

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A FOCUS REPORT

**Regarding the Goldboro Gold Project
Proposed by Anaconda Mining Inc.**

**NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENT
October 14, 2018**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Goldboro Gold Project (the Project or undertaking) proposed by Anaconda Mining Inc. (the Proponent) was registered for environmental assessment (EA) as a Class 1 undertaking pursuant to Part IV of the *Environment Act* on August 1, 2018. Under the Environmental Assessment Regulations, a facility that extracts or processes metallic or non-metallic minerals is a Class I undertaking.

On September 19, 2018, the Minister of Environment released a decision concerning this review. The Minister has determined that the registration information is insufficient to make a decision on the Project, and a Focus Report is required in accordance with clause 13(1)c of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, pursuant to Part IV of the *Environment Act*.

The Proponent is required to submit the Focus Report within one year of receipt of the Terms of Reference. Upon submission of the Focus Report by the Proponent, Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) has 14 days to publish a notice advising the public where the Focus Report can be accessed for review and comment.

A 30-day public consultation period of the Focus Report follows. At the conclusion of the 30-day public consultation period, NSE has 25 days to review comments, and provide a recommendation to the Minister.

The Minister of Environment will have the following decision options, following the review of the Focus Report:

- a. the undertaking is approved subject to specified terms and conditions and any other approvals required by statute or regulation;
- b. an environmental-assessment report is required; or
- c. the undertaking is rejected.

The Focus Report is expected to provide a comprehensive and complete assessment of the potential effects of the Project, presented in a clear format that can easily be reviewed by the Minister, government reviewers, the public and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The following requirements are presented to the Proponent for response in the form of a Focus Report. The Proponent is expected to prepare a Focus Report that fulfills the intent of the Terms of Reference and considers the effects that are likely to arise from the Project, including those not explicitly identified in the Terms of Reference. It is recommended that the proponent also employ NSE's *Guide to Preparing an EA Registration Document for Mining Developments in Nova Scotia* in preparation of the Focus Report.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Provide a description of an accepted and proven environmental assessment methodology and employ this methodology in the preparation of the Focus Report. The Focus Report should include, but not be limited to:

- description of existing environmental conditions, including the methodologies and results of site specific studies/surveys
- methods for, and identification of, valued environmental components (VECs)
- establishment of temporal and spatial boundaries for the assessment

- criteria for determining the significance of adverse effects for each VEC
- description of all predicted effects on each VEC for each phase of the Project
- description of all measures proposed for each VEC to mitigate potential effects
- analysis and prediction of significant effects
- follow-up and monitoring proposed for each VEC to verify the predicted effects and effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

The proponent is encouraged to consult with federal and provincial government departments when determining the need for, extent and timing of site specific studies/surveys. Provide the name and credentials of the person(s) conducting baseline studies/surveys and where technical reports are included or referenced, they must be finalized and signed by the qualified individual(s). Where such reports or information is presented in an appendix, ensure appendices are clearly labeled, numbered and referenced throughout the Focus Report, as appropriate. Mapping clearly indicating the extent of studies/surveys, sampling points, and illustrating key findings should also be included and presented logically within the Focus Report in a location that allows for ease of review. Wherever possible, mapping should be presented at common scales and datum to allow for comparison and overlap of mapped features.

Scoping establishes the boundaries of the environmental assessment and focusses the assessment on relevant issues and concerns. The scope of the assessment must be determined in consideration of the project description, expectations of stakeholders, potential adverse environmental effects that are still likely to be present after mitigation measures have been employed, and the mitigation measures among other factors. Mapping clearly showing assessment boundaries by VEC in relation to Project components/infrastructure should be provided, as appropriate to illustrate the scope of the assessment.

The Focus Report shall identify and predict the magnitude and importance of Project impacts on the study area. An ecosystem approach and commitment to avoiding and minimizing effects should be demonstrated. A qualified person should determine the predicted environmental effects and the methodology that is used to predict and support these predictions should be provided. If there are no predicted effects to a specific VEC, provide reasons to support that claim. A complete discussion and analysis of predicted effects (direct and indirect effects) should be provided that is qualitative and quantitative, evidence-based and supported by credible sources of information. Provide a list of literature and sources used in the preparation of the Focus Report.

For each VEC, suitable avoidance, mitigation and/or monitoring measures (where necessary) to confirm impact predictions, and to prevent and minimize potential Project impacts must be provided. Describe all measures that have or will be taken to avoid or mitigate adverse effects. Mitigation includes the elimination, reduction or control of adverse effects and may include restitution for any damage through replacement, restoration, compensation or any other means.

Where monitoring is proposed, details on the design of these plans and methodologies proposed should be included (e.g., monitoring locations, frequency, duration, parameters, comparison guidelines or standards, etc.), as well as a description of how baseline data collection and future monitoring are related. Mapping clearly illustrating baseline and proposed monitoring locations should also be included.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide an updated description of the Project, as it is planned to proceed through the construction, operation, decommissioning and reclamation stages of the mining development.

3.1 Physical Components

Provide a detailed description of the major physical components of the undertaking, the site, and adjacent areas including, but not limited to, the mine (surface and underground), the mill, bulk loadout facilities, stockpiles, waste rock piles, the tailings storage facility, sedimentation ponds, ditching, the effluent treatment facility, effluent discharge points, fuel storage, dangerous goods storage, pipelines, transmission lines, sewage treatment, and roadways.

Provide a scaled site map of the final Project layout, a description of the extent of each component in space (e.g., the depth and area of the proposed mine) and detailed design drawings and cross sections, as appropriate. Where final decisions have not been made, or several options exist, the assessment of effects should be conducted at the same level of detail for all available options.

Mapping should be provided indicating proximity to protected and conservation areas within provincial, federal, and municipal jurisdictions (e.g., provincial wilderness areas and provincial parks, federal migratory bird sanctuaries, wildlife management areas, etc.), and to affected human receptor locations (e.g., communities, permanent residences, seasonal cabins, recreational land use areas, traditional land use areas) within intervals of 500 m, 1 km, 1.5 km and 2 km. If applicable, the proponent should also identify any designated areas (e.g., Important Bird Areas) as well as lands set aside for conservation by environmental non-governmental organizations (e.g., Ducks Unlimited sites, Nature Conservancy of Canada lands).

3.2 Site Preparation and Construction

Provide a detailed description of the proposed construction activities, location, techniques and schedules that will be used. Also, identify the size of the area affected by each respective activity and proximity distances to existing features (e.g., public roads or highways, watercourses, property boundaries). The Focus Report should address, but not be limited to, description of the following construction activities:

- cut and fill
- stripping of vegetation
- clearing and grubbing
- site access and access roads (including gradient)
- topsoil and overburden storage areas (location and dimensions)
- borrow areas
- structures (e.g., mill, laboratories, offices, warehouses, explosives magazines)
- dangerous goods storage areas
- scales, wash pads and lay-down areas
- drilling and blasting
- open pit and underground mine developments
- stockpile areas (including height, width, slopes)
- sedimentation ponds and drainage ditches (including capacity)
- tailings storage facilities (e.g., impoundments, spillways, dams)

- pumping stations
- effluent treatment facilities
- waste rock storage areas (including height, width, slopes)
- waste management systems
- sewage treatment systems
- noise and light management
- pipelines and utilities
- erosion and sedimentation control
- crossings, diversions, infilling, dewatering of any water resource or wetlands
- risk management (e.g., plans for contaminated sites management, contingency plans, emergency response plans)
- visual impact management (e.g., landscaping, screening mounds and plantings, use of existing features, photographic records).

3.3 Operation and Maintenance

Provide a detailed description of the proposed activities, locations, mining methods, and schedules during the operational phase of the undertaking. Also, calculate amounts of material expected to be handled in the proposed activity where appropriate. The Focus Report should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- mining (e.g., drilling, blasting, open pit development, underground mine development, dewatering, ore handling, waste rock management, crushing)
- milling and processing activities (e.g., grinding, concentration, reagent use, effluent management, tailings management, thiosalt management [as applicable])
- reagent, chemical and hazardous materials use and management
- water use and management (e.g., dewatering, drainage, acid drainage, surface water, groundwater, stormwater, erosion and sediment control, maintenance of a water cover over disposed tailings and waste rock [as applicable], water recycling opportunities, withdrawal, ability of the water source to meet requirements taking into consideration those of other users in the vicinity)
- wastewater treatment and effluents (e.g., location of discharge, volume, quality, monitoring and requirements to be met)
- contaminated sites management (e.g., historic tailings)
- hazardous waste management (e.g., fuels, lubricants, hydraulic oil, cement, wet cement, concrete additives and agents, asphalt, paints, solvents, de-icing agents, preservatives [as applicable])
- waste management (e.g., waste rock storage, tailings management [e.g., disposal underwater, backfilling underground, open pit disposal], management of acid generating rock, sludge management, management of ammonia from blasting activities, offsite disposal requirements)
- noise and light management (e.g., sound berms, shielding lights)
- dust control (e.g., road wetting [including water source], calcium chloride)
- viewscape protection (e.g., tree screens, buffer zones)
- transportation (e.g., modes, routes, load size and frequency, maintenance, refuelling, load coverings, speed restrictions, temporary closures, tire cleaning)
- utilities

- risk management (e.g., contingency plans, emergency response plans).

3.4 Decommissioning and Reclamation

Provide a decommissioning and reclamation plan which details the immediate plans for mine reclamation as operations advance (progressive reclamation), plans for decommissioning the operation (removal of equipment and structures), and the long-term objective for future use of the property following decommissioning. Short-term reclamation options should include, but not be limited to sloping, seeding, planting of native species, and fertilizing. Long-term options can include, but not be limited to managing the area for agricultural purposes, timber production, artificial surface water body or wetland development, wildlife habitat, recreational use, etc. Post-reclamation surface water features and their design requirements should be assessed with respect to their long-term water quantity and quality impacts, including incorporation of climate change scenarios. There should be a commitment to develop a future detailed reclamation plan for the entire site, including which organization and individual would be involved. Provide details on plans for monitoring and maintaining reclamation efforts to ensure success.

3.5 Consideration of Alternatives

Describe other methods of carrying out the proposed undertaking in each phase of the Project and provide environmentally based reasons for the selection of the proposed method(s), in addition to economics-based rationale. Examples of Project activities to describe alternatives for include, but are not limited to sites (e.g., locations), extraction methods, wastewater treatment technologies, transportation modes and routes, and reclamation and decommissioning options.

4.0 SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

Conduct a hydrological assessment that includes an analysis of flows and discharges under current, post-development (i.e., operational) and reclamation conditions with considerations for seasonal variation and an assessment of impacts on water resources and wetlands within the study area. This assessment should include, but not be limited to, the following: delineation of watersheds for current, post-development, and reclamation drainage areas; modelling of flows and discharges for current, post-development, and reclamation conditions under sufficient scenarios to understand the upstream and downstream impacts of the proposed works, with considerations for calibration of model results and validation through comparison to observed monitoring data; consideration for groundwater/surface water interactions and impacts to receiving waters resulting from dewatering activities. In addition to using the hydrological assessment to assess impacts on water resources and wetlands within the study area, an assessment of the long-term viability of the reclamation plan shall be provided, including an assessment of the viability of the proposed open pit as a surface water feature. Provide a plan to progressively monitor and update the results of the hydrological assessment and a plan for monitoring effects on Gold Brook Lake, Gold Brook and other applicable surface water features.

Conduct appropriate baseline studies as necessary to determine background conditions of relevant environmental media (e.g., soil, surface water, sediment, groundwater, etc.) and delineate the extent of existing contamination within the study area. Provide a detailed plan for contaminated sites management in accordance with the Nova Scotia Contaminated Sites Regulations, including management of historic tailings which could potentially be impacted by the Project, either directly or indirectly. In the assessment of potential effects, include the potential for changes in surface water drainage and of effluent discharge

to expose or remobilize existing contaminated material and historic tailings, as well as the potential for storage of project tailings to increase the mobility of existing contaminants.

Conduct field truthing and field surveys for water supply well locations within 2 km of the study area boundary and complete a pre-development well survey for water quality and quantity. In the assessment of potential effects, include the type, depth, number and location of all wells that may be impacted by the Project. It is recommended Health Canada's *Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Water Quality*, be reviewed and applied in the evaluation where relevant. Provide a plan for ongoing monitoring of groundwater and well water quality and quantity.

Provide a detailed description of the water treatment process for the Project. Provide effluent water quality modelling to demonstrate Project compliance with the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations and CCME Freshwater Aquatic Guidelines [where each are applicable]. Include final effluent discharge locations, a plan for ongoing verification monitoring and a plan for ongoing water quality monitoring, including monitoring of downstream environments.

Characterize the acid generating potential and/or metal leaching properties of the tailings and of all stockpiled material to be discharged into the tailings storage facility and/or stored on or off-site. Provide details on the proposed measures to isolate tailings and stockpiles from surface water and groundwater to prevent leaching of contaminants into the environment. Provide details on how stockpiles will be reclaimed if not processed.

Assess the impacts to receiving water quality from the proposed Project activities for all Project phases (e.g., construction, operation, reclamation), including dewatering the proposed open pit and discharges from constructed surface water features during all Project phases, with consideration of any required mitigations.

Identify potential 'hotspots' within the tailings and/or waste material such as locations of disposal of arsenic-rich sludges from the water treatment facility. Describe the expected forms in which arsenic will occur (e.g., ferric arsenate, arsenopyrite, oxides, etc.) during all Project phases and the expected stability of these forms under the geochemical conditions that will prevail following site reclamation. Describe the expected concentrations of arsenic and metals in the tailings and/or waste materials post-closure, relative to soil quality guidelines for expected future land uses use as described in the decommissioning and reclamation plan.

Existing uses, withdrawal capacities, and other users of water resources within the study area shall be identified. Describe project related water withdrawals and any interactions with groundwater/surface water which may impact downstream water users and the downstream environment and discuss effects.

Provide and update suitable avoidance, mitigation and/or monitoring measures (where necessary) to confirm impact predictions, and to prevent and minimize potential Project impacts on water and soil resources.

5.0 WETLANDS

Provide an evaluation of the total amount of wetland habitat loss and/or function loss including both direct and indirect effects of the Project. The evaluation should reference the results of the hydrological assessment, including discussion of changes to surface water drainage patterns and groundwater/surface

water interactions that may result in direct or indirect impacts to wetlands impacted by the Project. The functional assessments previously completed could be used to support the assessment of project impacts and conclusions.

Provide a wetland management plan that includes the extent of wetland compensation required and an ongoing wetland monitoring plan for wetlands that will be partially altered by the Project. It is recommended that the proponent also review NSE's *Nova Scotia Wetland Conservation Policy*. Provide and update suitable avoidance, mitigation and/or monitoring measures (where necessary) to confirm impact predictions, and to prevent and minimize potential Project impacts on wetlands.

6.0 FLORA AND FAUNA

Provide a general characterization of the existing ecosystem in the study area, including a description of typical flora and fauna species and habitat types. The description of forest ecosystems within the Project footprint should be undertaken using the Nova Scotia Forest Classification. Identify flora and fauna species at risk, their federal and potential and COSEWIC listed status, and potential habitat for flora and fauna species-at-risk.

Identify significant wildlife habitat, including areas with high wildlife concentrations and wildlife corridors, that may exist in the study areas. The Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry, Wildlife Division can be contacted for general information. Identify all protected/conservation areas of provincial, federal, and municipal jurisdictions (e.g., provincial wilderness areas, provincial parks, sites of ecological significance, and nature reserves; federal migratory bird sanctuaries and wildlife management areas; and municipal protected water supply areas, etc.) in the vicinity of the undertaking. If applicable, in addition to existing and proposed provincial, federal and municipal protected and conservation areas, the proponent should identify any designated areas (e.g., Important Bird Areas) as well as lands set aside for conservation by environmental non-governmental organizations (e.g., Ducks Unlimited sites, Nature Conservancy of Canada lands).

Provide maps clearly indicating the areas searched for lichens, as well as GPS track locations.

The Proponent should re-examine abandoned mines for bat hibernacula and use by bats outside the winter period as part of an on-going monitoring program during construction and operation of the mine.

Provide the results of bird surveys conducted at the appropriate times of year in portions of the study area not covered by the 2017 bird surveys. Bird surveys should also include additional nocturnal bird surveys, evening surveys for owls and surveys for Common Nighthawks. The survey design, including type and number of calls to be played, timing and extent of surveys should be determined in consultation with the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry, Wildlife Division. Provide maps clearly showing the locations of all bird surveys (including 2017), in relation to different habitat types and Project components/infrastructure. Maps must also clearly indicate the locations where all species at risk and species of conservation concern were detected, including 2017 detections. Tables identifying the species detected at each survey location should be provided. Digital records and shapefiles shall be provided for all wetlands, bird survey and species-at-risk locations.

In the assessment of potential effects, include the short and long-term impacts of the Project on sensitive flora and fauna, habitats and the long-term viability of wild species that occupy or are adjacent to the proposed development. Where the habitat of species at risk is not avoided, clarify why avoidance is not

possible and include a discussion of conservation allowances. In the assessment of potential effects, include site restoration impacts on the types of habitat available and wildlife that will be supported.

Provide a description of the recreational use and hunting of the study area. The Department of Lands and Forestry, Stillwater Office should be contacted as a source of information. In the assessment of potential effects, include Project impacts on recreational use and hunting, including a description of mitigation and management measures to avoid or reduce potential effects.

Provide additional details regarding mitigation, management and/or monitoring measures to confirm impact prediction, and to mitigate potential Project impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including specific measures for species at risk, species of conservation concern and migratory birds. Measures to comply with wildlife legislation (e.g., *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and regulations) should also be provided. Compensation measures for the loss of moose habitat, should also be developed in consultation with the Department of Lands and Forestry, Wildlife Division.

7.0 FISH AND FISH HABITAT

Identify fish (species and abundance) and fish habitat that exists in downstream receiving watercourses (downstream of the tailings storage facility and mine). The description of these species and habitat should identify any species at risk and ecologically sensitive or critical habitat. Discuss how disturbances within fish habitat areas will be minimized and how water withdrawals will prevent fish mortality and ensure maintenance of flows adequate to support fish and fish habitat downstream.

Provide rationale and details to support the proposed alteration to the unnamed beaver pond, accounting for fisheries assessment that indicated this pond was deemed possible fish habitat. Identify other watercourse and water bodies that will potentially be altered within the study area that have identified fish and fish habitat. Discuss potential habitat off-setting activities to address proposed disturbances, activities to minimize disturbances and how new or existing habitats will be enhanced.

Provide baseline data for sediment quality in watercourses within the study area and in downstream receiving watercourses (downstream of the tailings storage facility and mine) that are adequate to be used for comparison purposes for impact monitoring programs. Sediment data should focus on mercury, arsenic, cyanide, lead, copper, and any other metals which are expected to be emitted from the mill into the tailings storage facility.

Provide baseline data for existing mercury concentrations in fish tissue that are adequate to be used for comparison purposes for impact monitoring programs. Provide data on total mercury in whole filets accompanied by fish species and size data.

In the assessment of potential effects, include Project impacts on recreational and sport fishing and a discussion on how access points will be maintained.

Provide additional details regarding mitigation, management and/or monitoring measures to confirm impact prediction, and to mitigate potential Project impacts on fish and fish habitat, including specific measures for species at risk, species of conservation concern. A preliminary offsetting plan for the loss of fish and fish habitat, should also be developed in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

8.0 AIR QUALITY

Provide a review of baseline ambient air quality and meteorological data, including annual and seasonal climatic conditions. Baseline dust analysis including metals speciation should be considered given the presence of other mines in the area, ideally monitored from the maximum point of impingement at the property boundary and at the nearest residence/cabin. Where baseline dust analysis is not conducted, provide sufficient justification to validate why desktop data is suitable. Discuss the influence of local and regional emission sources and the influence of climate and weather conditions.

Conduct an air quality assessment utilizing Health Canada's *Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Air*, with particular emphasis on Section 6, as follows:

- Define spatial and temporal boundaries
- Identify and characterize human receptors
- Identify and describe exposure pathways
- Identify and describe air contaminants of concern
- Assess scenarios and other considerations
- Assess and determine impacts.

Provide an emission summary of all air contaminants that will be released from Project activities. Provide a quantitative analysis of all air contaminants using dispersion modelling.

Provide and update suitable avoidance, mitigation and/or monitoring measures (where necessary) to confirm impact predictions, and to prevent and minimize potential Project impacts on air quality.

9.0 NOISE AND VIBRATION

Describe the existing ambient acoustical environment in the study area. Provide the spatial boundaries of existing noise and vibration levels, as well as locations of monitoring stations and length of record for any acoustic or vibration data presented, ideally monitored at the nearest receptor located down-wind from the proposed mine. Consider the effects of different meteorological conditions on noise propagation. Where baseline noise monitoring is not conducted, provide sufficient justification to validate why desktop data is suitable.

Identify the nearest structures, including residences and seasonal cottages, to the Project area (including noise at the Project site and also on haul roads/transport truck routes) and the distance they are from Project boundaries. Discuss blasting locations and frequencies. Provide a description of the design of pre-blast studies for structures and wells within the study area and a plan to compensate for any damage found to be resulting from the Project.

Conduct a noise assessment utilizing Health Canada's *Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Noise*, with particular emphasis on Section 6, as follows:

- Identify people (receptors) who may be affected by the Project-related noise
- Determine the existing (baseline) noise levels at representative receptors, by measurement or estimation
- Predict Project-related changes in noise levels for each phase of the Project (construction, operation and decommissioning) and describe the sound characteristics

- Compare predicted noise levels to relevant guidelines and/or standards
- Identify and discuss the potential human health impacts associated with predicted changes in noise levels
- Consider mitigation measures, their implementation, and any residual effects, after the measures are implemented
- Consider community consultation and prepare a complaints-resolution plan.

Provide and update suitable avoidance, mitigation and/or monitoring measures (where necessary) to confirm impact predictions, and to prevent and minimize potential Project impacts on acoustic environment.

10.0 HUMAN HEALTH

Focus the human health assessment on effects on health outcomes or risks in consideration of but not limited to potential changes in air quality, vibration and blasting, quality and availability of country foods, water quality and quantity [drinking and recreational], and noise exposures. In the assessment of potential effects on human health, include impacts of reagent, chemical and hazardous materials use and of potential accidents and malfunctions, as well as impacts of exposing or remobilizing existing contaminated material and historic tailings. It is recommended Health Canada's recent guidance documents on Air, Water Quality, Noise and Country Foods as part of the series of *"Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment"* be reviewed and applied where relevant.

Provide and update suitable avoidance, mitigation and/or monitoring measures (where necessary) to confirm impact predictions, and to prevent and minimize potential Project impacts on human health. Where monitoring is proposed, include a plan for reporting/communicating reporting exceedances of relevant guidelines/thresholds.

11.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Provide details regarding the management of hazardous materials and dangerous goods, including a list of all reagents, chemicals and explosives and associated quantity that will be used for the Project. Describe how hazardous materials and dangerous good will be transported, handled and stored.

Within the detailed plan for contaminated sites management in accordance with the Nova Scotia Contaminated Sites Regulations, describe how use of contaminated materials will be avoided in Project-related construction and operational activities (e.g., construction of access road beds, capping of tailings, dust suppression).

Identify potential contaminants in effluent and a detailed description of the water treatment process for the Project. Include final effluent discharge locations and a plan for ongoing verification monitoring.

Identify potential 'hotspots' within the tailings and/or waste material. Describe the expected concentrations of arsenic and metals in the tailings and/or waste materials post-closure, relative to soil quality guidelines for expected future land uses use as described in the decommissioning and reclamation plan.

Provide details for the management of hazardous waste, dangerous goods and contaminated materials, including storage (types and maximum capacities) and transportation of these wastes and materials, as necessary.

Provide contingency plans that reflect a consideration of potential accidents and malfunctions and that take into account site-specific conditions and sensitivities. The Canadian Standards Association publication, *Emergency Preparedness and Response, CAN/CSA-Z731-03*, is a useful reference.

12.0 CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Provide a detailed contingency plan that considers site-specific conditions and sensitivities, the lifespan of different components and includes:

- full hazard identification and qualitative risk assessment associated with Project construction and operation, including those which have or may have an environmental impact (directly or indirectly)
- prevention, mitigation and contingency measures to mitigate potential Project impacts
- discussion of measures to mitigate potential impacts or damages on the environment, properties and human health (e.g., liability insurance, financial security, etc.)
- emergency response procedures.

Describe and quantify releases that could occur under both normal conditions and a ‘worst-case scenario’, including, but not limited to, potential tailings facility failure, tailings spills, mine collapse, loss of water resources (quantity and/or quality), reagent/chemical mishaps, effects of extreme weather events and climate change influence, and other potential accidental releases. Consider accidental releases during handling, transportation and storage of hazardous materials and wastes, including historically contaminated materials and tailings. Describe the types, fate and distribution of contaminants within the study area under normal and worst-case scenarios during construction, operations and post-reclamation.

Discuss potential Project impacts on emergency and health services in communities near the Project area, and associated mitigation and contingency measures in the events of major Project related accidents and malfunctions.

13.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Provide an updated description of public involvement completed for the Project. Provide updates on the Community Liaison Committee and community information sharing. Describe any meetings held with stakeholders and/or special interest groups.

Include all comments brought to the attention of the Proponent, both written and verbal and describe how the comments were addressed, including any commitments made by the Proponent. Anticipated concerns can be addressed as well.

14.0 MI’KMAQ INVOLVEMENT

Provide an update on Mi’kmaq involvement completed for the Project. Describe ongoing Project specific dialogue and information sharing with the Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia. It is recommended that the proponent also review the *Government of Nova Scotia Policy and Guidelines: Consultation with the Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia*.

Include all comments brought to the attention of the Proponent, both written and verbal and describe how the comments were addressed, including any commitments made by the Proponent. Anticipated concerns can be addressed as well.

15.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Provide a section in the Focus Report that summarizes the overall findings and conclusions of the assessment. Presentation of a table summarizing the following key information should be considered:

- potential environmental effects
- proposed mitigation measures to address the effects identified above
- prediction of the significance of adverse effects.