



BRIEFING NOTE

SCOPING: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF SEHELTT CARBONATE MINE

ISSUE

Responsible Authorities for the comprehensive study environmental assessment of the proposed Sechelt Carbonate mine in Sechelt, BC are scoping narrowly to their regulatory triggers. Environment Canada should provide comments outside the scope of the federal assessment directly to the BC Environmental Assessment Office, who are scoping broadly.

SUMMARY

- The Sechelt Carbonate Mine is undergoing a harmonized CEAA/BCEAA comprehensive study assessment. The Responsible Authorities are DFO and Transport Canada (TC). Environment Canada is a federal authority. The assessment is a comprehensive study by virtue of a marine terminal required as part of the mine.
- DFO and TC are proposing to scope narrowly to their regulatory triggers. Their scope includes the marine terminal and the partial draining of Carleson Creek. The mine quarries, mine process area, conveyor belt, roads and transmission line are not included in their proposed scope. The BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) will scope the project broadly to include the entire mine, including all the components listed above.
- The following impacts from the quarries, process area and conveyor belt may not be adequately addressed by a broadly scoped BCEAO assessment and narrowly-scoped federal assessment: impacts to migratory birds due to removing old growth forests and wetlands; impacts to water quality due to accidents and malfunctions in the quarry; impacts to air quality due to quarry and conveyor belt operations.
- Environment Canada should provide its comments directly to the BC EAO, and thereby avoid assuming "RA-like" responsibilities associated with broadening the scope of the federal assessment, while still having a level of assurance that our advice will result in the protection of the environmental we are seeking.

CURRENT STATUS

The Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator (in this case, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency) and the federal authorities want to agree on a common scope and finalize a

C:\Documents and Settings\dmcmillan\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\OIHGO3P6\2006203 08 Scoping BN.doc

scoping document for public review by the end of March to coincide with the BC EAO public comment period for the Draft Terms of Reference.

CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed mine and associated marine terminal have already been the subject of significant controversy in the Sechelt area, among residents, the local government and the Sechelt Indian Band. Long term land use planning and potential impacts to groundwater are the primary concerns. Public and First Nations consultations issues are expected to be significant for this file.

Environment Canada clearly has interests outside the scope of the federal assessment that may not be considered within the broadly-scoped provincial assessment.

By providing comments directly to the BC EAO, Environment Canada can avoid "RA-like" responsibilities associated with broadening the scope of the federal assessment, while still having a similar level of assurance that our advice will result in the protection of the environmental we are seeking. It is the BC EAO, not federal Responsible Authorities, that has traditionally included Environment Canada concerns in its table of commitments. We minimize process and maximize environmental results.

DEPARTMENTAL POSITION

Environment Canada, as a member of the Environmental Assessment Projects Committee, is a party to the *Interim Approach for Determining Scope of Project for Major Development Proposals with Specific Regulatory Triggers under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. This approach includes scoping projects narrowly (i.e. including only those aspects related to the Responsible Authorities "regulatory triggers"). In cases where expert federal authorities advocate a broader scope, the approach calls for these federal authorities to assume "RA-like" responsibilities for those areas in which they would like the scope broadened.

NEXT STEPS

- EC will advise Responsible Authorities of its scoping position.

BACKGROUND

Pan Pacific Aggregates Limited proposed to construct limestone and dolomite quarry mine on a 670 hectare lot near Sechelt, British Columbia. Product would be drilled and blasted from the quarries, crushed and screened. Clean rock product would be conveyed to the marine terminal and loaded onto barges for delivery. The project generally includes two mine quarries, a processing area, a new marine terminal, a transmission line, a conveyor belt, and road upgrades.

Drafting Officer's Name: Adam La Rusic
Branch/Division: EOPD / PY
Phone No: (604) 666-8342

C:\Documents and Settings\dmcmillan\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\OIHGO3P6\2006303 08 Scoping BN.doc

Date Drafted: 08 March 2007
Approved by:
Date:
Revised by:
Date:
Approved by:
Date:

C:\Documents and Settings\dmcmillan\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\OIHGO3P6\20064
03 08 Scoping BN.doc