



**Environment and Climate Change  
Office of the Minister**

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File number: 40100-30-315  
10700-400-57003

September 8, 2021

Craig Hudson  
Atlantic Mining NS Inc.  
409 Billybell Way, Mooseland  
Middle Musquodoboit, NS B0N 1X0

Dear Laird Brownlie:

**Re: Environmental Assessment – Atlantic Mining NS Incorporated  
Touquoy Gold Project Site Modifications  
Halifax County Nova Scotia**

The environmental assessment of the proposed Touquoy Gold Project Site Modifications in Halifax County, Nova Scotia has been completed.

This letter is to advise that, pursuant to Section 13 (1)(a) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, I have determined that the Registration Document provided is insufficient to allow me to make a decision, and that I require additional information. Specifically, the review determined that the following additional information is required in order to evaluate potential environmental effects that may be caused by the undertaking.

In consultation with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (ECC), provide the following additional information:

**In-pit tailings disposal:**

- Describe mine pit permeability and detail mitigation measures to decrease pit permeability.
- Clarify the mine pit capacity for project tailings and future proposed tailings deposition.
- Describe proposed in-situ water treatment plan and schedule.
- Describe how the pit and Waste Rock Storage Area discharge points will meet Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations and *Fisheries Act* requirements.

### **Ground and Surface Water:**

- Provide a third-party expert review of the ground and surface water modelling presented and referenced in the Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD).
- Describe current and potential impacts to Watercourse #4 in the EARD including any monitoring data not included in the EARD submission.
- Provide a more detailed analysis and clarify the impacts to Moose River currently, and as a result of the proposed project.
- In consultation with the Inspection and Compliance Division and Water Resources Branch at ECC, clarify or provide information related to water quality and quantity analysis inconsistencies.

### **Wildlife:**

- Provide all flora and fauna survey data referenced in the EARD with corresponding analysis.

### **Wetlands and the Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area:**

- Provide additional analysis for avoidance of Wetland #15, a Wetland of Special Significance under the ECC Wetland Policy.
- Provide an analysis of potential impacts to the Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area and proposed mitigations.

### **Historic Tailings:**

- Provide a description and map of historic mine tailings within or near the proposed project footprint. Provide a plan to manage the historic tailings.

### **Fish and Fish Habitat:**

In consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

- Provide all fish surveys and relevant data that has been completed at or near the Touquoy site.
- Conduct fish and fish habitat surveys in Square Lake and provide analysis.
- Conduct fish sampling in Moose River.
- Provide information to support statements in the EARD indicating there are no or limited impacts to fish and fish habitat in Watercourses: Square Lake, Upper Fish River, Watercourse #14, Watercourse #13, and Watercourse #3.

This information must be submitted by Atlantic Mining within one year, as an addendum to the original Registration Document. Upon submission of the information, I will have 50 days to make my decision. Registration of the Addendum will require publication of a Notice to inform the public of the 30-day Addendum public comment period.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Helen MacPhail, Supervisor, Environmental Assessment Branch, at (902) 483-2696 or via email at [Helen.MacPhail@novascotia.ca](mailto:Helen.MacPhail@novascotia.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Halman".

Tim Halman, MLA  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

c: Lorrie Roberts, Executive Director, Policy, ECC