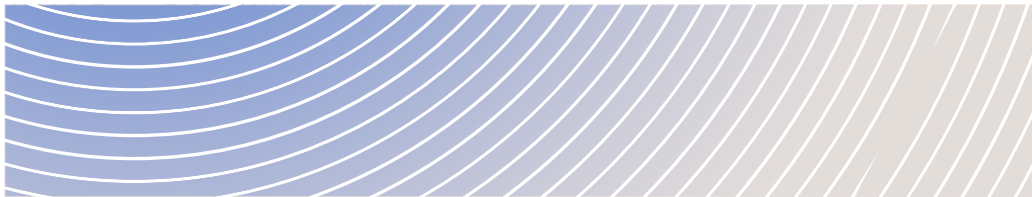


Wasamac Gold Mine Project



COOPERATION PLAN WITH THE MINISTÈRE DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA LUTTE CONTRE LES
CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES FOR THE WASAMAC GOLD MINE
PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

March 2021



Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On November 26, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) determined that an impact assessment was required for the Wasamac Gold Mine Project, pursuant to subsection 16(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

The Project is also subject to an environmental impact assessment and review process in Quebec under the *Environment Quality Act* (EQA). To this end, on November 27, 2019, the Minister of Quebec's Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques sent the initiator a directive that specifies the nature, scope and extent of the environmental impact assessment which the initiator must prepare.

For any project subject to a federal impact assessment, the IAA requires the Agency to develop an impact assessment cooperation plan that sets out how it will work with other jurisdictions.

This Cooperation Plan sets out how the Agency will cooperate with the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC) for the Wasamac Gold Mine Project.

2. Project Description

Yamana Gold is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground gold mine, located approximately 15 kilometres from downtown Rouyn-Noranda in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region of Quebec. As proposed, the Wasamac Gold Mine project would have a mine life of 11 years and an ore production capacity of 6,053 tonnes per day. The Project would include the operation of an underground mine, the implementation of an ore processing plant and related infrastructure, and the development of underground infrastructure for ore and waste rock transportation as well as waste rock, tailings and overburden accumulation areas.

3. Approach to Cooperation

The impact assessment process and the environmental impact assessment and review process will be conducted in compliance with IAA and EQA requirements.

The Agency will cooperate with MELCC on information sharing. Wherever possible, information will be shared to optimize exchanges with the proponent and to promote public engagement in the assessment processes.



4. Timeline and Time Management

The Agency and MELCC will carry out their respective evaluation processes without altering the timelines and processes of each party, while promoting information sharing.

5. Information Sharing

In order to increase the efficiency of information gathering from the proponent and other stakeholders, while taking advantage of the best available scientific expertise, the Agency will work with MELCC to ensure smooth and timely information sharing.

The Agency will respect confidentiality and privacy requirements, including the protection of Indigenous knowledge, when sharing or publishing information.

The Agency will inform MELCC of its meetings with the proponent and will attempt, where possible and efficient to do so, to conduct these meetings jointly.

6. Public Engagement

Whenever possible, the Agency will harmonize its public engagement activities with those of Quebec, where timelines coincide.

7. Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

Crown consultations will be conducted by the Agency and MELCC separately and according to their respective responsibilities.

For more information on the Agency's Indigenous consultation and engagement activities, please refer to the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.



8. Decision Statement

At the end of the environmental and impact assessment processes, the decisions made under the IAA by the Government of Canada and under the EQA by the Government of Quebec will be separate.

The Agency will keep MELCC informed of the decision schedule. Where appropriate, the Agency will share information with MELCC on potential conditions that could be imposed on the proponent with respect to the Project in order to promote consistency and efficiency in the implementation of regulatory obligations.

9. Interpretation

This Cooperation Plan is not a legal document and does not alter the statutory or regulatory jurisdiction, nor the rights, powers, privileges, prerogatives or immunities of any Indigenous, federal or provincial jurisdiction. It does not create any new legal powers, duties or obligations having the force of law.

10. Contact Information

Agency office responsible for administering the Project's impact assessment process:

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
901-1550 d'Estimauville Avenue
Quebec City, Quebec G1J 0C1
418-254-2435

Quebec office responsible for administering the Project's environmental impact assessment and review process:

Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
Marie-Guyart Building
675 René-Lévesque Boulevard W, 29th floor
Quebec City, Quebec G1R 5V7
https://www.ree.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/projet.asp?no_dossier=3211-16-021
418-521-3933