of the Haul Road, and a list of Contingency and Management Plans that will be developed.

On January 23, 2018 at the Millbrook Community Hall at 72 Church Road, Truro 14 members of the public, including the two consultants undertaking the IRTLUS for Millbrook First Nation and two representatives from the Agency attended the 2-hour session. AMNS provided a PowerPoint presentation and hosted a question and answer session with attendees. The event ended with an Open House session where people were able to have one-on-one discussions with AMNS's technical experts.

On January 24 at the Albert Noel Howe Multi-Purpose Community Center, 83 Church Point Rd, Sheet Harbour 16 members of the public, including the two consultants undertaking the IRTLUS for Millbrook First Nation, attended the 1-hour session. AMNS also received requests from seven people for additional information on the Project. This session took an open house format, where the poster boards were placed in the room and attendees reviewed them and had the opportunity to engage with AMNS representatives to discuss specific issues or ask questions.

4.5.2 Community Liaison Committee

As discussed in Section 3.6.2 of this EIS, in 2016 the CLC was expanded to a nine-member committee including representation of the two closest Mi'kmaq communities, Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik First Nation. In the Spring of 2018, representatives of Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik First Nation decided to cease participating in the CLC and prefer direct engagement with AMNS. AMNS continues to welcome Mi'kmaq participation on the CLC either as guests or with full membership.

4.6 Key Concerns Raised by the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and Proponent Responses

As part of submitting the EIS and EARD to respective government authorities, the Mi'kmaq engagement to date associated with the Beaver Dam Mine Project was documented, including a summary of key issues raised, Proponent responses and associated adjustments to Project design. This summary also includes general and specific feedback received from the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Note that Project adaptation will continue, as needed and practicable, through engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

For each key concern identified in the following table, a summary of proponent response is provided along with reference(s) to sections in this EIS which address the issue (Table 4.6-1).

The issues raised during Mi'kmaq engagement activities were incorporated into the design of the Project and the development of the EIS. The fundamental change to the Project as a result of Mi'kmaq engagement was the change to the Haul Road to cross Highway 224 which eliminated the haul trucks passing by the Mi'kmaq community of Beaver Lake. This addressed many concerns with safety, noise, air, and light emissions and other issues related to health and socio-economic aspects. In 2020, a multi-use bypass road was added to further reduce project impacts to traditional use and allow for continued access to areas around the Beaver Dam Mine Site and Haul Road during operations. It is the understanding of AMNS based on engagement with the Mi'kmaq that the changed Haul Road and addition of the multi-use bypass road were seen as positive change as effects on the community of Beaver Lake were greatly reduced through these project design changes.

In terms of the development of the EIS, there were no additional VCs included in addition to those identified in the CEA Agency Guidelines associated with the input from the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The VCs listed in the CEA Agency Guidelines addressed the issues brought forward during engagement. However, specific attention was paid to effects assessment of specific VCs, in particular groundwater and its potential effect on the potable water supply of Beaver Lake and the effect on local surface and groundwater quantity from pit development. In addition, focused questions from the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on potential effects of accidents and malfunctions enhanced the development of this portion of the EIS, including the commitments to contingency planning.

As part of AMNS's engagement of the Mi'kmaq completed to date on the Beaver Dam Mine Project, the potential effects and the proposed mitigation measures and monitoring programs were presented and discussed directly with interested Mi'kmaq communities and organizations. The objective was to provide information on the Project to the Mi'kmaq and for AMNS to better understand the views of the Mi'kmaq on the potential effects and proposed mitigation measures and monitoring programs; this supported the development of the EIS. Specifically, alongside on-going meetings with the KMKNO and Mi'kmaq communities, documents have been shared, with requests for feedback and input from the Mi'kmaq communities, to support communication of EIS conclusions, summary of technical VC impacts, summary of Mi'kmaq impacts, mitigation measures and proposed monitoring plans. Exchange has also taken place to support Proponent knowledge and learning relating to specificity of traditional use of the land in the area surrounding the Project, and also to support broader understanding of potential effects of the Project on the economic, social and mental well-being of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

Table 4.6-1: Summary of Responses to Key Concerns Raised During Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Engagement

Key Concern	Summary of AMNS Response	Updated 2021 EIS Reference
Concern about air emissions and noise associated with mining operations and trucking.	Air emissions and noise will be minimized with mitigation measures. Monitoring for air quality, including total suspended particulates, will be completed. Dust suppression (water and/or chemical treatment); 80% for the BD Haul Road. Additional Human Health Risk Assessments to assure the communities that plants and animals are safe to eat and that water is safe for swimming.	Section 6.2.8 Mitigation - Air
Concern about how elevated noise and light levels may impact hunting near the mines.	Engagement with communities to understand where they hunt and whether elevated light and noise levels in close proximity to the mines is a concern, based on hunting patterns. Minimize impact by reducing noise and light from trucks and mine operations. Modelling to show dust, noise and light meet guidelines at the Property Boundary.	Section 6.1 Noise Section 6.2 Air
Concern about quality and quantity of water in streams, rivers and lakes & potential effect on fish and other aquatic species.	Manage site water to a single point of discharge, where possible. Treat water prior to discharge, when needed. Robust monitoring program to confirm water quality; opportunity for Indigenous participation in monitoring programs including Environmental Effects Monitoring in receiving waters.	Section 6.7 Surface Water; Section 6.9.6 Project Activities/Interactions with Fish and Fish Habitat
Concern about impacts to fish and fish habitat.	Reduce impact by moving infrastructure to avoid fish habitat. Predictive modelling to understand how the mine operations may indirectly impact fish habitat; and, monitoring to confirm predictions and adapt as required. Offsetting Plans – Indigenous participation in plan development and implementation.	Section 6.9.6 Project Activities/Interactions with Fish and Fish Habitat
Concern about effect on groundwater, specifically related to domestic wells at Beaver Lake, from development of pit at Beaver Dam.	As the nearest domestic well is over 5 km from the Beaver Dam Mine Site, no effect is expected on groundwater quality or quantity at Beaver Lake. A network of monitoring wells will be used to monitor groundwater quality and quantity at the Beaver Dam Mine Site.	Section 6.6.6 Project Activities/ Interactions with Groundwater Quality and Quantity
Questions about plans for reclamation at the Beaver Dam Mine Site	The Beaver Dam Mine Site facilities will be removed, the pit will naturally fill with water and disturbed surfaces covered with stockpiled topsoil and re-vegetated. The site will be returned to landowner for forestry and recreational use.	Section 2.9.3 Active Closure
Questions about contingency planning for accidents and malfunctions	Hazards have been identified and assessed based on risk. Mitigation measures and contingency planning will be in place to address potential accidents and malfunctions.	Section 6.18 Accidents and Malfunctions
Concern on habitat loss from Project development, including forest, wetlands, flora and fauna.	Disturbance exists on the Beaver Dam Mine Site which will be reclaimed at end of operation. The existing alignment of Haul Road was used where feasible and practical to minimize footprint. Existing facilities will be used for processing and tailings management (exhausted pit). Effect on habitat is minimal. Reduce mine site footprints. Wetland and fish habitat restoration will be completed to compensate for lost wetland and fish habitat. Commitment to reclamation providing an opportunity for Indigenous participation in reclamation planning and implementation. Re-vegetate impacted areas with a native mix of plants determined in consultation with Millbrook and other Indigenous communities.	Section 2.3 Project Location and Section 2.5 Project History, as well as the Valued Components effects assessments in Section 6
Concern about effect of haul truck traffic on birds.	There is potential effect on birds due to noise and dust from haul truck traffic as well as potential bird strikes. This effect is limited to operational phase and was assessed to not be significant.	Section 6.12.7 Project Activities/Interactions with Avifauna

Table 4.6-1: Summary of Responses to Key Concerns Raised During Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Engagement (continued)

Key Concern	Summary of AMNS Response	Updated 2021 EIS Reference
Concern about effect on traditional uses of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.	<p>Working with Millbrook First Nation to understand their use through data sharing of the TLRUS findings and project mapping.</p> <p>Multi-use bypass roads to maintain access to areas around the mine and haul road.</p> <p>Commitment to reclamation with the opportunity for Mi'kmaq participation in planning and implementation to restore habitats and allow traditional practices to resume within the Beaver Dam Mine Site.</p> <p>Re-vegetation with a native mix of plants determined in consultation with Mi'kmaq communities.</p>	Section 6.14.6 Project Activities/Interactions with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia; Appendix M.1 Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study, and Section 2.3.2 Haul Road (multiuse bypass road)
Changing landscape within Eskikewa'kik. Cumulative loss of access to the area for traditional purposes.	<p>Reduced waste and mine footprint at Beaver Dam due to Project design.</p> <p>Use of existing transportation routes, wherever possible</p> <p>Evaluation of Crown land loss in Eskikewa'kik from all known and planned projects.</p>	
Request to prefer Haul Road option that does not travel along Highway 224.	Based on comments received on two options during the stakeholder and Mi'kmaq engagement, AMNS completed a feasibility review of the second option which does not pass by residences, including Beaver Lake IR 17. This was selected and is carried forward in the EA.	Section 2.3.2 Haul Road; Section 2.10.11 The Preferred Approach; Section 2.10.6 Ore Transportation
Questions about cumulative effects of multiple projects in the region.	A cumulative effects assessment was completed for each VC including current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. Ongoing engagement specific to AMNS existing and any future projects will also occur with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.	Section 8.6 Cumulative Effects Summary; Section 4.7 Ongoing Indigenous Peoples Engagement
Request ongoing engagement of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.	AMNS is committed to ongoing Mi'kmaq engagement for the life of the MRC Project, including Beaver Dam Mine Project. Other aspects of Mi'kmaq engagement will continue as per the Mi'kmaq engagement strategy with focus on issues identified as part of the EA and additional issues that may arise as the Project develops.	Section 4.6 Ongoing Indigenous Peoples Engagement; Section 6.14.8 Mitigation and Monitoring associated with Indigenous Peoples

In response to the interest of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, AMNS has made strong commitments to ongoing Mi'kmaq engagement, including specific activities to further support the participation of the Mi'kmaq in this EA process for the Beaver Dam Mine Project. The ongoing engagement ensures that the potential effects of the Project and the proposed mitigation measures and monitoring programs are understood by the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia to evaluate the effects on their communities and potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights, title and related interests.

It is anticipated that engagement will continue throughout and beyond the current environmental assessment process. This will require ongoing dialogue regarding potential impacts on Mi'kmaq communities, and AMNS is committed to continuing those discussions. AMNS looks forward to receiving feedback and commits to discussing with Millbrook First Nation how best to address their feed back into Project design, mitigation and monitoring measures and potentially additional monitoring and mitigation measures.

The key meetings, site visits, telephone calls, emails, and other correspondence with Mi'kmaq groups engaged are included in Appendix A.5.

4.7 Ongoing Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Engagement

As mentioned above, AMNS is committed to ongoing engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia throughout the lifecycle of all of its projects. As part of submitting the EIS and EARD to respective government authorities, the engagement to date associated with the Beaver Dam Mine Project was documented, including a summary of issues raised and proponent responses and adjustments to the project. AMNS has a broad objective to continue to meet with KMKNO, Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations to continue dialogue on the Project, review AMNS conclusions, proposed mitigation measures, and opportunities for Mi'kmaq participation in the EIS.

Relative to the Beaver Dam Mine Project, specific commitments are made by AMNS in terms of Mi'kmaq engagement during the next steps in the EA processes, including:

- Offering to share key aspects of the EIS with staff of Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations and the Assembly, including the MEKS.
- Holding meetings with key staff of KMKNO and Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations.
- Offering opportunities for presentations and site visits to Chief and Councils, specifically Millbrook and Sipekne'katik First Nations.
- Having additional community open houses or site visits as deemed appropriate in consultation with staff and/or leadership of Mi'kmaq communities.
- Answering specific questions posed directly by the Mi'kmaq to AMNS by providing additional information and/or holding meetings where feasible.
- Request for feedback on EIS and information response conclusions. AMNS looks forward to receiving feedback and commits to discussing with Millbrook First Nation how best to address their feed back into Project design, mitigation and monitoring measures and potentially additional monitoring and mitigation measures.

Develop an opportunity for potential partnerships with Mi'kmaq environmental groups on specific ecological monitoring and restoration projects. Engagement planning needs to be flexible. AMNS will continue to address and respond to additional questions or concerns identified or issues noted as the EA moves forward into Project development, operation and closure. AMNS is strongly committed to continue its engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in the ongoing spirit of cooperation and with mutual benefit and respect.