



Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

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Voisey's Bay Mine and Mill Project

News Release

Panel Recommends Project Proceed Under Certain Conditions

OTTAWA, April 1, 1999 - The joint environmental assessment panel reviewing the proposal for the Voisey's Bay mine and mill project made its report public today.

After carefully reviewing all aspects of the Project and listening to the opinions of government, Aboriginal organizations and many other people, the Panel recommends that the project be authorized to proceed subject to certain conditions. These conditions, set out in the Panel's recommendations, cover issues such as the relationship of the project to land claims negotiations, the need for impact benefit agreements, marine transportation and ice-user safety, harvesting compensation, environmental co-management and the maximization of socio-economic benefits.

Provided the conditions set out in the report are met, the Panel concluded that the Project would not seriously or irreversibly harm the natural environment and that the people of northern Labrador could receive lasting social and economic benefits through employment and business opportunities.

The Panel was appointed in January 1997 following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that established the environmental assessment review of the proposed Voisey's Bay mining development. The MOU signatories included the Government of Canada, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Labrador Inuit Association and the Innu Nation. On March 31, 1999, the Panel conveyed their report to representatives of these signatories as required by the MOU.

The proposed nickel-copper-cobalt mining development is located near Voisey's Bay, on the coast of Labrador between the Inuit community of Nain and the Innu community of Utshimassits (Davis Inlet). The proponent is the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company (VBNC), a subsidiary of Inco Limited. The main components of VBNC's proposal include open pit and underground mine operations, a mill, waste management areas, a port facility, and marine transportation.

Copies of the Panel's report are available upon request. Copies of the summary in English, French, Inuktitut and Innu-Eimun are also available.

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Proactive Disclosures

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