

Notice of Opportunity to Provide Input on a Category C Project

Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act

Gould Copper Mine Rehabilitation Project

The Ministry of Mines (MINES) invites you to comment on the Gould Copper Mine Rehabilitation Project, located in Gould Township, approximately 70 km east of Sault Ste. Marie and 45 km north of Thessalon, Ontario. The project location is provided below on Figure 1.

The objective of the project is to rehabilitate the mine hazards at the Gould Copper Mine to eliminate the risk to the public and the environment. The mine hazards to be addressed includes: two raises to surface, an adit, crown pillar, and the remnants of infrastructure. Bat acoustics studies have confirmed the presence of bat species at risk, with individual bats observed flying in and out of the mine adit. The underground workings are assumed to be utilized by bats as a hibernaculum. A geotechnical investigation has determined that the crown pillar associated with the adit is not long-term stable and, as a result, bat-friendly rehabilitation measures (e.g., stainless steel gates) are not feasible as it would not address the long-term stability of the adit crown pillar. The proposed rehabilitation approach for the adit is to backfill to support the crown pillar and prevent it from unravelling. The backfill will also permanently prevent access to the adit by the public but will result in the permanent loss of bat habitat.

The rehabilitation strategy for the two raises is to backfill using a combination of cemented and uncemented material to maintain long-term stability. Mine infrastructure to be decommissioned includes a hydro substation, mill site foundations, a water tank, and two steel barrels. Disturbed areas will be backfilled and landscaped, as required, and allowed to revegetate naturally to match surrounding habitat.

This proposed Category C project is being carried out in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Activities under the Mining Act* (Class EA). You are invited to provide input and express any concerns about this proposed project. Comments must be received by **July 3, 2023**. For more information, or to submit comments on the project, please contact:

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Please note that personal information provided in a submission (such as name, address, and telephone number) and your views and opinions are being collected by

MINES under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* for the purpose of engaging in public consultation and making decisions regarding the project. The personal information may also be shared with the Environmental Approvals Branch of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservations and Parks. The collection, use, and disclosure of this information are all governed by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Questions about the collection of this information should be directed to the contact listed above.

Figure 1: Project Location

