

# SEABRIDGE GOLD

October 30, 2017

DeSmog Blog Editor

Via email @ [editor@desmog.ca](mailto:editor@desmog.ca)

Dear Editor:

**Re: Correction of Inaccuracies Contained Within the Article “In Photos, The Canadian Mining Boom You’ve Never Seen Before”**

I write again to request the termination of the ongoing inaccurate portrayal of the KSM within DeSmog’s sponsored articles. I have sent factual information on numerous occasions, the most recent on October 4, via an email exchange between myself and Judith Lavoie, on which you were copied. On this basis, I request immediate clarification of inaccuracies contained within today’s article, “*In Photos, the Canadian Mining Boom You’ve Never Seen Before*”, written by Garth Lentz.

Specifically, the inaccuracies are as follows;

1. ***Once built, it will be become the largest open pit gold and copper mine in North America, with three open pits and two underground mines.***

This statement is inaccurate. KSM **when** it goes into production, will be similar in size to the existing Highland Valley Copper Mine, with a proposed production rate of 130,000 tonnes per day of ore. In addition, there are several existing mines in South America which exceed KSM proposed throughput rate of 130,000 tonnes per day. Further, the Bingham Canyon mine situated in the US, has a production rate that exceeds that which is proposed for KSM. In effect KSM will be an average sized mine when in production.

2. ***The project entails mining under an active glacier.***

This statement is incorrect as the KSM Project **will not** have a mining operation situated under an active glacier.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight omissions and clarifications which underscore DeSmog’s ongoing biases and regular contribution to the creation of an atmosphere of fear and mistrust against responsible resource development. The KSM Project’s proposed tailings management (TMF) facility **is not located** on a transboundary river draining into Alaska. Additionally, the article failed to highlight that a 23 kilometre tunnel is being proposed to ensure the proposed waste products are situated in the best location for long term responsible and safe management of the waste. The proposed TMF is the best location selected after an extensive and exhaustive review of all available options. By selecting this location, significant costs in excess of \$1Billion USD have been added to the project costs. Seabridge would have preferred a less

expensive option by locating the proposed TMF closer to the mineral deposits within a transboundary river basin, however this option would not have been environmentally responsible. It must also be noted that relying on a tunnel is another environmentally responsible design feature associated with KSM because it ensures less surface disturbance will occur.

The article also fails to highlight that the KSM Project underwent a joint BC-Canada environmental assessment as mandated by the BC Environmental Assessment Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (1992) respectively. The federal environmental assessment process was deemed to be a comprehensive study review following public consultation by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) in 2009. The independent environmental assessment review processes for KSM occurred over 70 months between March 2008 and December 2014 and concluded with receipt of the Federal Government's approval as signed by the Canadian Minister of Environment on December 19, 2014. The BC approval was granted on July 29, 2014 with signatures from the Minister of Energy and Mines and the Minister of Environment.

The significant public support that Seabridge has developed for the KSM Project is also another significant omission. As highlighted previously, Seabridge has worked diligently with Canadian Treaty and First Nations to address their concerns including those associated with KSM's proposed tailings management approach and over the last half decade has established respectful and meaningful relationships with those groups in close proximity to KSM. As such we have signed a Benefits Agreement with the Nisga'a Nation in June of 2014; we have an Environmental Agreement with the Gitanyow First Nation; we received a letter of support from the Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs' office during the EA review; and we addressed the environmental and social concerns of the Tahltan as stated within the report submitted by the Tahltan Heritage, Resources, Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT), which is on file at the BC Environmental Assessment Office. In addition, we have received letters of support from the communities of Terrace and Smithers.

I again request the immediate clarification of the factual errors contained within the above-mentioned article and further request more accurate reporting of the KSM Project going forward. I also encourage you and your writers to read the KSM Environment Assessment document and to make use of our KSM project web site at [www.ksmproject.com](http://www.ksmproject.com) for specific project details.

I appreciate your time, and would be pleased to answer any questions you have regarding the KSM Project. I can be reached via email, [brent@seabridgegold.net](mailto:brent@seabridgegold.net), or by mobile, (867) 445-5553.

Yours truly,



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