

Kathryn MacCarthy  
Project Manager - Atlantic Regional Office  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada - Government of Canada

August 11, 2023, Updated September 08, 2023

Dear Ms. MacCarthy:

Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia Inc. (AMNS) is writing to advise that the company has decided to withdraw the Fifteen Mile Stream Gold Project application from the cooperative federal-provincial environmental assessment process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and Part IV of the *Nova Scotia Environment Act*.

Without clear direction on the future of in-pit tailings deposition at the Touquoy Mine Site, it is necessary to consider alternatives to the project design for Fifteen Mile Stream. The company maintains its commitment to the development of the Fifteen Mile Stream Gold Project and will be seeking input from the public, stakeholders, and First Nation communities in the coming months as alternatives are considered.

#### Updated information September 8, 2023

The following information was provided to IAAC and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change on September 1, 2023, in response to inquiry from IAAC submitted via email on August 29, 2023.

*"In direct response to your query, AMNS is confirming that it does not intend to carry out the designated project. The following provides further information, including an explanation of the basis of this decision.*

*Due to the inability to process ore at the Touquoy Mine site, the designated project is no longer possible. St Barbara is committed to developing the gold deposit located at the historic Fifteen Mile site, but in light of the inability to use Touquoy for processing, a new project has to be designed and assessed for feasibility. In order to be feasible the designated project must be terminated and replaced with a wholly new project that would require, at a minimum, different:*

- *Site layout including infrastructure and materials management areas*
- *Tailings management facility*
- *Waste rock storage methods and locations*
- *Processing methods, equipment and final product*
- *Mining rates and scheduling*
- *Water management and treatment requirements*
- *Transportation requirements*

*This new project would be so materially different from the current designated project that it cannot be considered a mere amendment. The infrastructure, processes, and potential effects on the environment would be substantially different. Even if an amendment were considered, providing the information requested through the current registration under CEAA 2012 in the time allowed (i.e., before August 2025) would be impossible.*

*A new Pre-Feasibility Study is currently under way. Based on the results of this work, and if a go-forward decision is made, a new project will have to be designed. Assessment and permitting requirements will be considered at that time.”*

As indicated in the email (from Kathy MacCarthy, IAAC) of September 6, 2023, we trust that this additional information is sufficient for your purposes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Sara Wallace, M.Sc.F.  
Head of Permitting  
**Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia Inc.**

