

## **Additional Information Requirements For Mining and Mineral Extraction Projects**

Pursuant to Section 5(2) of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation* of the Clean Environment Act, this document is intended to assist proponents in preparing a registration submission for projects involving the above-mentioned sector. It should be read in conjunction with the General Information Requirements as outlined in the latest version of the Registration Guide. Note that the following items are requirements **in addition to** those outlined in the Registration Guide. The information requested in the Registration Guide must also be provided. For further assistance, please contact the Project Assessment and Approvals Branch, Department of Environment at (506)-444-5382.

After reviewing a registration submission, the Technical Review Committee may require other information beyond the items listed below and in the Registration Guide.

Note: Certain mining projects may also require a comprehensive study under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Please contact the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Atlantic Region at (902) 426-0564 to determine if your project requires a comprehensive study.

### **Definition**

This guideline is applicable to all projects involving the commercial extraction or processing of a mineral as defined in the Mining Act :

*“mineral” means any natural, solid, inorganic or fossilized organic substance and such other substances as are prescribed by regulation to be minerals, but does not include:*

- (a) sand, gravel, ordinary stone, clay or soil unless it is to be used for its chemical or special physical properties, or both, or where it is taken for contained minerals,*
- (b) ordinary stone used for building or construction,*
- (c) peat or peat moss \**
- (d) bituminous shale, oil shale, albertite or intimately associated substances or products derived there from,*
- (e) oil or natural gas, or*
- (f) such other substances as are prescribed by regulation not to be minerals.*

\* If the project involves peat extraction refer to the guideline: Additional Information Requirements For Peat Development Projects.

A complete list of potential triggers for project registration is provided in Schedule “A” of the Regulation. To determine if registration is required for a specific project, please contact the Project Assessment and Approvals Branch at the number listed above.

Please note the following:

The Standing Committee on Mining and the Environment (SCME) was established to expedite and provide consistency in the mines review/approval process. The committee has representation from the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment and Local Government, and Environment Canada.

Within the limits of the existing legislative framework, the committee represents a "one window" approach for the mining sector in dealing with the mines approval process. As a result, the SCME serves as the focal point for government activities related to the mineral sector.

Please contact the Minerals Branch of the Department of Natural Resources at (506) 453-2206 for further information regarding this committee.

## **1.0 THE PROPONENT**

See Registration Guide

## **2.0 THE UNDERTAKING**

### (ii) Project Overview:

Include a description of:

- the proposed mining method (open pit, shaft, etc.);
- the ore extraction method (cutting, blasting, etc.); and
- the proposed method(s) of ore shipping and handling.

### (v) Siting Considerations:

- Include a delineation of the ore body/deposit and factors that were considered in evaluating and delineating the ore body (market price estimates, ore concentrations, etc.).
- Describe the geology/geotechnical features of the deposit.
- Describe any previous exploration or mining activities at the site

(vi) Physical Components and Dimensions of the Project:

Provide a detailed description of the proposed project, addressing the requirements contained in the Registration Guide. For this class of project the required information includes but is not limited to:

- The type and amount of solid and liquid waste materials and the location of the waste storage and disposal sites;
- A description of all water and wastewater retention and treatment ponds;
- The wastewater treatment technologies to be employed;
- The location and storage of all on-site chemicals and fuels;
- Proposed buffers between project activities and sensitive land uses or environmental features; and
- Any environmental criteria that influenced the location of infrastructure.

(vii) Construction Details:

Provide a detailed description of the proposed construction activities and methods, addressing the requirements contained in the Registration Guide. For this class of project the required information includes but is not limited to:

- The total land area to be disturbed annually and during the life of the project;
- Details of any clearing and grubbing activities and the fate of any merchantable timber and topsoil removed during these activities; and
- Details (timing, location and method) of any major excavations

(viii) Operation and Maintenance Details:

Provide a detailed description of the proposed project's operation and maintenance characteristics, addressing the requirements contained in the Registration Guide. For this class of project the required information includes but is not limited to:

- The proposed development schedule and estimated life of the project;
- Methods for control of leachate from rock storage areas;
- Site runoff containment and erosion control;

- Dewatering techniques;
  - Process and potable water requirements and water sources;
  - Sewage treatment facilities if necessary;
  - Annual power requirements and proposed power source;
  
  - The project infrastructure requirements, including existing and proposed haul roads, stockpile sites, transport facilities, etc.;
  - Describe the volumes and types of traffic associated with the movement of goods, services and personnel to and from the project site during construction, operation, and reclamation of the project; and
  - Characterize and estimate volumes of any waste materials that may be generated on site including overburden, waste rock, and tailings, and describe the location and methods for waste storage/disposal.
- (ix) Future Modifications, Extensions, or Abandonment:

- A conceptual closure plan must be provided at the time of project registration.

### **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT**

Include all relevant environmental features as noted in the Registration Guide. Examples of issues that may be of particular relevance to this class of project include but are not limited to the following:

- Existing wildlife resources and their habitat.
- Existing fisheries resources.
- Existing hydrological conditions, and any known hydrogeological conditions.
- Any past, current or future projects and activities in the project area whose effects may interact with those of the project under review.

#### **4.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

All anticipated impacts should be described and discussed. These will depend on the scope and complexity of the project as well as the project location. See the Registration Guide for further information. Examples of impacts resulting from this class of project may include but are not limited to the following:

- Air Emissions – identify and describe emission sources for the project, including point and non-point sources, and fugitive emissions. Estimate the range of emissions from the above sources for normal conditions and during accidents and malfunctions. Describe probable deposition areas and effects on soils, vegetation.
- Potential for noise and vibration impact.
- Discharges and liquid effluents – Describe all such effluents and their discharge locations.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED MITIGATION**

Describe all mitigative measures that will be employed to minimize the potential environmental impacts identified above. These may include but are not limited to the following:

- Environmental monitoring programs (surface water, groundwater, wastewater soil, vegetation, etc.).
- Measures to reduce noise and vibration impact on adjacent sensitive land uses.
- Proposed sediment and erosion control techniques.
- Groundwater/surface water protection methods.
- Tailings management techniques (if applicable).
- Spill-proof chemical storage areas, and other spill prevention practices.
- Spill clean-up/contingency Plans

#### **6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVMENT**

See Registration Guide.

#### **7.0 APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING**

See Registration Guide.

## **8.0 FUNDING**

See Registration Guide.

## **9.0 SIGNATURE**

See Registration Guide.

## **10.0 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

See Registration Guide.

## **OTHER APPLICABLE GUIDELINES**

Depending on the details of the project, it may be appropriate to also consult other guidelines including Additional Information Requirements for Ports, Harbours & Wharves, Additional Information Requirements for Dams, Impoundments and Causeways, Additional Information Requirements for Waterworks and Water Supply, and Additional Information Requirements for Linear Facilities.