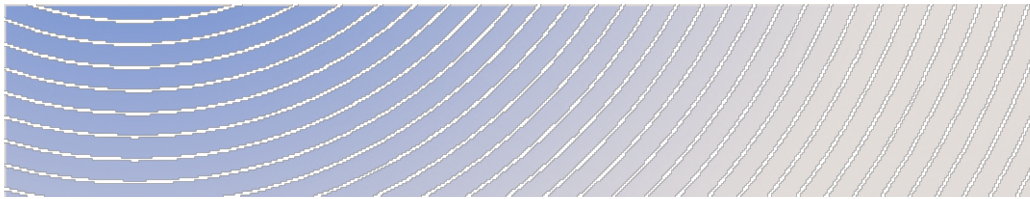


Public Participation Plan



GREAT BEAR GOLD PROJECT

MAY 8, 2024

DRAFT VERSION



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On March 22, 2024, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) issued an opinion that an impact assessment is warranted for the Great Bear Gold Project (“the Project”), in alignment with the Government of Canada’s Statement on the Interim Administration of the *Impact Assessment Act* Pending Legislative Amendments.

The Public Participation Plan (the Plan) was developed by the Agency to set out opportunities for participation during the impact assessment process, following Kinross Gold Corporation’s decision to continue to advance the assessment process and proceed with the Planning phase for the Project. It is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Agency from making changes to the approaches described in this Plan in order to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment.

For additional information about the implementation of meaningful public participation, please refer to the [Framework: Public Participation Under the *Impact Assessment Act*](#) and [Guidance: Public Participation in Impact Assessments](#). A distinct and separate [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) is also available, outlining Indigenous engagement opportunities and approaches.

2. Description of the proposed Project

Kinross Gold Corporation (the proponent) is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of a new open-pit and underground gold mine with an on-site metal mill, located 23 kilometres southeast of Red Lake, Ontario. As proposed, the Project would include three open-pits and produce up to 60,000 tonnes of ore per day, while the metal mill would process up to 15,000 tonnes of ore per day. The project would operate for about 20 years.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Project or to view the information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website (the Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/85832>.

3. Objectives of public participation

The Plan outlines the various ways participants can provide input and participate in the process. The Agency objectives for public participation are as follows:

- Public participation is meaningful. This means that the public is provided with:
 - opportunities to take part in the impact assessment;
 - the information they need to participate; and
 - the capacity to participate in an informed manner.
- The public is engaged at each key stage of the impact assessment process.

- The public brings forward key issues to the Agency and the proponent early in the process to inform the proponent's Impact Statement.
- The public is involved in the development or revision of key documents, such as this Plan, the [Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#), the proponent's Impact Statement, the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions, and potential amendments to the Decision Statement should amendments be required.
- Participation opportunities are designed taking into account the diverse needs and interests of various participants. Opportunities include, but are not limited to: public comment periods, and in-person or virtual information sessions or engagement events at key phases of the process.
- The Agency informs the proponent about the concerns raised by the participants.
- Public views heard throughout the process are tracked and inform decision-making.

4. Identification of participants

Public Participation Plan distribution list

Communities and organizations included in the Public Participation Plan distribution list (Appendix 1 of the Public Participation Plan) were identified by the Agency as potentially having an interest in this impact assessment. The list was informed by previous participants in the Planning Phase for the Project; participants identified in documents provided by the proponent; and participants identified by the Agency in proximity to the project with potential interest or knowledge relevant to the impact assessment. Participants on the distribution list will receive updates and notices about the Project's impact assessment as the process unfolds. If you want to be added or removed from the Public Participation Plan distribution list, please advise the Agency at GreatBear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca. Individual names will not be published but will be captured as "general public" in the Public Participation Plan distribution list in Appendix 1. If your community or organization is not included in the Public Participation Plan distribution list in Appendix 1, and does not request to be included, you will no longer receive these email notifications.

Please consult the [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) for a list of the Indigenous communities that are identified for engagement as part of the impact assessment of the Project.

5. Public participation tools

The Agency has identified a series of tools to ensure meaningful participation throughout the impact assessment process:

- Opportunities to apply for funding under the Participant Funding Program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs/participant-funding-program.html>) to support the public in participating in the impact assessment process;
- Public notice(s) in plain language on the Registry website and published in local newspapers, news websites, and radio broadcasts that provide information and updates on the impact assessment process, announce public participation opportunities, objectives of comment periods, and funding opportunities;
- Emails in plain language to the Public Participation Plan distribution list that provide information and updates on the impact assessment process, announce public participation opportunities, objectives of comment periods, and funding opportunities;
- Social media updates [e.g., the Agency's X (formerly Twitter) feed: @IAAC_AEIC #GreatBearGold] that provide information and updates on the impact assessment process, announce public participation opportunities, and funding opportunities;
- Interactive community information sessions to learn more about the Project, the impact assessment process and how to submit comments (e.g., presentations with question-and-answer sessions and/or workshops to be held virtually or in-person);
- Summaries of key documents, fact sheets, infographics, and audio-visual materials in plain language and in an accessible format;
- Public comment periods at key stages of the process;
- Registry website to post written comments at key public comment periods, and throughout the process; and
- Free [training opportunities](#) for people involved directly in impact assessments.



6. Activities and public participation approach

The following table provides a description of the main phases in the impact assessment process, and an outline of Agency-led engagement opportunities in each phase, as well as events planned by the proponent (to the extent known). The table describes the objectives of each phase, the anticipated engagement activities that will be used, and the public participation tools that will support the engagement activities. The type of engagement activities (virtual or in-person) will be announced at each opportunity.

Table 1 – Table of public participation approaches and activities

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
Phase 1: Planning		
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support understanding of the Project ➤ Provide an opportunity for the public to apply for funding to support participation during the Planning Phase ➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process and meaningful participation ➤ Obtain comments and feedback on documents related to the Planning Phase such as the Summary of the Initial Project Description and to inform the development of the Plan and Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines ➤ Notify the public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the Summary of the Initial Project Description, the draft Plan and the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines as well as the opinion that an impact assessment is warranted. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From August 17 to September 18, 2023, the Agency offered grant funding during the first comment period of the Planning Phase to support participation • From August 17 to September 18, 2023, the Agency hosted virtual information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support public understanding of impact assessment process and sought comments on the Summary of the Initial Project Description • The Agency responded to any inquiries, sent letters / emails informing the public on the Agency’s distribution list and posted key documents on the Registry website • The Agency offered online training on the impact assessment process • From May 6 to June 5, 2024, the Agency is making grant funding available for the second comment period of the Planning Phase • From May 6 to June 5, 2024, the Agency is hosting virtual and in-person information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support public understanding of the impact assessment process and sought comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From August 17 to September 18, 2023, participated in the first comment period on the Summary of the Initial Project Description • Submitted comments on the Summary of the Initial Project Description • Interested participants applied for available grant funding during the first comment period of the Planning Phase to support participation • From May 6 to June 5, 2024, the Agency invites comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Plan for the second comment period of the Planning Phase • Participated in information sessions, with a question and answer session to discuss and inform key planning documents • Submitted comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry website • Public notice or news release, and social media

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
<p>Phase 2: Impact Statement</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process ➤ Provide an opportunity for the public to apply for participant funding for the remainder of the impact assessment process ➤ Encourage the public to share information with the proponent to inform the development of the proponent’s Impact Statement ➤ Obtain comments / views on the proponent’s Summary of the Impact Statement ➤ Notify the public of key steps in the process such as receipt of the Impact Statement and the comment period on the Summary of the Impact Statement 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency makes participant funding available for the remainder of the impact assessment process • The Agency administers participant funding throughout the Impact Statement Phase • The Agency may present on the impact assessment process at any of the proponent’s meetings held while the proponent develops the Impact Statement • The Agency posts the proponent’s Impact Statement on the Registry website and sends notification emails to the Public Participation Plan distribution list • The Agency holds a comment period on the Summary Impact Statement. The comments will assist in determining whether the Agency is satisfied with the information and studies provided by the proponent as outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines • The Agency may issue requests to the proponent for information or studies that the Agency considers necessary for it to conduct the impact assessment. • The Agency asks the proponent to present on identified issues, addressing project concerns and explaining mitigation and monitoring measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for available participant funding to participate in the remaining phases of the impact assessment process • Participate in any of the proponent’s meetings on its Impact Statement • Submit comments, including those related to community knowledge, if applicable, that the proponent considers when developing the Impact Statement • Participants potentially impacted by the Project work with the proponent to collect relevant information about the Project’s potential positive and adverse effects (direct and incidental), as well as the mitigation and monitoring measures • Submit comments to the Agency on the Summary Impact Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry website • Public notice or news release, and social media

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
<p>Phase 3: Impact Assessment</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process ➤ Obtain comments / views on the Agency’s draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions ➤ Notify public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency administers participant funding throughout the Impact Assessment Phase • The Agency posts draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions on the Registry website and sends notification emails to the Public Participation Plan distribution list • The Agency holds a comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions. The comments will assist in finalizing the Agency’s recommendation to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change • The Agency hosts information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support the public’s understanding of the impact assessment process and seeks comments on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions • Agency posts the final Impact Assessment Report on the day the report is submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in information sessions, with a question and answer session to discuss and share feedback on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions • Participate in any proponent presentations on identified issues, addressing project concerns and explaining mitigation and monitoring measures • Submit comments to the Agency on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions • Submit comments to the Agency on the Project’s potential adverse effects; on the integration of any community knowledge; and proposed mitigation or accommodation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comment • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry website • Public notice or news release, and social media

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
Phase 4: Decision		
Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inform the public about the Decision Statement issued by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change ➤ Increase awareness of the Decision Statement 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency posts on the Registry website the final Impact Assessment Report and the Decision Statement, and sends notification emails to the Public Participation Plan distribution list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive notification of the decision and the issuance of the Decision Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry website • Notifications sent by email • Public notice or news release, and social media
Phase 5: Post-Decision		
Objectives: if the project is approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Post-decision follow-up, monitoring activities and results from follow-up program on the Registry website ➤ Obtain comments on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency engages on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required • Agency conducts compliance and enforcement activities consistent with the Compliance Promotion and Enforcement Policy¹ and posts inspection summaries and enforcement actions on the Registry website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit comments to the Agency on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry website • Public notice or news release, and social media

* All comments received throughout Agency-led engagement and consultation activities will be made publicly available on the Project's Registry website at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/85832>. A summary of comments received will also be included in the Impact Assessment Report.

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/corporate/compliance-promotion-enforcement/compliance-promotion-enforcement-policy-designated-projects-subject-impact-assessment-act.html>



7. Participant funding

Funding to support public participation in the impact assessment process is available. For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding please see the Funding Programs guidelines: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs.html>.

You can contact the Agency's Funding Programs for more information:

Telephone: 1-866-582-1884

Email: fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

8. How to submit comments

You can submit comments at any time during the impact assessment process by using the “Submit a Comment” function on the Registry website’s project page (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/85832>). Attachments can also be uploaded using this function.

If you have any difficulties with the submission process, please contact the Agency, using the contact information below. Comments may also be submitted through other means, including by email to GreatBear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Comments and other documents received by the Agency will be part of the project file and will be posted on the Registry website. The Agency’s [Submission Policy](#) determines what information can be shared publicly and what information should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Agency’s [Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want your comment to be posted on the Registry website, please contact the Agency before submitting your comment.

If you have questions or need information, please contact:

Great Bear Gold Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Ontario Regional Office
GreatBear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca



Appendix 1

Public Participation Plan Distribution List

Commerce and economic development

- Chukuni Communities Development Corporation
- Red Lake District Chamber of Commerce
- Shared Spirits Limited Partnership Inc.

Community groups and organizations

- Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre
- Red Lake Regional Heritage Center

Educational institutions

- Confederation College
- Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
- Oshki-Wenjack
- Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre
- Red River College Polytechnic

Energy, mining and forestry

- Ontario Power Generation – Ear Falls Generating Station
- Red Lake Forest Management Company

Environment and wildlife

- Northwestern Fur Trappers Association Inc.
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) – Zone A
- Ontario Fur Managers Federation
- Ontario Rivers Alliance
- Red Lake Trail Masters Club
- Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Indigenous organizations and tribal councils

- Bimose Tribal Council
- Grand Council Treaty No. 3

Municipalities

- Municipality of Red Lake, Ontario (including general public)
- Township of Ear Falls, Ontario (including general public)

Recreation, cottage, and tourism

- Birch Lake Lodge
- Highway 105 Tourism and Marketing Board
- Pakwash Lake Camp
- Snake Falls Camp

Social services and healthcare organizations

- FIREFLY
- Kenora District Services Board
- Kenora-Rainy River Districts Child & Family Services
- Northwestern Health Unit
- Red Lake Family Health Team
- Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital
- Tikinagan Child and Family Service
- Northwest Home and Community Care Support Services