

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TRACK REPORT

FOR THE

GALORE CREEK COPPER-GOLD-SILVER MINE  
PROJECT

IN

Northwestern British Columbia

**CEA Registry Reference Number: 05-03-8858**

**SUBMITTED TO  
THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 21(2) OF  
THE *CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT*  
BY**

**NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA  
TRANSPORT CANADA  
FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Transport Canada (TC), and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) have determined that the proposed Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver Mine development will likely require specific regulatory authorizations or approvals from each department which trigger the need for an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). More specifically:

- NRCan would need to issue a permit or license for an explosives factory and magazine under paragraph 7(1)(a) of the *Explosives Act*;
- Transport Canada would likely need to issue approval(s) pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* for the construction of bridges or other structures over navigable waterway(s) associated with: the access road from Highway #37 into the Galore Creek Valley, the construction of a bridge across the Porcupine River, containment dams required for the construction of the Tailings Impoundment Area (TIA), and some of the pipeline crossings; and
- DFO would likely need to issue authorizations pursuant to subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat resulting from stream crossings and the infilling of waterbodies associated with: the access road from Highway #37 into the Galore Creek Valley, the ore concentrate pipeline and the diesel fuel pipeline following the road corridor from the plant site in the Galore Creek Valley to Highway #37, the 1525-metre airstrip along the south side of the Porcupine River and the construction of a bridge across the Porcupine River.

Therefore, NRCan, TC and DFO are Responsible Authorities (RAs) due to their decision making responsibilities relative to the above components and must ensure that an environmental assessment pursuant to CEAA is conducted.

Additionally, Environment Canada (EC) and Health Canada (HC) will participate in the environmental assessment as Federal Authorities (FAs). Each will provide specialist knowledge, information and related support of the environmental assessment of the project. Also, in accordance with section 12.4 of CEAA, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) is the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator (FEAC) for the project.

The RAs, in consultation with the FAs and the CEA Agency, subsequently determined that the project as scoped, discussed in section 3.3 of this document, was subject to a Comprehensive Study pursuant to CEAA. This Environmental Assessment Track Report was prepared jointly by NRCan, TC, and DFO to fulfill the requirements of subsection 21(2) of CEAA.

Consistent with paragraph 21(2)(a) of CEAA, this document reports on:

- the scope of the project;
- the factors to be considered, and the scope of those factors;
- the public concerns in relation to the project;
- the potential of the project to cause adverse environmental effects; and
- the ability of the Comprehensive Study to address issues related to the project.

The information contained in this report and the recommendations of the RAs, are intended to assist the Minister of the Environment in making a determination whether to continue the environmental assessment of this project as a Comprehensive Study or to refer it to a mediator or review panel.

## **2.0 Overview of Proposed Development**

NovaGold Canada Inc. (the Proponent) is proposing to construct, operate and decommission a copper-gold-silver mine located in the Galore Creek Valley, which is situated in the mountainous terrain of northwestern British Columbia, approximately 260 km north of Stewart. The proposed open-pit mine would process up to 65,000 tonnes per day of ore and produce approximately 2,000 tonnes per day of bulk concentrate containing copper, gold and silver. The concentrate would be transported via a buried pipeline along a 125 km single lane access road to a facility where it would be dewatered and then trucked via Highway 37 to the port of Stewart for shipment to smelters overseas. A water treatment facility associated with the concentrate dewatering, would treat and discharge approximately 660,000 m<sup>3</sup> of treated water annually into the Iskut River.

The main components of the proposed development include: access road (including bridges and tunnel); open pits and processing plant; slurry concentrate pipeline; diesel fuel pipeline; electrical transmission line; construction and operations camp; waste rock dump; water diversions; tailings dams for the tailing impoundment areas; concentrate processing plant; explosives manufacturing and storage plant; permanent aerodrome; temporary heliport; and supporting facilities and infrastructure.

## **3.0 Environmental Assessment Process**

### **3.1 Pilot Project**

The CEA Agency, NRCan, TC, DFO and EC have agreed to use the Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver Mine as a pilot for an enhanced cooperative federal environmental assessment process. This pilot is being undertaken to test one approach to achieving a high quality environmental assessment in a predictable, certain and timely manner as was emphasized by the “Cabinet Directive on Implementing the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*” (November 23, 2005). As such, the objectives of this pilot are to: produce a more timely,

consistent and effective environmental assessment process; foster more coherent and effective communication with the Proponent, Aboriginal communities and other interested parties; facilitate a harmonized environmental assessment process with the British Columbia government; and test this approach for improving collaboration under existing authorities and those that may be implemented through future legislative change.

In order to facilitate the coordination of the pilot, the CEA Agency, RAs and EC became signatories in December 2005 to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides an overall approach to the environmental assessment process for this proposal. To implement the MOU, the specific roles and responsibilities of the parties are being outlined in a supporting document, as summarized in section 3.2 of this report.

### **3.2 Roles and Responsibilities**

The CEA Agency will act as the project manager for the environmental assessment process. For this pilot, this includes assisting the RAs in developing process documents, facilitating public and Aboriginal consultation, maintaining the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR) and coordinating federal involvement in the cooperative CEAA/BCEAA (*British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act*) environmental assessment process. The CEA Agency will work in cooperation with RAs, EC and other FAs, the province and the proponent to identify and evaluate tools such as Memoranda of Understanding with the province and letters of agreement with the Proponent for ensuring mitigation measures and follow-up programs are implemented.

In addition to complying with the requirements under CEAA, RAs will support the enhanced role of the CEA Agency by providing input pertaining to their regulatory responsibilities, and ensure the implementation of any related mitigation measures and follow-up programs.

EC will support the role of the RAs and the CEA Agency by providing input related to areas within its departmental mandate. EC, together with the CEA Agency, will identify and evaluate any environmental effects, and ensure implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and/or follow-up programs to address those environmental effects resulting from the examination of project components proposed by EC and or the CEA Agency.

On behalf of the RAs, NRCan is submitting this report and the letters of support from the other RAs to the Minister of the Environment in order to obtain a determination on whether to continue the environmental assessment of the project as a Comprehensive Study or to refer it to a mediator or review panel.

### 3.3 Scope

The RAs prepared a document entitled, “Comprehensive Study Scoping Document for the NovaGold Canada Inc. Proposed Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver Mine Project in North-Western British Columbia” (Scoping Document), dated November 30, 2005. The Scoping Document, presented in Appendix 1, includes information on the proposed scope of project, factors to be considered and the scope of those factors. The Scoping Document was made available for review and comment by the public as per subsection 21(1) of CEAA, for the period of December 1, 2005 to January 9, 2006.

In December 2005, a series of meetings were held with the Proponent, during which updated project information was provided. Most relevant was the identification of a new component of the project, a diesel fuel pipeline and further details regarding proposed dewatering/water diversion works in the mine pit area. The diesel pipeline is proposed to follow the access road route and to be buried in the same trench as the slurry concentrate pipeline. The dewatering wells and water diversion works would be used to dewater pit slopes as the mine develops in order to avoid water entering the pit or destabilizing pit walls.

To test this approach towards achieving a high quality environmental assessment in a predictable, certain and timely manner under the auspices of the pilot project, the RAs agreed to include components of the proposal that were identified for inclusion in the proposed scope of project by the FAs and the Agency, that were not directly related to the RA’s CEAA paragraph 5(1)(d) triggers but that have the potential to cause adverse environmental effects on areas of federal jurisdiction . The RAs acknowledge that they are accepting responsibilities under CEAA that are broader than if each conducted its own environmental assessment relative to its section 5 CEAA triggers.

Based upon information provided to date by the Proponent and taking into consideration comments from the public and First Nations on the scoping document and the accepted roles and responsibilities of the various parties as summarized in section 3.2 of this document, the RAs have agreed that the scope of the project for the purposes of an environmental assessment under CEAA, will consist of the physical works and activities associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning (including closure and reclamation) of:

- Open pit mine and mineral process plant located in the Galore Creek Valley;
- Mill tailings and waste rock storage facility(ies) including containment dams;
- Dewatering and water diversion works;
- Ore and marginal ore storage;
- Borrow pits and overburden and topsoil storage;
- Construction and operations camps, including ancillary facilities;
- Explosives manufacturing and storage plant;

- Access road from Highway #37, along More and Sphaler Creeks to the Porcupine River, and along Scottsimpson Creek to a tunnel into the Galore Creek Valley;
- Power transmission line from Highway #37 predominantly following the access road corridor to the Galore Creek Valley;
- Ore concentrate slurry pipeline following the access road corridor from the plant site in the Galore Creek Valley to Highway #37;
- Diesel fuel pipeline following access route corridor and located adjacent to the concentrate slurry pipeline;
- Concentrate filter plant, ore concentrate stockpile, truck loadout and water treatment facility at the pipeline terminus;
- Aerodrome along the south side of the Porcupine River;
- Connector road between access road to the aerodrome; and
- Temporary heliport (for construction purposes) in the More Valley near Round Lake.

The “Project” hereafter refers to all the physical works and activities associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning (including closure and reclamation) of the proposed development as identified above.

The scope of assessment defines the factors that must be considered in the environmental assessment and the scope of those factors. The RAs are required to consider the factors specified in section 16 of CEAA, taking into consideration the definitions of the environment, environmental effect and project. The scope of those factors pursuant to section 16 is determined by the RAs. The Scoping Document, attached as Appendix 1, outlines the scope of assessment proposed by the RAs for the Project (refer to section 3.2).

### **3.4 Requirement for a Comprehensive Study**

The Project is subject to the following provisions of the Comprehensive Study List Regulations of CEAA:

16. *The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of:*
  - (a) *a metal mine, other than a gold mine, with an ore production capacity of 3,000 t/d or more;*
  - (b) *a metal mill with an ore input capacity of 4,000 t/d or more;*
  - (c) *a gold mine, other than a placer mine, with an ore production capacity of 600 t/d or more.*
  
30. *The proposed construction or decommissioning of:*
  - (c) *an all-season runway with a length of 1500 m or more.*

Accordingly, a comprehensive study process was initiated.

### **3.5 Provincial Environmental Assessment**

The project is also subject to review under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* (BCEAA), pursuant to Part 3 of the Reviewable Project Regulations (B.C. Reg. 370/02) as the project involves:

- a new mine facility that, during operations, will have a production capacity of  $\geq 75\ 000$  tonnes/year of mineral ore.

The CEA Agency and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) are coordinating the federal-provincial review process in accordance with the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (March 2004).

A cooperative environmental assessment process is being undertaken with British Columbia. All federal departments recognize and fully support a cooperative approach with the provincial environmental assessment process. The Application Terms of Reference to be issued by the EAO to the Proponent identify the information that is required to address both federal and provincial environmental assessment requirements.

A Project Work Plan has been developed between the EAO, the CEA Agency and the RAs and FAs to help guide the environmental assessment. Each level of government will share and use the information generated through the cooperative environmental assessment and each will make project-related decisions on matters within their respective legislative authorities.

### **3.6 Public Participation During the Comprehensive Study Process**

The Comprehensive Study process requires that the public be given an opportunity to participate in the review of the environmental assessment as follows:

- during the preparation of the scope of the environmental assessment;
- during the comprehensive study; and
- during the review of the Comprehensive Study Report.

The public comments received on the Scoping Document are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

The RAs will ensure that the public is provided with the opportunity to participate in the Comprehensive Study.



As a cooperative federal-provincial environmental assessment, the Terms of Reference for the Project Application include both federal and provincial requirements. The public were provided an opportunity to comment on the draft Terms of Reference during a specified public comment period - from December 1, 2005 to January 9, 2006. All public comments were considered in finalizing the Terms of Reference.

Upon acceptance of the Application, a public comment period will be established and it will be made available for public review.

A report will be developed jointly between the federal and provincial agencies which will serve as the federal Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) and the provincial Assessment Report. It will summarize the results of the environmental assessment and demonstrate how public comments received during the EA were considered. The RAs will submit the CSR to the Minister of the Environment and it will then be released to the public for review and comment prior to the Minister of the Environment making a decision on the environmental assessment.

## **4.0 Public Comments in Relation to the Project**

As part of the requirements under Section 21 of CEAA, the public was consulted regarding the scope of the project, the factors to be considered and the scope of those factors, and the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues related to the project. The public comment period took place from December 1, 2005 to January 9, 2006.

In relation to the Scoping Document, public consultation and communications were undertaken as per the following:

- Information on the project and the environmental assessment is publicly available on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR). The CEAR reference number for this project is 05-03-8858. The CEAR includes the Notice of Commencement of the project's environmental assessment, the notice regarding the opportunity for public comment on the Scoping Document, and the notice advising on the availability of participant funding.
- Notices advising of the public comment period on the Scoping Document were placed in the following newspapers: Vancouver Sun, The Province, Wrangell Sentinel, Smithers-Interior News, Petersburg Pilot, Terrace Standard, L'Express du Pacifique and on local radio – CJFW (Terrace) and CBC. The notices provided details concerning the length of the public comment period, how to access the Scoping Document, the availability of participant funding, and how to provide feedback.
- Copies of the Scoping Document were made available at the Vancouver Office of the CEA Agency as well as five viewing locations in the project area,

including: Northern Lights College (Dease Lake), Smithers Public Library, Stewart Public Library, Iskut Band Office (Iskut), and the Tahltan Band Office (Dease Lake).

A total of two written comments on the Scoping Document were submitted: one comment was submitted by a private citizen and the other by the Tahltan Central Council. Full consideration was given to both of the comments received. A detailed outline of the comments and the responses provided by the RAs are included in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1: Summary of Tahltan Central Council Comments**

<b>Summary of Written Comments</b>	<b>Response from the Responsible Authorities</b>
<b>Scope of Project</b>	
<p>The scope of project should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any water diversion or other water management structures</li> <li>• Transportation of ore concentrate to Stewart, and processing reagents/chemicals into the mine site</li> <li>• The fuel pipeline that is proposed to follow the access road and any associated facilities</li> <li>• Helicopter landing/take-off facility in the More Valley, near Round Lake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water diversion and water management structures have been included in the federal scope of project.</li> <li>• Although RAs have determined that the transportation of ore concentrate by truck to the Port of Stewart is not part of the federal scope of project, this component is included in the provincial scope of project.</li> <li>• The diesel fuel pipeline has been included in the federal scope of project.</li> <li>• The temporary helicopter landing/take-off facility has been included in the federal scope of project.</li> </ul>
<b>Scope of Assessment - Factors to be Considered &amp; Scope of Factors</b>	
<p>Factors to be considered should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significance of any residual impacts (i.e. after mitigation is applied)</li> <li>• Malfunctions or accidents must include evaluations of catastrophic failures of major structures, such as the dam at the end of the waste rock and tailings impoundment</li> <li>• Mitigation should include identification, description and environmental assessment of any compensation plans (e.g. fish habitat compensation plans)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significance of any residual impacts will be addressed as per the requirements of CEAA.</li> <li>• An assessment of the environmental effects of potential accidents or malfunctions is a requirement of CEAA and will include the potential catastrophic failure of major project components.</li> <li>• Where potential negative effects cannot be mitigated on-site, the Proponent will be expected to propose compensation measures to the satisfaction of reviewing government agencies.</li> </ul>
<p>Scope of the factors should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• geological processes and hazards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Geological processes and hazards” are covered by the proposed federal scope of factors under “terrain, soils and geology” –</li> </ul>

Summary of Written Comments	Response from the Responsible Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acid rock drainage and metal leaching (ARD/ML)</li> <li>• plant, fish, and wildlife species of Tahltan cultural importance</li> <li>• wetlands</li> <li>• social and economic conditions of First Nation and other communities.</li> <li>• future Tahltan land use, including expanded traditional use (scaled to population growth), land protection, or future land use for economic development purposes</li> </ul>	<p>refer to s.3.2.2 of the Scope Document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “ARD/ML” are covered by proposed federal scope of factors under “terrain, soils, and geology” and “surface water and groundwater quality and quantity” – refer to s.3.2.2 of the Scope Document.</li> <li>• “Plant, fish and wildlife species of Tahltan cultural importance” are covered by the proposed federal scope of factors under “vegetation and plant communities”, “wildlife and wildlife habitat”, and “aquatic environment”. The use of these resources is also covered under “First Nations traditional use” – refer to s.3.2.2 of Scope Document.</li> <li>• “Wetlands” are covered by the proposed federal scope of factors under “vegetation and plant communities” and “wildlife habitat” – refer to s.3.2.2 of the Scope Document.</li> <li>• The federal assessment will consider social and economic effects that are a result of a change or effect to the environment as defined within CEAA. Socioeconomic effects of the project on First Nations and other communities will also be considered in the provincial environmental assessment.</li> <li>• With respect to future Tahltan land use, specific related projects may be included in the cumulative effects assessment if they can be considered to be certain or reasonably foreseeable.</li> </ul>
<p>Spatial boundaries must be selected to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on the highly valued Stikine River fisheries; and</li> <li>• The full geographic range of wildlife use for potentially affected wildlife species</li> </ul> <p>Temporal boundaries must recognize the permanence of new landscape features such as the tailings and waste rock storage facility, the potential risk of failure of these features long into the future, and the potential need for long-term monitoring of</p>	<p>Spatial boundaries will be determined specifically for each Valued Ecosystem Component so as to effectively assess the potential effects of the project.</p> <p>Temporal boundaries will encompass the entire lifespan of the project. The environmental assessment will discuss the effects of the project from construction through operations to completion of decommissioning, closure and reclamation. The cumulative effects assessment</p>

Summary of Written Comments	Response from the Responsible Authorities
these features.	will also incorporate impacts from past and likely future projects in the area.
A working group (Proponent; federal and provincial governments; First Nations) should be formed to develop the future land and resource use scenarios that will be used in the cumulative effects assessment.	RAs will consider forming sub-working groups within the harmonized CEAA/BCEAA process to review and analyse the cumulative effects assessment undertaken by the Proponent and included in the Application.
This should include explicit consideration of the needs of the Tahltan, at present and in the future.	As a requirement of CEAA, the comprehensive study must include an analysis of the capacity of renewable resources likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future. This would include the needs of First Nations.
<p>The environmental assessment needs to include evaluations of catastrophic failures of structures such as the dam of the tailings/waste rock storage facility, including an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the likelihood of such an occurrence;</li> <li>• a description of the impacts of a “reasonable” catastrophic failure scenario;</li> <li>• a description of the likely remedial actions, and the time it would take to implement these actions; and</li> <li>• a description of the residual effects, after the remedial actions had been implemented.</li> </ul>	<p>As noted above, the potential environmental effects of accidents or malfunctions need to be addressed as a requirement of CEAA. This will include an analysis of the potential failure of major mine components such as the tailings/waste rock storage facility dam. Contingency plans and response options will be included in this analysis.</p>

**Table 2: Summary of Public Comments**

Summary of Written Comments	Response from the Responsible Authorities
<b>Scope of Project</b>	
<p>The scope of project should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any air pollution control devices associated with the mine process plant</li> <li>• any concentrate dryer and associated air pollution control devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mine process plant is included in the proposed federal scope of project. Air quality, including those measures proposed for reducing project-related impacts is included within the proposed federal scope of assessment – refer to s. 3.1 &amp; s. 3.2 of Scoping Document.</li> <li>• The concentrate filter plant is included in the proposed federal scope of project. Air quality, including those measures proposed for</li> </ul>

Summary of Written Comments	Response from the Responsible Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capacity and life span of the tailings dam, and the systems to monitor the structural integrity of the said structure</li>   <li>• storage for hazardous waste and hazardous materials</li>   <li>• soil erosion and slope stabilization of the mined-out area as well as the revegetation of the area</li>   <li>• abandonment (decommissioning) plan for the project</li> </ul>	<p>reducing project-related impacts is included within the proposed federal scope of assessment – refer to s. 3.1 &amp; s. 3.2 of Scoping Document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tailings and waste rock storage facility(ies) (including containment dams) are included in the proposed federal scope of project – refer to Scoping Document s.3.1. The Application will provide a thorough description of these structures including: location, preliminary designs, geotechnical data and associated water management. Also included will be a risk assessment covering the most likely mode of failure to the most severe impact of failure – refer to ATOR s.3.3).</li> <li>• Hazardous materials and wastes captures a large variety of potential substances related to the project. While not included as a specific physical work or activity in the federal scope of project, these substances are captured under various other headings, for example: explosives manufacturing and storage plant, mill tailings and waste rock storage, ore concentrate storage, etc.</li> <li>• Soil erosion and slope stability are included in the proposed federal scope of factors to be considered under “Terrain, Soils and Geology”. Reclamation of the mine area, including revegetation is considered a mitigation measure to reduce the impacts of the project. CEAA requires consideration of mitigation measures that are technically and economically feasible.</li> <li>• The temporal boundaries for the environmental assessment will encompass the entire lifespan of the project. This will include closure, decommissioning and reclamation of the mine site and other components of the project.</li> </ul>
<b>Scope of Assessment – Factors to be Considered and Scope of Factors</b>	
<p>The following should be included in the environmental assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• baseline data for ambient air quality;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air quality is included in the federal scope of</li> </ul>

Summary of Written Comments	Response from the Responsible Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• existing water quality (particularly heavy metals) of the river system affected by the project;</li>   <li>• the present water utilization of the river by the local community;</li>   <li>• the air pollutants (area and point sources) generated during the plant's construction and operation, and the expected quality of the emission after air pollution control treatment;</li>   <li>• the quality and quantity of effluent generated by the plant, and the expected quality and quantity of the effluent after decantation from the tailings dam or leaving the wastewater treatment facility;</li>   <li>• measures adopted to monitor the stability of the tailings dam;</li>   <li>• disposal method for hazardous waste;</li> </ul>	<p>assessment. The assessment will include a characterization of baseline air quality as well as identifying any potential project-related effects to existing air quality and proposing appropriate mitigation measures – refer to s.3.2 of Scoping Document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water and groundwater quality and quantity are included in the federal scope of assessment. This will include a characterization of baseline water quality in potentially impacted water bodies as well as identifying any potential project-related effects and proposing appropriate mitigation measures – refer to s.3.2 of Scoping Document.</li>   <li>• Current water use will be covered by the proposed federal scope of assessment, which includes the following: First Nations Traditional Use; Land and Resource Use; and Navigation.</li>   <li>• Refer to first bullet above for discussion on air quality.</li>   <li>• Refer to second bullet above for discussion of water quality.</li>   <li>• The proposed federal scope of assessment (s.3.2 of Scoping Document) includes Terrain, Soils and Geology. It also requires an analysis of potential effects from any project-related accidents or malfunctions and development of an appropriate follow-up program.</li>   <li>• The potential environmental effects from the generation &amp; disposal of hazardous wastes are included in the federal scope of assessment under various environmental components (e.g. surface water and groundwater quality; aquatic environment; human health and safety; etc.).</li> </ul>

Summary of Written Comments	Response from the Responsible Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• groundwater quality;</li> <li>• monitoring system for the project during its operation with respect to the environmental parameters cited in “the factors proposed to be considered in the assessment”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to second bullet above for discussion of water quality.</li> <li>• Monitoring requirements will be considered in the environmental assessment and will likely be included in environmental management plans and as conditions for the issuance of various permits or approvals should the project proceed. As indicated in section 3.2.2 of the Scoping Document, a follow-up program will be developed in respect of this project. The follow-up program would also likely include a monitoring component.</li> </ul>
<p>Scope of factors to be considered should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ambient air quality within the impact area and expected emissions (area and point sources) particularly for pollutants suspended particulate and SO<sub>2</sub>/SO<sub>3</sub>, and the extent of its impact;</li> <li>• expected quality and quantity of effluent prior discharge to the river system and assimilative capacity of the river for the effluent coming from the tailings dam;</li> <li>• socio-economic impact of the project to the local community;</li> <li>• monitoring scheme for the mitigating measures adopted by the Proponent in preventing environmental effects, hazards and accidents;</li> <li>• environmental quality baseline data (before implementation of the project): ambient air quality, surface water and ground water qualities and quantities, noise levels, flora and fauna within the primary and secondary impact area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to first bullet above for discussion on air quality.</li> <li>• Refer to second bullet above for discussion of water quality and quality.</li> <li>• The federal assessment will consider social and economic effects that are a result of a change or effect to the environment as defined within CEAA. The socioeconomic effects of the project to local communities will be considered in the provincial EA.</li> <li>• Refer to bullet above regarding environmental monitoring.</li> <li>• The federal scope of assessment includes: air quality, surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, noise, vegetation and plant communities, and wildlife and wildlife habitat – refer section 3.2 of Scoping Document. The assessment must include a description of the baseline conditions of the existing biophysical environment in sufficient detail to permit the</li> </ul>

Summary of Written Comments	Response from the Responsible Authorities
	identification, assessment and determination of significance of potentially adverse effects caused by the project.

## 5.0 Potential of the Project to Cause Adverse Environmental Effects

In evaluating the potential of the Project to cause adverse environmental effects, the RAs have used the preliminary results of:

- the Proponent’s project description and baseline information;
- First Nations and public input to date;
- technical information on other mining developments;
- participation on the joint federal-provincial working group for the environmental assessment; and
- professional judgement.

It is anticipated that the following environmental effects could occur should mitigative measures not be put into place.

**Table 3: Potential of the Project to Cause Adverse Environmental Effects**

Valued Ecosystem Component	Potential Environmental Effects
Atmospheric Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effects to air quality and climate of project-related release of air contaminants including: dust, particulate emissions, NOx and SOx, and greenhouse gases;</li> <li>• effects to air quality from potential accidents or malfunctions.</li> </ul>
Terrain, soils and geology	Effects resulting from disturbance to surficial geology, bedrock or soils including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• erosion related to altered drainage;</li> <li>• ground freezing and frost heave effects on project components;</li> <li>• metal leaching and acid rock drainage from disturbed rock.</li> </ul>
Vegetation and plant communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct loss or reduction of local plant communities, including rare, threatened, endangered or highly-valued species;</li> <li>• indirect reduction or alteration of local plant communities;</li> <li>• introduction of invasive noxious plants;</li> <li>• cumulative effects on vegetation and plant communities.</li> </ul>
Wildlife and wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of terrestrial habitat;</li> <li>• disturbance of feeding, nesting, denning or breeding habitats;</li> </ul>



Valued Ecosystem Component	Potential Environmental Effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mine access road/utilities corridor providing new human access to remote wildlife/wildlife habitat;</li> <li>• introduction of physical barriers to wildlife;</li> <li>• disruption, blockage or other disturbance to wildlife movements;</li> <li>• direct or indirect wildlife mortality</li> <li>• effects to rare, threatened, endangered or highly-valued species;</li> <li>• reduction in wildlife productivity.</li> </ul>
Surface water and groundwater quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effects of blasting and associated residues (e.g. nitrogen, nitrate, nitrite and ammonia);</li> <li>• effects on surface water quantity due to changes in timing, volume and deviation of peak and minimum flows;</li> <li>• effects on water quality due to drainage from mine site, specifically with respect to suspended solids, metals, nutrients, ARD, etc.;</li> <li>• waste rock and tailings toxicity;</li> <li>• siltation and water chemistry impacts from access road/tunnel construction;</li> <li>• effects on water quality caused by diesel or concentrate slurry pipeline spills.</li> </ul>
Aquatic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• change in productive capacity of aquatic systems;</li> <li>• fish habitat loss or alteration, including aquatic vegetation and sensitive areas such as spawning grounds, nursery areas, winter refuges and migration corridors;</li> <li>• direct mortality to salmon and other aquatic species;</li> <li>• effects from blasting on fish and fish habitat.</li> </ul>
Heritage and archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disturbance or loss of archaeological or heritage sites/resources.</li> </ul>
Land and resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction of project-related structures limiting or restricting navigability of watercourses;</li> <li>• impacts to current land and resource use including forestry, hunting, trapping, fishing, tourism/recreation.</li> </ul>
First Nations traditional use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes in access to traditional areas;</li> <li>• effects to traditional land and resource use;</li> <li>• effects to First Nations land use plans and objectives.</li> </ul>
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effects of project-related noise on wildlife and humans</li> </ul>
Human health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contamination of country foods including plants, fish, and animals;</li> </ul>

Valued Ecosystem Component	Potential Environmental Effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• human health impacts of potential accidents or malfunctions leading to the release of contaminants;</li> <li>• changes to availability of First Nations traditional foods.</li> </ul>

### Summary of Potential Environmental Effects

In general, the project will be introducing a large-scale industrial development into a previously undisturbed portion of British Columbia wilderness. An access road will be required and it will cross numerous fish-bearing streams and traverse through important habitat for highly-valued wildlife species such as grizzly bear, mountain goat and moose. Although the concentrate slurry and diesel pipelines will, for the most part, be buried underground, there will likely be sections where the pipelines will cross over watercourses, providing a potential source of pollution. The access road and pipeline corridor will be traversing considerably rugged, high-elevation terrain that is prone to avalanches and other geohazards challenges. This poses an increased risk of accidents or malfunctions associated with the use of the road and/or pipelines. The location of the aerodrome in an active floodplain has the potential to negatively affect fish and fish habitat.

Disturbances related to the mine site and access corridor have the potential to affect water quality in adjacent watercourses. There exists the potential for acid rock generation and metal leaching from waste rock and mine tailings. Water management at the mine site and the potential for failure of the proposed waste rock/tailings containment structure are important issues. Any impacts to water quality include both the direct and indirect effects on major drainages, such as the Iskut and Stikine Rivers, which support major salmon populations that form the basis of an international fishery. Consequently, there has been a high level of interest from U.S. federal and Alaska State government officials.

The project is located within the traditional territory claimed by the Tahltan Nation. The Tahltan have raised concerns with respect to potential impacts to wildlife, fish, human health and their traditional uses of the area. The Tahltan are actively participating in the environmental assessment. The Proponent and the Tahltan have negotiated a participation agreement which would provide a range of benefits to the Tahltan Nation if the project receives federal and provincial government approvals enabling it to proceed.

## **6.0 Ability of Comprehensive Study to Address Project-Related Issues**

In evaluating the potential of the ability of the Comprehensive Study to fully address issues related to the Project, the RAs considered:

- the Proponent's project description and baseline information;
- public and First Nations input to date;
- technical information on other mining developments;
- input from the joint federal-provincial working group for the environmental assessment, including the FAs, and input from U.S. federal and Alaska state representatives; and
- professional judgement.

### Project Description and Baseline Information

The RAs and FAs have worked closely with the Proponent and its consultants over the past two years in developing an appropriate program to ensure baseline environmental conditions are adequately described. As well, federal departments have had several opportunities to assess and comment upon the provincial Application Terms of Reference which outline the information and analyses necessary to address CEAA and BCEAA requirements.

### Public Input to Date

Although only two sets of comments were received on the Scoping Document, they did not raise any concerns that would suggest that a comprehensive study would be insufficient to address project-related issues. There appeared to be no strong opposition to the scope of the comprehensive study as proposed. Of the comments received, there were no new issues raised and there was no indication that mediation or a panel review was needed or desired. As demonstrated in Tables 1 and 2, the concerns raised have either been addressed or will be evaluated as part of the cooperative CEAA/BCEAA environmental assessment.

### First Nations Involvement

The Tahltan Nation has been, and continues to be engaged in the environmental assessment process. In a letter to the CEA Agency dated February 10, 2006, the Tahltan reaffirmed their intent to participate on working groups and committees associated with the cooperative environmental assessment of the project. As well, the Tahltan Nation signed a comprehensive Participation Agreement with the Proponent which identifies mutual cooperation for completing an efficient and effective environmental review of the Project.

### Participation of U.S. Federal and Alaska State Governments

Both U.S. Federal and Alaska State government representatives have been actively engaged on the working group established for the joint CEAA/BCEAA

environmental assessment review process. These representatives have been consulted on the development of the Proponent's baseline study program and on the requirements of the Application Terms of Reference. The issues raised by these representatives relate primarily to potential effects to downstream water quality and associated effects to fish (primarily salmon) and other aquatic species. The U.S. and Alaska representatives have indicated general satisfaction with their ongoing participation and have not requested any change to the CEAA/BCEAA environmental assessment process as proposed. The CEA Agency has kept the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade informed of the project and will continue to provide regular updates.

### Conclusion

The RAs are of the opinion that a Comprehensive Study can address the scientific and technical issues raised in relation to the Project, based on the parameters defined by the terms of reference set for this cooperative federal-provincial environmental assessment process. Technical experts from the federal departments involved in the environmental assessment will be fully engaged in reviewing and examining issues related to the Project.

Based on this, the RAs, in consultation with the CEA Agency and expert FAs, have concluded that a Comprehensive Study can address issues related to this Project.

# **Comprehensive Study Scoping Document**

**For the**

**NovaGold Canada Inc. Proposed**

**Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver  
Mine Project**

**in**

**North-western British Columbia**

**CEA Registry Reference Number: 05-03-8858**

**November 30, 2005**

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to seek the views of the public regarding the federal comprehensive study of the proposed Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver Mine Project (the project) that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and Transport Canada (TC) are conducting. The public are invited to provide comment on the proposed scope of the project; the factors proposed to be considered in the assessment and the proposed scope of those factors; and the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project (see Section 3.0 of this document).

DFO, NRCan, and TC have determined that they have a responsibility to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed project pursuant to paragraphs 5(1)(d) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). As the project is also subject to review under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, the federal and provincial environmental assessment processes will be coordinated.

## 1.2 Project Summary

The project is proposed to be built in and around the Galore Creek Valley, which is located in remote mountainous terrain in north-western British Columbia (57° 07' 30"N and 131° 27'W), approximately 260 km northwest of Stewart, British Columbia. The property is within the Stikine River drainage, which empties into the Pacific Ocean near Wrangell, Alaska. Local communities include Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek, and Iskut, approximately 282 km, 383 km and 200 km respectively from the project site by existing and proposed roads (Figure 1-1).

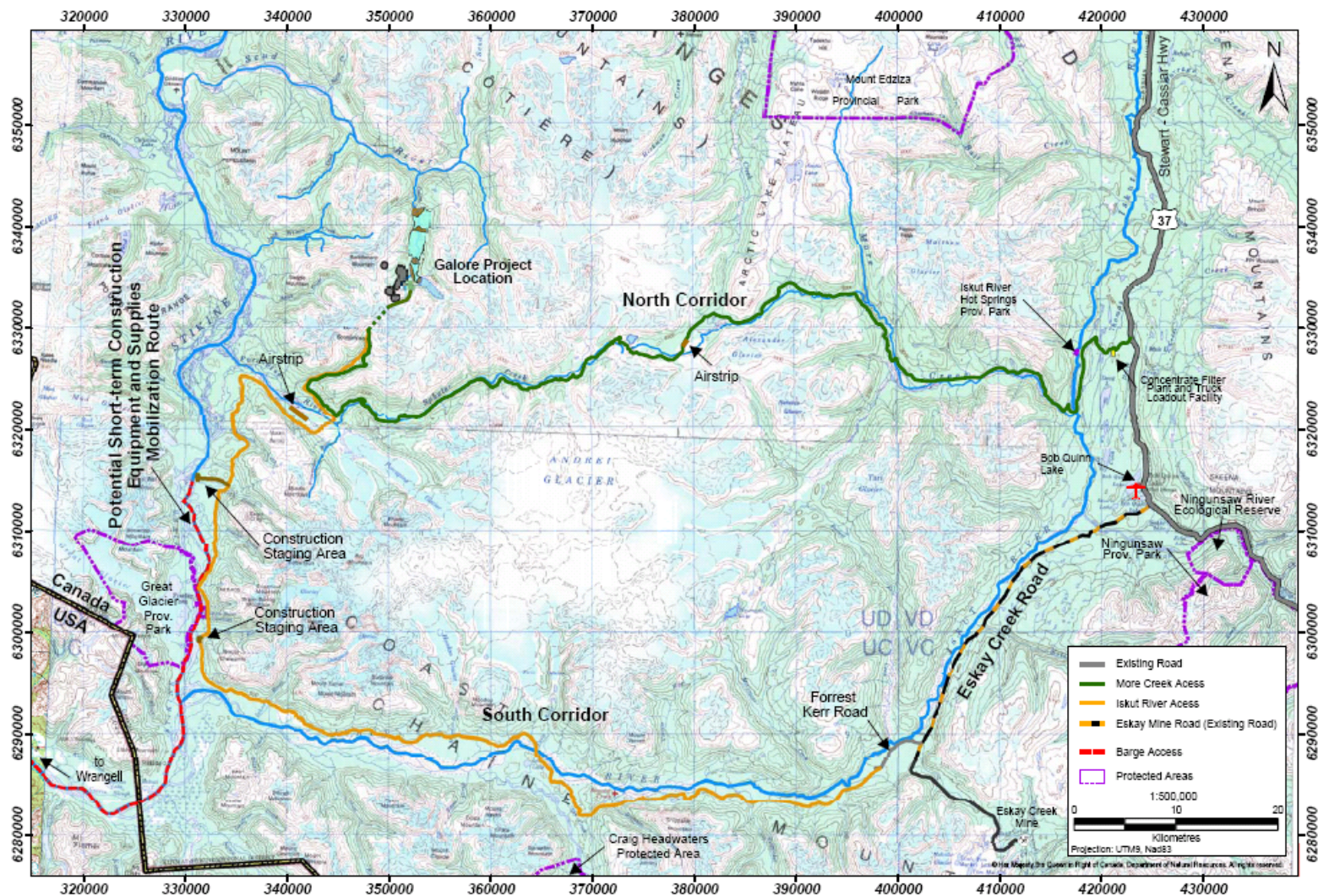
NovaGold Canada Inc. (the Proponent) is proposing to construct, operate and decommission a copper-gold-silver mine which includes several main components: access road construction (including bridges and tunnel); slurry concentrate pipeline; 138 kV electrical transmission line construction; mine pre-stripping; waste rock dump preparation; water diversions; tailings dams for the tailing impoundment areas; concentrate processing plant construction; and supporting facilities and infrastructure. An airstrip will be established at the Porcupine River and camps constructed to support construction.

Due to the remote location of the proposed mine, the construction of an access route is fundamental to the project. Seven potential access routes were originally evaluated by the Proponent and subsequently narrowed down to two routes, and then in June 2005 the Proponent proposed a modified northern route which would limit the road to a single lane and utilize a pipeline to transport concentrate to the highway. This modified northern route has become the preferred access route for the project (refer to Figure 1-2).

The proposed open-pit mine would process up to 60,000 tonnes per day of ore and produce up to 2,000 tonnes per day of gold-copper concentrate. The concentrate would be transported via a buried pipeline along a 125 km single lane access road to a facility where the concentrate would be dewatered and then trucked via Highway 37 to the port of Stewart for shipment to smelters overseas.







NovaGold Canada Inc.

### Galore Creek Project and Potential Mine Access Corridors



It is anticipated that the project would take approximately 3 years to begin operations following the start of construction and that the access road would take approximately 18 months to complete. If the project receives the necessary approvals, the Proponent currently foresees commencement of construction in spring 2007 with production beginning 2010. A 20-year mine life is currently envisaged. For further details on the project description please visit the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office website: <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca>.

## 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Federal Environmental Assessment

DFO, NRCan, and TC, as responsible authorities, must ensure an environmental assessment is conducted prior to the issuance of the following federal permits and authorizations, for the project. These include:

- issuance of approvals by TC pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA) for the construction of bridges or other structures over a navigable waterway;
- issuance of authorizations by DFO pursuant to section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat; and,
- issuance of a permit or license by Natural Resources Canada for an explosives factory and magazine under paragraph 7 (1)(a) of the *Explosives Act*.

Other federal authorities including Environment Canada and Health Canada, will provide expert advice during the assessment.

DFO, NRCan, and TC as responsible authorities have determined that the project is subject to a comprehensive study under CEAA pursuant to paragraphs 16(a), 16(b), 16(c) and 30 (c) of the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations*, which read:

16. The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of:
  - (a) a metal mine, other than a gold mine, with an ore production capacity of 3,000 t/d or more;
  - (b) a metal mill with an ore input capacity of 4,000 t/d or more;
  - (c) a gold mine, other than a placer mine, with an ore production capacity of 600 t/d or more.
  
30. The proposed construction or decommissioning of:
  - (c) an all-season runway with a length of 1 500 m or more.

The size of the proposed Galore Creek Gold-Copper-Silver Mine project exceeds threshold production listed under paragraphs 16 (a) (b) and (c) of CEAA's *Comprehensive Study List Regulations*. The project further requires the construction of an all season airstrip runway of 1500 metres which is also captured under paragraphs 30 c) of the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations*. Because of these factors a comprehensive study is required under CEAA. Following this initial public consultation, the responsible authorities pursuant to subsection 21(2) of the CEAA, must submit a report to the Minister of the Environment (the Minister), which includes the following:

- the scope of the project, the factors to be considered in the environmental assessment and the scope of those factors;
- public concerns in relation to the project;
- the project's potential to cause adverse environmental effects; and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

The responsible authorities must also recommend to the Minister whether the environmental assessment should be continued by means of a comprehensive study, or whether the project should be referred to a mediator or review panel.

The Minister must then decide whether to refer the project back to the responsible authorities to continue with the comprehensive study process, or refer the project to a mediator or review panel. If the Minister decides that the project should continue as a comprehensive study, the project cannot be referred to a mediator or review panel at a later date.

If the Minister refers the project to a mediator or review panel, the project will no longer be subject to a comprehensive study under the CEAA.

If the environmental assessment continues as a comprehensive study, a Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) will be prepared. Responsible authorities must ensure there are opportunities for public participation during the comprehensive study. Following its completion, responsible authorities will submit the CSR to the Minister and to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency).

The CEA Agency will invite the public to comment on the CSR prior to the Minister making a decision. The Minister may request additional information or require that public concerns be further addressed before issuing the environmental assessment decision statement. Once the Minister issues the environmental assessment decision statement the project will be referred back to the responsible authorities for appropriate action.

Whether the environmental assessment proceeds by means of a comprehensive study or is referred to a mediator or review panel, participant funding will be made available by the CEA Agency to facilitate public participation. See Section 4.3 for more detail.

## **2.2 Joint Canada-BC Environmental Assessment Process**

As the project is also subject to review under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, the terms of the Canada-BC Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation apply. Under this Agreement, projects that require an environmental assessment by both the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia undergo a single, cooperative assessment, where possible, to meet the environmental assessment requirements of both levels of government.

The CEA Agency, in its role as Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator, facilitates the coordination of the federal review process and the provincial review process. Both governments use the information generated through the cooperative environmental assessment process as the basis for their respective decisions with respect to the project.

## 3.0 PROPOSED SCOPE

Scoping establishes the boundaries of the federal environmental assessment. The scope identifies elements of the project to include the environmental components likely to be affected and focuses the assessment on relevant issues and concerns. The public is being asked to comment on this section of the report.

The Canada-BC Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation does not provide for delegation of authority. Each government will make project related decisions on matters within its own legislative authority and the federal environmental assessment process will be conducted accordingly.

### 3.1 Proposed Scope of the Project

The scope of the project for the federal comprehensive study under CEAA currently proposed by the responsible authorities includes the physical works and the activities associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning (including closure and reclamation) of:

- open pit mine and mineral process plant located in the Galore Creek Valley;
- mill tailings and waste rock storage facility(ies) including containment dams;
- ore and marginal ore storage;
- borrow pits and overburden and topsoil storage;
- construction and operations camp, including ancillary facilities;
- explosives manufacturing and storage plant;
- access road from Highway #37, along More and Sphaler Creeks to the Porcupine River, and up to Scottsimpson Creek to a tunnel into the Galore Creek Valley;
- power transmission line from Highway #37 predominantly following the road corridor to the Galore Creek Valley;
- ore concentrate slurry pipeline following the road corridor, from the plant site in the Galore Creek Valley to Highway #37;
- concentrate filter plant, ore concentrate stockpile, truck loadout and water treatment facility at the pipeline terminus;
- aerodrome along the south side of the Porcupine River; and
- connector road between access road to the aerodrome.

### 3.2 Proposed Scope of Assessment

The scope of assessment defines the factors proposed to be considered in the environmental assessment and the proposed scope of those factors. The responsible authorities are required to consider the factors specified in section 16 of CEAA, taking into consideration the definitions of the environment, environmental effect and project.

#### 3.2.1 Factors to be Considered

As defined under CEAA, “environmental effect” means, in respect of a project:

- a) *any change that the project may cause in the environment, including any change it may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residences of individuals of that species, as those terms are defined in subsection 2(1) of the Species at Risk Act*
- b) *any effect of any change referred to in paragraph (a) on*

- i) health and socio-economic conditions*
  - ii) physical and cultural heritage*
  - iii) the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons, or*
  - iv) any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, or*
- c) any change to the project that may be caused by the environment whether any such change or effect occurs within or outside Canada;*

Under section 16 of CEEA, the following factors must be considered in an environmental assessment conducted as a comprehensive study:

- the environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- the significance of the environmental effects referred to above;
- comments from the public that are received in accordance with this Act and the regulations;
- measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project;
- the purpose of the project;
- alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means;
- the need for, and the requirements of, any follow-up program in respect of the project;
- the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future; and,
- any other matter that the responsible authorities deem to be necessary, including community knowledge and aboriginal traditional knowledge.

### **3.2.2 Scope of the Factors to be Considered**

The following provides details on the proposed scope of the factors to be considered by the responsible authorities in the environmental assessment including what environmental components are likely to be affected:

- Climate and meteorology;
- Air quality;
- Terrain, soils and geology;
- Vegetation and plant communities;
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- Surface water and groundwater quality and quantity;
- Aquatic environment (e.g. aquatic life, fish, fish habitat);
- Heritage and archaeological resources;
- First Nations traditional use (current and historic);
- Land and resource use;
- Navigation;
- Noise; and,
- Human health and safety.

### **Spatial and Temporal Boundaries**

Spatially, the main project site is located in Galore Creek Valley with an access road and slurry pipeline extending 125 km east to Highway 37. The spatial boundary will be determined specific to each factor in order to effectively assess the potential environmental effects of the project. The temporal boundaries will encompass the entire lifespan of the project. The environmental assessment will discuss the effects of the project on each factor beginning with the construction phase and throughout the operations phase (including any maintenance and/or modifications) and through to the completion of decommissioning, closure and reclamation.

### **Cumulative Environmental Effects**

The evaluation of potential cumulative environmental effects will include the residual environmental effects associated with the project in combination with the environmental effects of other past, present or future projects or activities. Cumulative effects will be considered that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out. The cumulative effects assessment will include, but not necessarily be limited to: existing mines (e.g. Eskay Creek Mine); other proposed developments (e.g. Red Chris Mine; Mt. Klappan Mine; Forest Kerr Hydro); other land and resource use activities (forestry, hunting, trapping, fishing); and, tourism and recreation activities.

### **Alternative Means of Carrying out the Project**

The assessment will include an analysis of the alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means for example, the south access road alternative. A rationale for the preferred alternative will be included.

### **Effects of the Environment on the Project**

In addition to evaluating the effects of the project on the environment, including cumulative environmental effects, changes to the project that may arise as a result of the environment will also be considered. This analysis will include consideration of natural hazards such as: extreme weather events (lightning, extreme precipitation, flooding, wind, avalanches and icing); natural seismic events; volcanic activity; fire; slope stability; and, climate change. Proposed mitigation, including design strategies, will be considered in the evaluation of the effects of the environment on the project and the determination of their significance.

### **Sustainability of Renewable Resources**

This will include a consideration of the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.

### **Potential Accidents and Malfunctions**

The assessment will include consideration of the potential accidents, malfunctions and unplanned events that could occur in any phase of the project, the likelihood and circumstances under which these events could occur, and the environmental effects that may result from such events.

### **Follow-up Program**

The purpose of a follow-up program is to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures. The environmental assessment will describe the follow-up program and its associated requirements.

## 4.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### 4.1 Invitation for Comments & Further Opportunities for Public Participation

The responsible authorities expect to submit a report and recommendation to the Minister of the Environment early in 2006 on whether the environmental assessment should continue by means of a comprehensive study or be referred to a mediator or a review panel. The public is invited to provide comments at this scoping stage of the environmental assessment of the project on the following areas:

- the proposed scope of the project;
- the factors proposed to be considered in the assessment;
- the proposed scope of those factors; and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

Finally, the public will also have additional opportunities to provide input to the environmental assessment, the nature of which will depend on the type of review that takes place.

### 4.2 Submission of Comments

The public is invited to provide its views at this scoping stage of the environmental assessment. Persons wishing to submit comments may do so in writing to Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Comments must be received by close of business January 9, 2005. Comments may be sent to:

Chris Barlow, Senior Program Officer  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Suite 320, Sinclair Centre 757 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 1A1

Telephone: (604) 666-8748  
Fax: (604) 666-6990  
E-mail: [Chris.barlow@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.barlow@ceaa-acee.gc.ca)

Please be as detailed as possible and clearly reference the **Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver Project** and the Registry File number **05-03-8858** on your submission. NOTE: All documents and/or responses received regarding this project are considered public and will become part of the public registry.

As stated above, if the Minister of the Environment determines that a comprehensive study will be conducted for the project, the public will be provided with further opportunities to participate. The public will also have opportunities to participate in the assessment should the project be referred to a mediator or a review panel.

### 4.3 Participant Funding

The Government of Canada, through the CEA Agency, will provide participant funding to assist groups and individuals to take part in the environmental assessment, whether it proceeds by means of a comprehensive study or is referred to a mediator or review panel. Information on the program, including the Participant Funding Program Guide, the application form and the

contribution agreement are available on the CEA Agency's Web site <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/>.

#### **4.4 Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry**

Pursuant to the CEAA, section 55, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR) has been established to provide notice of the environmental assessment, and facilitate public access to records related to the environmental assessment. The CEAR consists of a project file and an internet site. The internet component of the CEAR can be accessed at the following address [http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/index_e.cfm). Anyone wishing to obtain copies, or view records, on the CEAR project file should contact:

Chris Barlow, Senior Program Officer  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Suite 320, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 1A1

Telephone: (604) 666-8748  
Fax: (604) 666-6990  
E-mail: [Chris.barlow@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.barlow@ceaa-acee.gc.ca)

If you have general questions in relation to the CEAA, you can access the CEA Agency website at: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/>