To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** March 26, 2022 5:56:12 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I would like to express my support for Atlantic Mining Nova Scotias Touquoy Gold Project Site Modifications. The continuity of this operation represents a significant economic impact in the region, and the company itself has been a stalwart employer for Nova Scotians. They are committed to community engagement and sustainable gold production in the region, and for that reason, I sincerely hope that the proposed plans will be approved. This will allow the operation and community to grow, thereby continuing to employ Nova Scotians. Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address: Municipality: Dartmouth

email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 39 y: 30

From: <u>environment@novascotia.ca</u>

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: Proposed Project Comments

Date: April 9, 2022 3:39:52 AM

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: This entire project needs to be shut down. Destroying our environment so that a private company can profit is not in the best interest of Nova Scotians. Name: Email: Address: Municipality: email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 84 y: 27

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 10, 2022 8:57:34 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Greetings: Quite simply Atlantic Mining has been a wretched corporate entity doing business in Nova Scotia. There record of open engagement with concerned citizens of Nova Scotia, taking care of the natural environment and paying their proper share of taxes have all been abysmal. The considered for expansion of the massive, open pit Touquoy Gold mine will be a further impairment on the already compromised Eastern Shore natural environment. The added environmental impacts of the additional tailings at the Touquoy mine will have a serious impact. If approved, Atlantic Mining could create other big mines in the area and truck the mine tailings from those sites to their original mine. I ask the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to reject the propose Touquoy Gold Project Site Modification. Name: inger Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: Halifax

email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 59 y: 21

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

**Subject:** [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 14, 2022 10:54:15 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: As a resident of Melrose, I vehemently oppose any expansion of Atlantic Goldâ? Ts operations. They do not belong in Nova Scotia. Nor does gold mining. This company has been convicted both provincially and federally for serious environmental infractions. Their callous disregard of our environmental laws is evidence enough for me that their short term, smash and grab operations do not belong here. The risk is too great to our provinceâ? Ts unique ecological biodiversity. NOPE No Open Pit Excavation! Name:

Email:

n@gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Melrose email message: Privacy-

Statement: agree x: 47 y: 21

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 15, 2022 7:43:27 AM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: This is the biggest bull shit I ever heard. I worked on the kilag river, for the salmon association, trying to bring back salmon in our rivers. Millions of dollars spent to improve habitat. These mines should not be allowed to continue moving all over our provinceâ? destroying everything in there path. Take your gold mines somewhere else.. Name:

Email: mcinnis@gmail.com

Address: : Halifax email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 78

y: 18

**Environment Assessment Web Account** To:

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

April 15, 2022 11:30:28 AM Date:

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I am a life-long outdoorsman, who has enjoyed the pristine environment of 15 Mile Stream, East and West Rivers Sheet Harbour and the St. Maryâ? Ts River watershed for over 50 years now. I cannot logically fathom any Mining Activity in these important Environmental Areas for a few short years of Mining Exploitation, which will pay little or no dividends to Nova Scotians. I oppose any further expansion of the Touquoy Gold Project in the strongest possible terms. It makes absolutely no sense for today or tomorrow. Name: Bissett Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: Fall River

email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 61 y: 1

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 18, 2022 7:21:32 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: The main point here that I hope is being considered is contamination of the water. That has happened in the US. Think Gold King Mine waste spill. Its still not cleaned up. It has been said that all gold mines contaminate the water, 74 of operating gold mines polluted surface and/or groundwater, including drinking water. Just say no to this project. It is the responsible thing to do. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address: . Municipality: Long Beach

email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 55 y: 27

From: <u>conacher.allen@gmail.com</u>

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 19, 2022 11:45:07 AM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Dear Minster Halman Please do not approve these expansion modifications to the Touquoy Gold Mine - this expansion lays the way for 3 more large gold mines on the eastern shore - further devastating the land. This is not the way to develop NS. As Minister of Environment Climate Change do the right thing and do not allow the modifications. Madeline Conacher concerned NS resident Name:

Email: en@gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Tatamagouche email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 58 y:

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 20, 2022 3:12:58 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: As a resident of Nova Scotia and someone who has worked in Natural Resources in this province, I feel the strong need to comment on this project. I take pride in my work as a young Nova Scotian with a career that can allow me to thrive in the same province where I was born, I take pride in working in Natural Resources, further, I take pride in educating others on Natural Resources in Nova Scotia. I have found that many people in Nova Scotia are against mining even if they have never seen an active modern mine site, many people against mining havent taken the time to research what mining looks like, and the modern day impacts of sustainable, safe mining. I am in support of the Touquoy Modifications, and I believe the plans that have been submitted to the government are complete and all possible affects have been correctly studied. I am confident that these modifications can be completed safely and to the high standard that the government holds mines to. I am optimistic that this project will receive approval and I hope that Nova Scotia will see more projects like this one. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: Dartmouth email message:

Privacy-Statement: agree x: 66 y: 39

From: n64@gmail.com

**Environment Assessment Web Account** To:

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

April 20, 2022 8:18:24 PM Date:

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: If the proposed Seawall hiking trail in Cape Breton can possibly generate the suggested revenues imagine what could be done if we move to protect the St Maryâ?Ts River valley and surrounding waters that drain into it as well as the wilderness encompassing this beautiful valley. Why should we as a community even entertain these extremely risky gold mining ventures for the small short term return. There is only one St Marya?Ts River valley and the time has come for us to realize we need to protect it from those who only wish to destroy it to satisfy profit hungry shareholders who will never see it for its real value! Once it is gone it will be to late!! Name:

②gmail.com Address: Municipality: email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x:

97 y: 32

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 21, 2022 10:39:20 AM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Please allow this project to proceed. This letter is to express my support of responsible gold mining in Nova Scotia. The changes being asked for are to support and enable Atlantic Operations to continue operations while upholding and improving upon the rigorous and stringent environmental protections in place at Touqouy. We need more responsible, economic drivers in this province, not less, and I am confident that this work can carried out without significant environmental effects. Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address: Municipality:

Salmon River email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 70 y: 14

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 21, 2022 12:44:32 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I do not support this project. Will we ever learn from the past?? We are too small of a province for open pit gold mines. Gold is NOT a critical mineral. Why would we destroy our environment to line the pockets of a few already weathly investors?? WE do NOT want open pit gold mines in Nova Scotia. Name:

@gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Grand Pre email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 80 y: 25

**Environment Assessment Web Account** To:

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

April 21, 2022 1:05:50 PM Date:

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Gold mines are stupid and we dont want any of them in this province. Economically, there are a few years of a small number of jobs peanuts in the grand scheme of things, and were left with eternal environmental damage and constant threat of worse and heavily damaged road infrastructure, while the vast bulk of money leaves the province to global multi-national shareholders. Meanwhile, so much value and potential for health, enjoyment, and sustainable economic development is lost. For something thats basically useless and will sit in a vault somewhere. Its the pinnacle of insanity to even consider these projects. Name: @gmail.com Address: Email:

Municipality: Smithfield, NS email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x:

80 y: 22

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 21, 2022 1:45:25 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I would like to respectfully add my familyâ?Ts voice to this public comment period regarding St. Barbaraâ?Ts Atlantic Gold request to expand the Touquoy open pit gold mine in Moose River. My family and I live along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia and our ancestors have lived here for many generations. We do not support in any way the expansion of the Touquoy giant open pit gold mine project in Moose River nor do we support the proposed Beaver Dam, Fifteen Mile Stream or Cochrane Hill proposed sites. Expanding Touquoy is a step to accommodate the development of three more giant open pit mines along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. A move clearly introducing additional negative cumulative environmental effects which the people of Nova Scotia will once again be left to bear. 68 old, contaminated sites at an estimated 60 million each to clean up should be a lesson for us all. Gold is not listed on any government of North Americaâ? Ts critical mineral list concluding it is not needed to transition away from fossil fuels. It is simply irresponsible of our government to consider the progression of giant open pit gold mines in this region. The risk simply outweighs the benefits and the people of Nova Scotia will lose once again. My children even question the thought process that will bring on the onslaught of giant open pit gold mines to our region. In their eyes it is unthinkable to even allow the planning of such a destructive industry. Remember we are talking about the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotiaâ? Ts most significant freshwater basins and our government, if supporting these modifications, would knowingly place them at risk. How is it that our children can intuitively and quite clearly understand the value of water while our leaders struggle. Once again, I ask you to please not allow these modifications to proceed. Respectfully,

ame: Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality:

Aspen email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 38 y: 23

From: <u>gmail.com</u>

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

A -- 1 21 2022 F F0 10 DM

**Date:** April 21, 2022 5:50:10 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I would like to add my voice to this public comment period regarding St. Barbaraâ? Ts Atlantic Gold request to expand the Touquoy open pit gold mine in Moose River. I live along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. I do not support in any way the expansion of the Touquoy giant open pit gold mine project in Moose River nor do I support the proposed Beaver Dam, Fifteen Mile Stream or Cochrane Hill proposed sites. Expanding Touquoy is one more step towards the development of three more giant open pit mines along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. A move clearly introducing additional negative cumulative environmental effects which the people of Nova Scotia will once again be left to bear. 68 year-old, contaminated sites at an estimated 60 million each to clean up should be a lesson for us all. Gold is not listed on any government of North Americaâ?Ts critical mineral list concluding it is not needed to transition away from fossil fuels. It is simply irresponsible of our government to consider the progression of giant open pit gold mines in this region. The risk simply outweighs the benefits and the people of Nova Scotia will lose once again. Remember we are talking about the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotiaâ?Ts most significant freshwater basins and our government, if supporting these modifications, would knowingly place them at risk. Once again, I ask you to please not allow these modifications to proceed. Respectfully, Name: Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: East Lawrencetown

email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 68 y: 31

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 21, 2022 5:56:55 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I am asking that all the St. Barbara gold projects be closed. That there be no further expansion of one site or the creation of any other open pit mines. We do not need gold. We need clean water and clean air. There is no reclamation process that will protect these watersheds from toxic mining waste. When St. Barbra leaves Nova Scotia with its profits, who will be responsible for clean up after a tailings pond failure? Jobs at the mines will only last a few decades. The arsenic and other toxic materials are here forever. Climate change will be bringing stronger storms with more rainfall. These basins are not designed to stand up to the kinds of weather events that are coming. Please reconsider. Please work to limit the damage done by the previous administrations disregard for the environment. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address:

unicipality: L0 email message: Privacy-Statement:

agree x: 55 y: 18

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

**Subject:** [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 21, 2022 6:01:50 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I do not support the Touquoy gold mine expansion project. As a friend of mine pointed out, gold is not listed on any government of North Americaâ? Ts critical mineral list concluding it is not needed to transition away from fossil fuels. It is simply irresponsible of our government to consider the progression of giant open pit gold mines in this region. The risk simply outweighs the benefits and the people of Nova Scotia will lose once again. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: Halifax

email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 60 y: 20

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

**Subject:** [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 21, 2022 11:34:18 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: As gold mining is unnecessary and offers no value to society we have more than enough gold for industrial purposes new gold is sold for status symbols/jewelry, and poses serious environmental damage, we must reject it in the public interest of Nova Scotians. In addition, the profits from any mining projects under consideration in Nova Scotians should exclusively go to Nova Scotians, not to foreign oligarchs or millionaires. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com
Address: Municipality: Antigonish email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 54 y: 33

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

**Subject:** [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 10:44:19 AM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I do not support the Touquoy gold mine expansion project. Expanding Touquoy is a step to accommodate the development of three more giant open pit mines along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. A move clearly introducing additional negative cumulative environmental effects which the people of Nova Scotia will once again be left to bear. 68 old, contaminated sites at an estimated 60 million each to clean up should be a lesson for us all. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: Liscomb

email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 1882 y: 714

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

**Subject:** [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 11:43:28 AM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Please, no more gold mining in tiny NS. We have a duty of care to keep the environment workable/ productive. None of these big multinational companies gives a whit about Nova Scotia. And hide any possible responsibility for harm beneath layers of multi country ownership pyramids. And the harm spreads undetected and responsibility untraceable. Witness the pulp mill. Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address: Municipality:

Tatamagouche email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 44 y: 20

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 11:51:10 AM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Atlantic Gold has already devasted the eastern shore in irreversible ways with no repercussions. The company is constantly breaking environmental laws with no regards for Provincial and Federal regulations. Atlantic Gold survives off backroom deals with all levels of government, examples include, the abolishment of the Liscombe Game Sanctuary, forestry companies allow logging of crown land before the Atlantic Gold destroys it for profit, and machinery companies supplying equipment companies with large company shares as trade off. I have had employees from the Atlantic Gold openly brag about destroying the environment and killing native mammals with machines killing beavers with excavators - the employee who relayed this info found it amusing. These same individuals advised the company can get away with whatever they wish since environmental government departments, and their employees are considered inadequate by Atlantic Gold employees. Atlantic Gold and employees h ave no regards for the Eastern Shore or its residents and openly stated locals and their opinions do not matter on this topic as they feel their employment and duty surpasses that of clean air, water, and undamaged ecology. This company pays next to nothing in taxes and the employment it temporarily provides is just that temporary. It is preposterous for Atlantic Gold to even consider placing an open pit mine anywhere near the West River, given it is one of the last salmon bearing rivers in the Province and the Salmon Association of Nova Scotia has put vast efforts and funds into restoring the natural habitat for our delicate Atlantic Salmon. Rivers along the Eastern Shore still suffer from arsenic pollution from years past when mining was done on a very small scale, and without the use of hydrogen cyanide to flush the gold. The only reason this company is destroying our backyard with no ramifications is due to our dated environmental laws that allows crooked companies such a s Atlantic Gold to get away with their illegal doings, knowing they will not be held accountable for the irreversible damage they have caused. Like most mining companies on the Eastern Shore, Iâ? Tve seen multiple over the years, they will go under before they are required to clean up their polluted mine sites. Ive spoken to an environmental assessor who previously viewed the site and stated they were so devastated they could never return. Ive spoken to multiple individuals such as employees and contractors who have been to the site and all comments have been extremely negative and are astonished the Province allows this to take place. The company also drills while bears are still hibernating and conducts many tasks illegally since they do not have permits or government approval - this was relayed by an employee. The company makes sure to complete their questionable tasks while government employees such as DFO, Natural Resources, or Environment are not present - this was also relayed by an employee. This company must be stopped at all costs it is very disheartening to witness government allow such illegal activities to take place within one of Nova Scotias ecologically diverse areas, and one of the last frontiers for the mainland moose and other severely endangered species such as the woodland turtle and pine marten. Waterways such as rivers, brooks, and streams will forever be damaged resulting in detrimental impacts for our delicate and diverse environment. It is also very sad to see our politicians do not seem to do anything against this environmental atrocity, being idle displays a lack of initiative and care for their communities as they are

required, given their positions, whether municipal, provincial, or federal. Atlantic Gold has broken laws since day one and continue to do so, it is now time for their operations to cease and the company leave Nova Scotia and return to Australia where there mine is failing. If government allows these envi ronmental massacres to continue most of the Provinces waterways will be poisoned, and where does all the water run to? The ocean, which is why DFO should be taking a more serious standpoint on this issue as it is far larger than anything else on the Eastern Shore or Atlantic Canada for that matter. Many, if not most Nova Scotia residents are completely unaware of Atlantic Golda? Ts wrongful doings since their site is kept out of the eyes of the public. When these people are informed, like myself, they are entirely against the irreversible damage being caused daily by Atlantic Gold. It should also be noted employees are bound by contract not to speak about the companies a?T shady doings and recently a union formed due to unsafe work practices. Anyone who is educated on what is taking place within our Province and these open pit mines opposes anything in related to Atlantic Golds agenda. An agenda that needs to be stopped much sooner than later. Name: Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Halifax email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 48 y: 23

From: <a href="mailto:@gmail.com">@gmail.com</a>
To: <a href="mailto:Environment Assessment Web Account">Environment Assessment Web Account</a>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 5:01:00 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I have previously submitted a lengthy message outlining my opposition to Gold Mining on the Eastern Shore. I wont repeat all of these details. In summation my objections to this project are based on the impact on the environment, the destruction of our waterways, the negative impact on efforts to revive the salmon and trout runs on the rivers and streams in the area. This company has already committed many violations of existing Federal and Provincial Environmental and safety laws. This industry has a short life. After they are gone with their millions in profit, Nova Scotians will be left with the cleanup costs. We have not even begun to clean up the mine waste from many years back. There is no financial gain for Nova Scotians as this company has not paid any taxes to the province. Employee income tax will never scratch the surface even if used to clean up the mess left by this mining company. Its time to put a stop to all of the mining plans throughout this province. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com

Address: Municipality: Halifax email\_message: Privacy-Statement:

agree x: 40 y: 22

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 6:24:50 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I urge you to uphold the commitments in EGCCRA and reject the proposed Touquoy open-pit gold mine expansion in Moose River, as well as the proposed Beaver Dam, Fifteen Mile Stream, and Cochrane Hill open-pit gold mines. They will contaminate local watersheds and ecosystems, endangering human health, and the well-being of all wildlife in the area and surrounding areas. Gold mining may provide jobs for some but it prevents Nova Scotia from creating green and sustainable livelihoods for all in these rural areas. You can prevent us from further destroying our planet, our home, as we are living in a climate and biodiversity crisis. You are in a position to do something about it. Please act in all our best interests and do something beautiful for the future and well-being of our children and grandchildren. Say no to the proposed Touquoy open-pit gold mine expansion in Moose River, as well as the proposed Beaver Dam. Fifteen Mile Stream, and Cochrane Hill open-pit gold mines. Thank you. Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Toronto email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 62 y: 19

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 6:48:34 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Itâ?Ts EARTH DAYâ?|. Please do something good for the planet today ie. by not approving the expansion of this mine. The planet doesnâ?Tt need more mines. Give it a break for gods sake. If approved, Atlantic Mining could create other big mines in the area and truck the mine tailings from those sites to their original mine. Many are questioning this approach, including the added environmental impacts of the additional tailings at the Touquoy mine. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: Annapolis County email message:

Privacy-Statement: agree x: 74 y: 26

From: <a href="mailto:@gmail.com">@gmail.com</a>

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 8:44:14 PM

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: To Whom It May Concern: I do not support the proposed modifications to the Touquoy open-pit gold mine, nor can I support any such project that would compound the toxic legacy of open-pit gold mining in Nova Scotia. A comprehensive and holistic view of land-use planning is necessary to predict and prevent adverse impacts to both wildlife and people. Therefore, we must seriously consider the cumulative impacts of these projects on ecosystems and communities, rather than viewing them solely as independent sites, components, or modifications. I use the word â? omodificationsâ? with great reluctance in this instance. As Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association clearly stated, â?oThe changes in use of the mine site and the considerably lengthened timeline are so drastic that they hardly can be called mere modifications.â? In spite of how Atlantic Golda? Ts documents are written, the environmental harms will not be restricted to a tidy little block aka, the â?omine footprintâ? . As a resultâ?"or by designâ?"the company has repeatedly underestimated the cumulative effects on nearby watersheds, wetlands, and wildlife. Given that Atlantic Gold has distorted the irrefutable evidence to suit the companyâ?Ts narrative, how can we have any confidence in the information theyâ?Tve presented? How can we have any confidence in Atlantic Gold or the Touquoy mine when the company failed to meet the terms and conditions that were issued back in 2008? How can we trust a company that has faced federal 3 and provincial 32 charges for violating environmental legislation at this very mine? And perhaps the better question: why should we? Why should we entrust Atlantic Gold with the well-being of this and future generations? The sixth mass extinction is an ongoing extinction event, the likes of which has never before been seen in human history. The Center for Biological Diversity reports, â?oThe current rate of extinction of species is estimated at 100 to 1,000 times higher than natural background rates.â? warns, â?oAround 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history.â? We have lost 60 of the planetâ?Ts wildlife in less than 50 years, according to the World Wildlife Fundâ?Ts 2020 Living Planet Report. Populations of Canadian species that are of global conservation concern have declined in Canada by an average of 42 between 1970 and 2016. Populations of Canadian species that are of national conservation concern have declined by an average of 59 between 1970 and 2016. In the past few months, the U.N.â?Ts International Panel on Climate Change has released three damning reports: Physical Science Basis aka, â?oA Code Red for Humanityâ? , Impacts, Adaptation, Vulnerability aka, â?oAn Atlas of Human Sufferingâ? , and Mitigation of Climate Change. Had there been any residual doubts about the seriousness or extent of the climate crisis, these reports would have provided a clear answer and perhaps even changed the course of history. But the truth is, itâ?Ts not the scientific data thatâ?Ts lackingâ?"itâ?Ts the political will. Given the perilous state of our planet, it would be highly irresponsibleâ?"nay, ludicrousâ?"to permit these modifications and, in so doing, further imperil endangered species, infringe upon protected areas, contaminate rural watersheds, and endanger local communities. We can no longer afford business as usual, in which any potential benefits are negligible and short-lived, but the adverse environmental and community impacts are significant and long lasting. As Sierra Club Canada Foundation wrote in response

to the proposed Touquoy expansion: Itâ?Ts never a question of if a new or expanded gold mine will contaminate the environment, but when, and for how long? [â?] Further devastation of the local environment through gold mining expansion is compounded by the modern-day context: we are dealing with a climate crisis, biodiversity crisis, and more. As a number of lauded world leaders have proclaimed, we are also the last generation that is in a position to do something about it. If you allow the modifications to the Touquoy mine, the damage will be reckless, entirely preventable, and squarely on your watch. Please, make the decision that will benefit all of us today and in the years to come: reject the proposed modifications to the Touquoy mine. Sincerely,

Name:

Email:

@gmail.com
Address: Municipality: Hammonds Plains email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 33 y: 38

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 8:54:30 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I have found that there are some environmentally friendly ways to mine gold. BUT the cost is much greater than traditional methods. Ah... the profit margin decreases and the environment suffers. From Brillaint Earth.com: Modern industrial gold mining destroys landscapes and creates huge amounts of toxic waste. Due to the use of dirty practices such as open pit mining and cyanide heap leaching, mining companies generate about 20 tons of toxic waste for every 0.333-ounce gold ring. Thats quite a nugget of information! In 2014, a dam collapsed at the Mount Polley gold and copper mine in British Columbia, sending about 25 million cubic meters of cyanide-laden waste into nearby rivers and lakesâ?"enough to fill about 9,800 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The spill poisoned water supplies, killed fish, and harmed local tourism. In NS we MUST Legislate safe mining practices and properly scrutinize them. Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address: Municipality:

Middle Musquodoboit email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 62 y: 16

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

**Date:** April 22, 2022 9:08:47 PM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I grew up on the West River in Sheet Harbour where I learned to swim, canoe, skate and crosscountry ski. I have recently started to share these precious opportunities with my children on the same river. I am opposed to the modifications and expansion of the Touquoy Gold Project due to the negative environmental effects it will have on this watershed. The province is currently looking at a bill of \$60 million to clean up just 2 of 68 contaminated historical gold mines. I ask that you take this into consideration as you continue to allow mining in such important natural areas. The short term gain of local employment does not measure up to the environmental devastation that will be left forever. This project will also undermine the decades of hard work that has been done to bring back the salmon population in the Killag and West Rivers. Millions of dollars have been contributed to aid in this effort and allowing a company with a history of environmental violations mine so close to this river would be devastating to our local natural environment. I am adamantly opposed to this project and ask you to consider younger generations when choosing projects that effect the nature that makes Nova Scotia such a special place to grow up in. Name: Email: @gmail.com Address: Sheet Harbour Municipality: Sheet Harbour email message: Privacy-Statement:

Address: Sheet Harbour Municipality: Sheet Harbour email\_message: Privacy-Statement agree x: 71 y: 21

From:

To: Minister, Env; Fairclough, Andrea C; Environment Assessment Web Account

Cc: Premier

Subject: Atlantic Gold Touquoy Modification EA - letters of support

**Date:** April 20, 2022 1:24:33 PM

Attachments: Touquoy Gold modification letters of support - MacGregors Industrial Group.pdf

Importance: High

# \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Good afternoon,

Please find attached (50) letters of support on behalf of the management and employees of MacGregors Industrial Group, in support of the approval of Atlantic Gold's Touquoy Mine modification project currently under environmental assessment.

Best regards,

Vice-President Sales & Business Development

## **MacGregors Industrial Group**

140 Coalburn MacLellan's Brook Road MacLellan's Brook, NS, CANADA B2H 5C7

Office: (902) 922-2029 x.242 Fax: (902) 922-2041

Fabrication - Machining - Site Services - Ind. Sales - Prefabricated Buildings

www.macgregors.ca





# MacGregor's Custom Machining Ltd. 140 Coalburn MacLellan's Brook Rd., MacLellan's Brook, NS B2H 5C7

Phone (902) 922-2029

Fax (902) 922-2324

20 April 2022

Minister Timothy Halman Nova Scotia Environment PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Minister Halman:

Please find enclosed quantity forty (40) letters of support from employees of MacGregors Industrial Group in support of the proposed Touquoy Gold Mine project modification by Atlantic Gold / St. Barbara.

Attracting and retaining primary industries such as the responsible development of mining is undoubtedly critical to the financial and social wellbeing of the Province of Nova Scotia. Without primary industries such as mining, manufacturing, and natural resources development, the entire supply chain of secondary industry is not feasible to continue. Businesses like ours in rural Nova Scotia have built our entire business model around supporting primary industry, providing quality services and products that these industries require to build and maintain their operations.

The economic impact of projects such as Atlantic Gold's current and future operations is necessary to ensure the sustainability of rural infrastructure in Nova Scotia. Without development projects like this, the ambitious health care and renewable energy goals of our province cannot be met, as there will not be a sufficient tax base to fund these initiatives. In no way would our company or our employees support a project that we believe would be detrimental to our environment; Nova Scotia is our home and we are proud of the climate and environment that we live in. We believe St. Barbara has proven their willingness to meet or exceed all achievable requirements to ensure a safe and healthy environment while developing their projects and it is our desire that the Province of Nova Scotia allow for this project to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration and I would welcome the opportunity to share our views on this project with you or a member of your team at any time.

Kindest regards,

Vice President Business Development MacGregors Industrial Group

#### To be sent to:

Minister Timothy Halman Nova Scotia Environment PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

CC:

energyminister@novascotia.ca premier@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Halman,

Support for the Touquoy Gold Mine project Modification,

I am writing to express my support for the Touquoy Gold Mine project and join 76% of Nova Scotians that support environmentally responsible gold mining in the province. I am asking that you and your government allow the project modifications at the Touquoy mine to proceed in an environmentally responsible way.

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Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. I look forward to hearing more about how this needed rural economic development in Nova Scotia. government is supporting much

Sincerely,

Name Signed /

April 20/22

Name Printed

Supporter of responsible mining in Nova Scotia

#### To be sent to:

Minister Timothy Halman Nova Scotia Environment PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

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Sincerely,

Name Printed

Name Signed

13pril 18/2022

Supporter of responsible mining in Nova Scotia

#### To be send by

Minister Timothy Heiman Maxa Ecota Emanociment PO Nov 442 Mantar, No Bol 275

CC: <u>andraministrationasceta</u>ca <u>propertionascetal</u>ca

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apr. 5/2022

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April 8/22

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Sincerely,

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Minister Timothy Halman Nova Scotia Environment PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

CC:

energyminister@novascotia.ca premier@novascotia.ca

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April 6th, 2027

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I am confident that the team responsible for this project, including third-party technical specialists, have completed thorough investigations, analysis, and design to provide fulsome responses to the information requests, and I am confident in the conclusions presented. The work carried out and presented in St Barbara's most recent submission confirms the earlier conclusions: in consideration of the assessment, mitigation, and planned follow up and monitoring, the planned modifications to the Touquoy site are not likely to result in significant environmental effects.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. I look forward to hearing more about how this government is supporting much needed rural economic development in Nova Scotia.

Sincerely, A ...

Name-Printed Name Signed Date

Minister Timothy Halman Nova Scotia Environment PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

#### CC:

energyminister@novascotia.ca premier@novascotia.ca

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		\				April,	20, 2022
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<u> Apen do 4/1016</u>

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20th APRIL 22

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Sincerely,

Name Printed

Name Signed

Date

04/20/2022

From:

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Cc: <u>Karen McKendry</u>

Subject: Comments on the Addendum to the Touquoy Gold Project Modifications

**Date:** April 22, 2022 2:49:18 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

EAC Comments on Addendum to the Touquoy Gold Project Modifications - Environmental Assessment

Registration.pdf

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Hello,

Please find The Ecology Action Centre's Comments on the Addendum to the Touquoy Gold Project Modifications – Environmental Assessment Registration attached to this email.

Kind regards,

Wetlands and Water Coordinator

Kjipuktuk, Unceded Mi'kmaw Territory 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, NS, B3K 4L3

ecologyaction.ca

**Ecology Action Centre** 



Become an <u>EAC Member</u> | Follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> & <u>Instagram</u>
\*Our Fern Lane office is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19, and our staff is working remotely.



## The Ecology Action Centre's Comments on the Addendum to the Touquoy Gold Project Modifications - Environmental Assessment Registration

The following submission in response to the Addendum to the Touquoy Gold Project Modifications - Environmental Assessment Registration is on behalf of the Ecology Action Centre. The Ecology Action Centre is a member-based environmental charity in Nova Scotia; we are the province's oldest and largest environmental NGO. Since 1971, the Ecology Action Centre has been working at the local, regional, national and international level to build a healthier and more sustainable world.

The Ecology Action Centre does not support the proposed modifications. Gold mining creates negative social, health, environmental and economic impacts on local communities and the natural environment. It is also an unnecessary industry. Gold can be recycled infinitely and there is more enough mined gold to sustain the needs of humans globally. Importantly, Natural Resources Canada's list of critical minerals does not include gold. In addition, Atlantic Gold's proposed projects, including this proposal for modification at their Touquoy site, infringes upon Treaty Rights and threatens traditional hunting grounds and gathering areas of the Mi'kmaq. Local Mi'kmaq community members rely on these important lands for food security and more; gold mining activities would severely damage these areas.

Below are our comments and questions about specific points in the Addendum, referenced according to page number.

Pg. 15- In Table 2.1, the proponent outlines % of Tailings Volume to be stored in the Touquoy Pit. This includes 100% of tailings from the proposed Beaver Dam site. Is the opening of Beaver Dam dependent on the approval of the Touquoy modifications? If so, why are these sites beings considered under the Environmental Assessment process as two separate projects?

Pg. 17 – Please provide the actual rate of water treatment at the water treatment plant (do not refer to the CRA 2012 report).

Pg. 18- The proponent states that the treatment of effluent will be treated until Year 30. Who will be conducting this treatment? How often will this treatment take place and what is the scope of this treatment?

Pq. 19 – Water will be drawn off of the TMF and polishing ponds, creating a "near-zero discharge" environment from the TMF. Does this mean there will not be treatment of water coming off of the TMF after closure?









Pg. 32- The proponent writes that flows observed in 2021 were slightly higher than flows observed in 2019 and 2020 and had a similar response to precipitation events. According to Nova Scotia's webpage on Climate Change Data, levels of annual precipitation in the province will continue to increase. Do the calculations of flows, precipitation, water levels and in the models provided by the proponent throughout the Addendum take into consideration the projected increases in precipitation?

Pg. 48- The proponent writes that 0.62 ha of Wetland 15 is proposed for alteration. Wetland 15 is a Wetland of Special Significance (WSS). The Nova Scotia Wetlands Conservation Policy states "Government will not support or approve alterations proposed for a WSS or any alterations that pose a substantial risk to a WSS, except 1) alterations that are required to maintain, restore, or enhance a WSS; 2) alterations deemed to provide necessary public function, based on an Environmental Assessment (if required) with public review or other approvals (e.g., Wetland Alteration Approval) as appropriate." Because this project does not appear to align with the exceptions outlined in the Nova Scotia Wetlands Conservation Policy, this wetland should not be altered by the proponent.

Pg. 56 - The proponent writes that the proposed modifications will not affect recreational users of the closest Wilderness Area. However, this statement is not properly justified. The proponent should provide rationale regarding how the modifications proposed could impact recreational users of the Wilderness Area, and how the proponent has determined that the potential impacts are not significant.

## Terms and Conditions

If the Minister chooses to approve this project, the terms and conditions of the approval should include the requirement that all terms and conditions issued for the mine back in 2008 should be completed BEFORE the modifications in 2022 commence. It is appalling that Atlantic Gold has not met all the terms and conditions issued in 2008 and is allowed to continue to operate, and even propose an expansion. It also shows that Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, and its Minister, are not serious about enforcing requirements that they issue.





From:

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

**Subject:** Comments on the Touquoy Gold Project Modification Addendum

**Date:** April 22, 2022 3:54:10 PM

Attachments: East Coast Environmental Law Response to TGMP EA Addendum Information 22 April 2022.pdf

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Good afternoon,

Please find attached East Coast Environmental Law's comments on the addendum to the Environmental Assessment Registration for the proposed Touquoy Gold Project Modifications.

Sincerely,

Staff Lawyer

East Coast Environmental Law 6061 University Ave., PO Box 15000 Halifax, NS B3H 4R2 K'jipuktuk, Mi'kma'ki

This communication is intended solely for the person or entity to whom it is addressed. It may contain confidential and/or privileged information. No review, dissemination, copying, printing, or other use of this communication by persons or entities other than the addressee is authorized. If you have received this communication in error, please contact me immediately and delete the material from your devices and servers.



East Coast Environmental Law Association 6061 University Ave., PO Box 15000 Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

Environmental Assessment Branch Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

SENT BY EMAIL EA@novascotia.ca

April 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Addendum to the Touquoy Gold Project Modifications – Environmental Assessment Registration

East Coast Environmental Law appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the *Addendum to the Touquoy Gold Project Modifications – Environmental Assessment Registration*, which Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia Inc. ("the proponent") registered with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change ("NSECC") on March 23, 2022. We have reviewed the Addendum Registration Document ("ARD") and portions of its appendices, and we wish to make the following comments.

We commend NSECC and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for recognizing critical information gaps in the proponent's Environmental Assessment Registration Document ("EARD") and requiring additional information from the proponent. In particular, the requirement to commission a third-party review of key portions of the EARD strengthened this environmental assessment process by incorporating additional peer review of critical modelling and science. We appreciate these signs that serious concerns flagged by NSECC staff, members of the public, and other participants in the process were considered and taken into account when the Minister made his decision.

Our review of the ARD and portions of its appendices indicates that the proponent has now provided some important new information to NSECC, along with some significant new proposals for mitigation measures. As you are aware, the proponent has described the proposed use of the Touquoy Mine open pit as a tailings repository in several ongoing environmental assessment processes. To our knowledge, the ARD's contents are the first to propose that mitigation measures may be used to minimize groundwater seepage from the open pit once that pit is used to store tailings. Section 2.1.5 proposes a "low permeability liner" for the western side of the open pit and "concentrated grouting" for "localized fault zones". Notably, the proponent's plans for some of these mitigation measures are not yet fully formed—the ARD and Appendix B.2 make it clear that specific plans for the grouting of localized fault zones have not yet been developed, and both documents suggest that such plans will be developed later, during a "detailed design" stage. Similarly, the ARD makes it clear that treatment plans for the effluent stored in the open pit are still undergoing design, and the document indicates

that the proponent intends to formalize such plans at a later date, apparently relying on an "adaptive management" approach. The underdevelopment of key project components continues to inspire concern.

The third-party review report that appears in Appendix C expresses several concerns about the adequacy of the information that the proponent provided in its EARD. We recognize that the ARD acknowledges concerns raised by the third-party reviewer and suggests that the information being provided now addresses those concerns; however, as we do not have the technical capacity to assess whether the ARD and its appendices actually address all of the third-party reviewer's concerns, it is difficult for us to assess the reliability of the proponent's claims.

We also remark that the ARD and its appendices contain several indications that relevant information has not yet been gathered. To add another example to the examples noted above, Stantec's Factual Data Report: Hydrogeological Site Investigation, Touquoy In-Pit Tailings Disposal: Final Report states that some testing was not completed due to "scheduling and site logistics related to winter weather conditions" and indicates that this testing will be completed in the spring of 2022.

For all of these reasons, East Coast Environmental Law remains concerned that significant aspects of the proponent's plans are not yet clear enough to enable meaningful assessment of the adverse effects or significant environmental effects that could be caused by the proposed use of the open pit as a tailings repository. We therefore ask NSECC to carefully consider the sufficiency of the information that the proponent has provided to date, and we ask the Minister not to make a decision if the information provided remains insufficient.

If the Minister chooses to approve the proponent's proposed undertaking, we strongly recommend that the environmental assessment approval include several "conditions precedent" among its terms and conditions—specifically, conditions that would prohibit the proponent from commencing work on the undertaking until relevant studies have been completed and relevant information has been provided to NSECC's satisfaction. Additionally, if an environmental assessment approval is granted, we strongly recommend that the approval require the proponent to employ mitigation measures to minimize groundwater seepage from the open pit. Currently, the mitigation measures proposed in the ARD are presented as mere possibilities.

Finally, we note that the third-party review report made several recommendations concerning potential terms and conditions that could be imposed if this undertaking is approved, and we would highlight the reviewer's strong expressions of concern about the performance record of the existing

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waste rock storag	e facility, the need for remedi	ial measures, and the possibili	y that the proponent's
groundwater mod	lelling for that portion of the s	site has been inadequate. If an	environmental
assessment appro	val is granted, we hope that it	will include terms and condit	ions that take the third-
party reviewer's	concerns and recommendation	ns into account.	
Sincerely,			

Staff Lawyer

From:

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Cc:

Subject: EA Touquoy Gold Project - CPAWS-NS Comment

**Date:** April 22, 2022 10:19:39 PM

Attachments: Touquoy Gold Mine EA CPAWSNS April2022.pdf

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien Good evening,

Please find a letter attached from the Nova Scotia Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-NS) regarding the Environmental Assessment of the Touquoy Gold Project Site Modifications.

Thank you,

Conservation Campaigner CPAWS-NS



Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Nova Scotia Chapter P.O. Box 51086 Rockingham Ridge Halifax, NS B3M 4R8

Re: Public consultation on Touquoy Gold Project Site Modifications

April 22, 2022

To: Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change

The Nova Scotia Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-NS) is very concerned about the potential impacts of proposed modifications to the Touquoy Gold Project on nearby Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area. The Proposed Undertaking is in very close proximity to Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area and within the same watershed. Insufficient information is provided by the Proponent to reach their conclusion of negligeable impacts on the protected area.

CPAWS-NS is a science-based, non-government organization that works to protect Nova Scotia's rich natural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of all Nova Scotians. We collaborate with governments, Indigenous peoples, local communities, academics, and other organizations on conservation initiatives. CPAWS-NS has contributed to the establishment of over 150 protected areas, including Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area. We maintain considerable expertise on protected areas design, establishment, and management, and our comments for this environmental review are focused on potential impacts to protected areas.

At over 16,500 hectares in size, Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area is the largest protected area in the Halifax Regional Municipality. This area contains intact forests, lakes, wetlands and waterways and provides habitat for species of conservation concern including

brook trout, endangered mainland moose, and rare boreal felt lichen. Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area is part of an important network of protected areas, lying between White Lake Wilderness Area and Tangier Grand Lake Wilderness Area, and offering a connected corridor for wildlife movements. Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area is used for outdoor recreational activities, including canoeing, kayaking, angling, hunting, hiking, and backcountry camping.

CPAWS-NS has several key concerns, as it relates to potential impacts to Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area:

# 1.) <u>Proponent fails to consider future expansions to Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area</u>

Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area was established in 2009, following considerable efforts from the local community and Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association. Since its creation, the protected area has been expanded on several occasions, including in 2012, 2015, and 2020. An additional expansion from the *Nova Scotia Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan* is pending that will connect Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area to Tangier Grand Lake Wilderness Area. The Proponent acknowledges that several expansions have occurred over time, however, they fail to recognize that additional expansions to Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area are likely to occur in the future. The assessment is entirely silent on this point, which means we can only conclude that it has not been properly evaluated and that insufficient information is being presented to the Minister about potential impacts on the protected area.

Additionally, in 2021, the Nova Scotia government passed the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* which increased the protected areas target to 'at least' 20% of the provincial landmass by 2030. To achieve this target, additional lands will need to be identified and protected, beyond those listed in the *Nova Scotia Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan*. Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area abuts several parcels of public lands that will form part of this provincewide conservation assessment. Despite this, however, the Proponent has failed to consider the higher protected areas target in Nova Scotia or how the Proposed Undertaking might limit opportunities for the Nova Scotia government to achieve the legislated target. It appears to be entirely overlooked in the review, which is quite shocking considering the importance of the higher protected areas target in stemming the loss of biodiversity in the province. By not including this information in the assessment, incomplete information is being presented to the Minister. It also draws into question the thoroughness of the review.

#### 2.) What is the status of previous land protection commitments by the Proponent?

The original Environmental Assessment Approval for the Touquoy Gold Project was registered in 2008. Upon completion of the Focus Report, Nova Scotia Environment outlined several mitigation measures in which the Proponent must comply, in order to receive approvals. These requirements are contained in the Terms and Conditions document prepared by Nova Scotia Environment. Section 2.0 deals specifically with the required condition for land conservation:

#### 2.0 Protection of Lands

2.1 Within four years of the date of this Approval, the Proponent shall develop and implement a plan for procuring conservation land with valued protected areas attributes in the vicinity of the Undertaking for statutory protection by the province. The plan shall be developed in consultation with NSEL, NSDNR, the Community Liaison Committee, and any other parties identified by NSEL. The plan must be approved by the Minister prior to implementation. (Terms and Conditions, p.2)

According to this condition, the Proponent is required to procure lands in the vicinity of Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area for conservation by the Nova Scotia government. This requirement needed to be implemented within 4 years, so by 2012. It is now 2022, 10 years since the 2012 deadline for the Proponent to purchase lands for the provincial government to protect. CPAWS-NS tracks every new protected area established in Nova Scotia. We are not aware of any lands purchased by the Proponent near Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area for conservation, nor are we aware of legal protection of such land purchases by the Nova Scotia government. It appears not to have been completed. If that is the case, this is a serious dereliction by the Proponent on a requirement by Nova Scotia Environment to mitigate environmental damages associated with the original mining project. This entirely undermines the stated mitigation measures that the Proponent is proposing for addressing potential impacts on Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area. If the Proponent has failed to follow through on the land conservation condition of the previous Environmental Assessment Approval, related to protected areas, we simply have no confidence that they will do any differently with the proposed mitigation measures this time. Saying you will do something is very different than actually doing it.

The Minster should determine if the land conservation condition from 2008 has been satisfactorily completed by the Proponent. If it hasn't, this absolutely must be considered when evaluating the proposed mitigation measures from the current project review. If the condition hasn't been met, this should give the Minister pause for proceeding any further with this Proposed Undertaking.

#### 3.) Proponent fails to consider the most recent endangered Mainland Moose Recovery Plan

Several species-at-risk occur in Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area and surrounding lands, including the endangered Mainland moose. This struggling species has suffered steep population declines due to human impacts and is protected under provincial legislation.

In 2021, the Nova Scotia government released its updated Recovery Plan for Mainland moose. This plan identifies mining as a high-impact and serious threat to the Mainland moose population due to habitat loss and degradation caused by mine and road construction, operation and pollution. The Recovery Plan also identifies core habitat for Mainland moose across the province. Core habitat is defined as the 'specific areas of habitat essential for the

long-term survival and recovery of endangered and threatened species'<sup>1</sup>. Maps in this plan notably identify Mainland moose core habitat in the vicinity of Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area. The Recovery Plan provides recommendations to protect this core habitat through legal designation between 2021 and 2026:

Action 1.1.2 Protect Mainland moose Core Habitat through designation under provincial and municipal legislation (e.g., protected areas) (Recovery Plan, p.49).

Alarmingly, the Proponent fails to acknowledge the most recent Recovery Plan for Mainland moose (2021) and examine the potential implications of the Proposed Undertaking on newly identified core habitat. Instead, the Proponent points to their outdated Mainland Moose Management Plan and Wildlife Management Plan from 2017 to provide protocols for monitoring and minimizing moose-human interactions. These plans were developed prior to the updated Recovery Plan for Mainland Moose. Without considering the best available data and reporting on Mainland moose in their assessment, the Proponent has once again provided insufficient information to the Minister to proceed with a decision.

## 4.) Potential impacts on Fish River – Lake Charlotte watershed

Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area is located within the Fish River – Lake Charlotte watershed and contains a significant network of interconnected lakes and waterways. The Touquoy Gold Project sits at the top of this same watershed and discharges its treated effluent into Shaggy Lake, which is encompassed almost entirely by the protected area.

One of the major risks associated with mining operations is the potential for contamination of watercourses and adverse effects on species in surrounding wetlands, riparian zones and other aquatic ecosystems<sup>2</sup>. As Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness shares a watershed with the Touquoy Gold Project, pollution originating at the Project site would be at risk of reaching the protected area and impacting the ecosystems and species within it.

CPAWS-NS is concerned that these risks are not fully understood. The Proponent's documentation seems to offer only minimal mitigation measures to prevent water contamination without considering the full extent of pollution impacts from expanded mining operations on Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area.

#### Final remarks

There are clear gaps in the Proponent's assessment of Project modifications, as it pertains to nearby Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area. It's evident that insufficient information has been provided to the Minister to make an informed decision on this Proposed Undertaking.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Endangered Species Act 1998 (NS) s.3.b. (Canada) https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/57th 1st/3rd read/b065.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> International Council on Mining and Metals. (2006). *Good Practice Guidance for Mining and Biodiversity*. Convention on Biological Diversity. <a href="https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/Minining-and-Biodiversity.pdf">https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/Minining-and-Biodiversity.pdf</a>

CPAWS-NS respectfully requests that the Minister require further information to be provided before issuing any environmental approvals. This includes additional information about Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area and endangered Mainland moose. Adequately protecting the significant ecological features and species of Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area cannot be put at risk due to an incomplete assessment provided by the Proponent.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this environmental assessment process.

Sincerely,

Conservation Campaigner CPAWS Nova Scotia

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: FW: Open pit gold mine on the Eastern Shore

**Date:** April 11, 2022 8:47:51 AM

----Original Message----

From: @att.net>

Sent: April 8, 2022 6:07 PM

To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

Cc: Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>; office@liberal.ns.ca; GaryBurrillMLA@gmail.com; provsec@nsndp.ca;

feedback@nsndp.ca

Subject: Open pit gold mine on the Eastern Shore

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Environmental Assessment Branch Nova Scotia Environment P.O. Box 442 Halifax, NS, B3J 2P8

Fax: (902) 424-6925 Phone: (902) 424-3600 Fax: (902) 424-6925

E-mail: EA@novascotia.ca < mailto: EA@novascotia.ca >

Re: Open pit gold mine on the Eastern Shore

The massive, open pit gold mine on the Eastern Shore is currently being considered for expansion. If approved, Atlantic Mining could create other big mines in the area and truck the mine tailings from those sites to their original mine. Many are questioning this approach including the added environmental impacts of the additional tailings at the Touquoy mine.

Yours sincerely,

bcc

Premier Tim Houston Office of the Premier 1700 Granville Street Halifax, NS B3J 1X5 Fax: 902-424-7648

Toll-Free: 1-800-267-1993

premier@novascotia.ca < mailto:premier@novascotia.ca >

Iain Rankin Nova Scotia Liberal Party P.O. Box 723 5151 George Street, Suite 1400 Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada B3J 1M5

Tel: (902) 429-1993 Fax: (902) 423-1624

Email: office@liberal.ns.ca < mailto:office@liberal.ns.ca >

Gary Burrill Leader of the Nova Scotia NDP Suite 603, 5151 George Street Halifax, NS, B3J 1M5

$$\label{lem:lemonth} \begin{split} Email: Gary Burrill MLA @gmail.com < & \underline{mailto:Gary Burrill MLA @gmail.com} > \text{, feedback@nsndp.ca} < & \underline{mailto:feedback@nsndp.ca} > \text{, provsec@nsndp.ca} < & \underline{mailto:provsec@nsndp.ca} > \end{split}$$

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments
Date: April 11, 2022 8:46:38 AM

From junk box

----Original Message----

From: @live.nl>

Sent: April 10, 2022 1:44 PM

To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

**Subject: Proposed Project Comments** 

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I am opposed to this project. Gold mining is not necessary. It is not a critical element to be be mined. There is plenty of gold already existing that can be re-used or recycled. It will ruin the precious environment, it will create toxic waste that needs to be taken care of. This will cost a lot of tax payers money. We need to protect the little green space that is left in our Province. Our Government and our society needs to move towards renewable and real sustainable economy. Gold mining is not part of that. Name:

Email: @live.nl Address: Municipality: Elmsdale email\_message: Privacy-

Statement: agree x: 32 y: 25

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments
Date: April 11, 2022 8:47:06 AM

Junk box

----Original Message-----

From: @hotmail.com>

Sent: April 8, 2022 8:12 PM

To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

Subject: Proposed Project Comments

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: No to More Gold Mining! Protect the Environment For All Creatures! God Is Watching! Name: Email: @hotmail.com Address: POPLAR CRES., Aurora, Ontario, Canada Municipality: AURORA email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 64 y: 29

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments
Date: April 11, 2022 8:47:24 AM

----Original Message-----

From: @gmail.com>

Sent: April 8, 2022 7:35 PM

To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca> Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Proposed Project Comments

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: Gold mines in Nova Scotia are environmentally destructive. Gold mines in NS rape the landscape for minimal public benefit trucking additional tailings from mines to the Tourquoy site is a ridiculous proposition increasing transportation-related GHG emissions while adding more potentially environmentally hazardous tailings to a site which is already stressed and not generally supported by the public. I say no to the the Tourquoy mine site and its modifications. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address: Municipality: Mahoneys beach email message: Privacy-

Statement: agree x: 1502 y: 401

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
To: Environment Assessment Web Account
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments
Date: April 11, 2022 8:47:35 AM

----Original Message-----

From: @dal.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2022 7:20 PM

To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>

**Subject: Proposed Project Comments** 

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: The proposed site modifications further impact on wildlife habitat, both within the modification footprints and in adjacent areas via zones of influence on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Proposed modifications would expand the waste rock storage area and clay borrow area, and would realign the plant access road to the mill facility and administrative buildings, adding approximately 18 ha to the existing site. Zones of influence from these activities in both construction and operation phases extend well beyond the footprint, up to 1 km for birds, 6 km for black bear, 17 km for large cats and other species sensitive to human presence and activities, including the endangered Mainland moose. Cumulative direct and indirect impacts associated with this and other developments and activities in the region are contributing to the continued decline of biodiversity, including many at-risk species listed under SARA and NS ESA. These modifications serve to encourage future mining activity, further acerbating the situation in the region. I urge that these modifications not be permitted. Name:

[Municipality: Halifax email message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 55 y: 22

From: @gmail.com

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject:Proposed Project CommentsDate:March 25, 2022 5:40:12 AM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: The site modifications documented in the recent environmental assessment would be very beneficial to the local working population and were very well thought out and thorough. These would allow us to continue working in a environmentally friendly and responsible manner for much time to come. The quality/construction and planning for said projects leave nothing to be desired as all are very well done to exceed expectations. Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address: Stewiacke Municipality: email message: Privacy-

Statement: agree x: 87 y: 24

From: <u>@eastlink.ca</u>

To: <u>Environment Assessment Web Account</u>

Subject:Proposed Project CommentsDate:March 25, 2022 7:54:21 AM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: As a team member at St Barbaraâ? Ts Atlantic Operations, I know how important these proposed project modifications are to the region where we work. We have operated safely since 2017 and these proposed modifications will aid us in continuing to operate in the same safe, sustainable and respectable way to the environment. Many of my colleagues worked hard on the numerous documents and studies that were completed and submitted to the government, I have confidence in the science that was used and that these modifications can be completed to a very high standard. I am confident that the team responsible for this project, including third-party technical specialists, have completed thorough investigations, analysis, and designs to provide fulsome responses to the information requests, and am confident in the conclusions presented. The work carried out and presented in the submission confirms the conclusions presented earlier: in consideration of the assessment, mitigation, planned follow up and monitoring, the planned modifications to the Touquoy site are not likely to result in significant environmental effects. I thank you for your time and fully support these modifications being approved Name:

Email:

@eastlink.ca Address: Pictou, NS Canada

Municipality: Pictou email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 56 y: 20

From: <u>@mun.ca</u>

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

Subject:Proposed Project CommentsDate:March 25, 2022 9:26:42 AM

## \*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\*

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Project: touquoy-gold-project-site-modifications/ Comments: I agree with the project. Globally, Canada has some of the most stringent Environmental rules and regulations. Therefore if we are to get our mineral resources from here, we know companies have to abide by these rules which include EAs, habitat offsetting, consistent communication with government officials during operation and high quality closure plans. If we simply turn a blind eye and obtain gold from other countries without the same environmental standards, we are in fact doing more harm to the environment but feeling it does not affect us because it is not in out backyard. In Nova Scotia, we are held to the highest standards, can monitor every impact and feel we have made the right decision about obtaining our gold. We require gold for more than just expensive jewelry gold is used in industries such as: automotive, electronics, medical and an array of others. I believe the best thing we can do for the earth is source it in Canada, where we can be confident it is being done in the most environmentally sound way. Name:

Email: @mun.ca Address: Municipality: Halifax email\_message: Privacy-

Statement: agree x: 72 y: 27