



July 29, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Craig Hudson
Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia Inc.
409 Billybell Way, Mooseland
Middle Musquodoboit, NS B0N 1X0
Craig.Hudson@atlanticgold.ca

Dear Mr. Hudson,

On July 23, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request to designate the proposed Touquoy Mine Expansion Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), citing the potential for adverse effects in areas of federal jurisdiction, including fish and fish habitat, species at risk, migratory birds, and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

Under subsection 9(1) of IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by October 21, 2021.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review information about the Project; any concerns expressed from the public and Indigenous groups; and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether to designate the Project. If designated, to proceed with the Project Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia Inc. would be required to submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency, thereby commencing the planning phase of IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

In accordance with subsection 9(3) of IAA, and to inform its advice to the Minister, the Agency is requesting that you provide any available information that is in addition to your provincial environmental assessment registration document, regarding potential adverse effects to:

- fish and fish habitat, migratory birds and species at risk;
- adverse changes to the environment that would occur on federal lands and lands outside Nova Scotia or Canada; and
- adverse impacts, resulting from any change to the environment, on Indigenous peoples (e.g., changes to the environment impacting physical and cultural heritage, current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, and structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance) or changes to their health, social or economic conditions.

Please also include any additional information available regarding adverse effects (changes to the environment or to health, social or economic conditions) that are directly linked or necessarily incidental to a federal authority's exercise of a power, performance of a duty or function, or provision of financial assistance, that would enable the carrying out of the Project, in whole or in part.

The Agency is also interested in your views on whether the Project should be designated under IAA.

Please provide any additional information by **August 18, 2021**.

In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project (Reference 82837) will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. Please use the following email address touquoymine-minetouquoy@iaac-aeic.gc, which will also be posted on the Project's Registry page, to provide the Agency with information regarding this file.

Important Note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – will be considered public and may be released. Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency before submitting the information. Information marked as confidential will not be accepted without prior contact made with the Agency.

Further questions regarding this request can be directed to Kathryn MacCarthy at 902-399-8834 or touquoymine-minetouquoy@iaac-aeic.gc.

Sincerely,

Lachlan MacLean
Project Manager, Atlantic Region