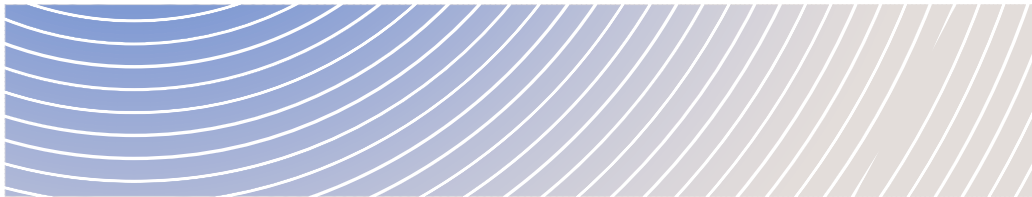


Cooperation Plan



UPPER BEAVER GOLD PROJECT

January 31, 2022

DRAFT VERSION



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



1. Introduction

On December 16, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) decided that an impact assessment is required for the Upper Beaver Gold Project (the Project), pursuant to subsection 16(1) of Canada's *Impact Assessment Act*. A Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects and a Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities have been proposed for this Project. The provincial ministries participating in the impact assessment are included in the Appendix.

The draft Cooperation Plan (the Plan) was developed by the Agency, with input from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry to set out intentions and plans for a cooperative assessment process for the Project.

2. Description of the proposed Project

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (the proponent) is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground and open-pit gold and copper mine located 20 kilometres northeast of Kirkland Lake, in Ontario. As proposed, the Upper Beaver Gold Project includes an on-site metal mill and structures for diverting water. The maximum ore production capacity of the mine is 15,000 tonnes per day, and the maximum ore input capacity of the processing plant is approximately 10,000 tonnes per day, with a mine life of about 16 years. The Project would require the diversion of over 90 million cubic metres of water per year from Beaverhouse Lake downstream to the Misema River.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Upper Beaver Gold Project or to view the information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Public Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960>.

3. Approach to cooperation

Through cooperation, the Agency and participating ministries will strive to increase efficiency and certainty for the proponent, as well as for the public and Indigenous communities, and ensure that the best available expertise is shared and applied. This Plan is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Agency or Ontario ministries from making changes to the cooperative approach described in this Plan in order to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment process.



4. Gathering and review of proponent information

The following table identifies the factors to be considered by both the Agency and participating Ontario ministries where there exist opportunities for cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information and expert advice and reduce duplication. For these areas, the Agency and the Ontario ministries will work to provide consistent advice to the proponent, where appropriate, and to share information and expertise during the review of the proponent’s information. This includes jointly participating in meetings with the proponent, Indigenous communities and the public, as required. Preliminary areas of commonalities are shown in Table 1, and are expected to evolve through the assessment process as the scope of each assessment is confirmed.

Table 1 – Preliminary list of common factors reviewed by the Agency and Participating Ontario Ministries

Common Factors related to the Assessment	Common Areas of Federal-Provincial Review
Changes to the natural and physical environment	Atmospheric, acoustic and visual environment Riparian, wetland and terrestrial environments Groundwater and surface water Fish and fish habitat Terrestrial wildlife and their habitat Species at risk
Changes to health conditions Changes to social conditions Changes to economic conditions	Land and resource use and recreation Use of land and water bodies for commercial operations
Impacts on Indigenous peoples, communities and groups	Physical and cultural heritage Current use of lands and resources Structures/sites/things of significance Aboriginal and treaty rights
Other Effects	Effects of the environment on the Project, including climate change resiliency

5. Timelines and time management

Timelines are dictated by the federal impact assessment process. When possible, the Agency will provide the participating ministries listed in Table A1 with advanced notices of opportunities for cooperation. The Agency will also work with the participating ministries to ensure that timely and effective communication occurs throughout the impact assessment process.



6. Sharing of information

The Agency and participating ministries will share, as appropriate, the following information obtained during the assessment of the project:

- Expert advice on matters identified in Table 1;
- Existing studies and information;
- Information received from the proponent on matters identified in Table 1 (e.g., responses to deficiency reports); and
- Provincial regulatory, policy or other instruments and measures that could manage potential adverse effects of the Project (i.e. complementary measures).

The Agency and participating ministries will respect requirements related to privacy and protection, including protection of Indigenous knowledge, when sharing or publicly posting information.

7. Public participation and Participant Funding

The Agency will provide opportunities for public participation through the impact assessment process.

Funding to support public participation is available from the Agency's Funding Programs. For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding please see the Funding Programs guidelines and application on the following page

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>.

For further information on public participation and engagement activities, please see the Project's Public Participation Plan.

8. Indigenous consultation and engagement

The Agency will lead Crown Consultation on behalf of the Government of Canada for this assessment.

For further information on these Indigenous Consultation and Engagement activities, please see the Project's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.



9. Decision Statement

The Agency will consult with participating ministries regarding proposed conditions related to decisions and any relevant complementary measures, to facilitate consistency and improve regulatory efficiencies.

10. Interpretation

The Plan is not a legal document and does not change any existing federal, provincial, or Indigenous legislative or regulatory jurisdiction, right, power, privilege, prerogative or immunity by virtue, nor does it create any new legal powers, duties or legally binding obligations.

11. Contact Information

The Agency office designated for administering the impact assessment of the Project is:

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Ontario Regional Office
Email: UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca



Appendix

Table A1. Ontario Ministries Participating in the Federal Impact Assessment

Provincial Ministry	Areas of Expertise	Contact Information
<p>Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry</p>	<p>Outdoor recreation and resource use, public use of waterways, impacts on fishing, outdoor recreation and tourism, hunting, trapping and guiding, forestry, wildlife, provincially significant wetlands, ground water, surface water, acid rock drainage/metal leaching, geomorphology and topography, mine waste management.</p>	<p>P.O. Box 910 145 Government Road West 2nd Floor, Room 201 Kirkland Lake ON P2N 2E8</p> <p>Tel.: 705-668-0408 Email: rick.gordon@ontario.ca</p> <p>AND</p> <p>5220 Highway 101 East E Wing, South Porcupine, ON P0N1H0</p> <p>Tel: (705) 465-4008</p>
<p>Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries</p>	<p>Cultural heritage resources which includes archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes. Tourism, including resource-based tourism.</p>	<p>400 University Avenue 5th Floor Toronto ON M7A 2R9</p> <p>Tel.: 416-660-1027 Email: heritage@ontario.ca</p> <p>AND</p> <p>447 McKeown Avenue Suite 203 North Bay, ON P1B 9S9</p> <p>Tel: (705) 493-0880 Email: james.antler@ontario.ca</p>
<p>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks</p>	<p>Air quality, noise impacts, groundwater and surface water, drinking water sources, species at risk, environmental spills (land and surface water), alternatives assessment, acid rock drainage/metal leaching, mine waste management, Aboriginal and treaty rights.</p>	<p>135 St Clair Ave W Toronto ON M4V 1P5</p> <p>Tel.: (705)507-5136 Email: EABDirector@ontario.ca; Shelley.wainio2@ontario.ca</p>