



Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Orca Sand and Gravel Project

Public Consultation on Scoping Document and Availability of Participant Funding

Polaris Minerals Corporation proposes to construct and operate a gravel and sand extraction operation and marine terminal, Orca Sand and Gravel Project, west of Port McNeill on the northeast coast of Vancouver Island.

The project includes the construction of a processing plant that will produce between 15,000 and 22,000 tonnes per day of sand and gravel and a marine terminal designed to handle vessels larger than 25,000 tonnes. The extraction site and marine terminal lie immediately alongside Highway 19, just west of Port McNeill.

The project is subject to a comprehensive study assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Pursuant to subsection 21(1) of the Act, Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as the federal responsible authorities for the project assessment, now invite the public to comment on the proposed project.

Comments must be received no later than October 20, 2004.

**Transport Canada
Environmental Services
620-800 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2J8**

Fax: (604) 666-2961 or E-mail: halk@tc.gc.ca

NOTE: All documents and/or responses received regarding this project are considered public and will become part of the public registry for the project. Please quote the project title and the CEAR# 04-03-5332 on all correspondence.

For further information on the project, contact Transport Canada at the address above or visit www.tc.gc.ca or www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca. More information is also available at the following locations:

Kwakiutl Band Office PO Box 1440, Port Hardy, BC
Namgis First Nation Office P.O. Box 210, Alert Bay, BC
Town of Port McNeill 1775 Grenville Place, PO Box 728, Port McNeill, BC
Fisheries and Oceans Canada Box 10, 8585 Wolloson Road, Port Hardy, BC

Availability of Participant Funding

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency), is providing participant funding up to a value of \$15,000 to assist groups and individuals to take part in the assessment of the environmental effects of the proposed Orca Sand and Gravel Project.

To receive funding, successful applicants must participate in the development of the comprehensive study and in the review of the completed comprehensive study report. They must also sign a contribution agreement with the Agency.

Funding applications must be received at the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency no later than October 20, 2004.

Should the Minister of the Environment determine, at the conclusion of the review of the scoping document and upon the recommendation of the responsible authority, that the proposed project be assessed instead under an independent environmental assessment review panel, the comprehensive study participant funding will be withdrawn. A new fund will be established and the public will be invited to re-apply.

Information on the program, including the Participant Funding Program Guide, the application form and the contribution agreement are available on the Agency's website www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

For additional information on the funding program, please contact:

**Peter Bedrossian
Participant Funding Program - Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3
Tel: (613) 957-0254 e-mail: peter.bedrossian@ceaa-acee.gc.ca**

For more information on this project and others in your area, please consult the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca. Follow the direct link on the home page of the Agency's website.