

# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN EA APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED

**Seabridge Gold is frequently asked what happens after it submits its Environmental Assessment (EA) application for the KSM Project this fall.**

First, it's important to remember that the KSM Project is undergoing a joint federal and provincial environmental review, which is typical for major mining projects. While the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) assess many similar areas, their legislative focus is different.

## **Screening period**

Under the joint review, Seabridge will submit one combined EA application to the BC EAO and the CEAA. The BC EAO and CEAA then conduct an initial screening to ensure the application is complete and that it addresses the information required in the Application Information Requirements (AIR) or terms of reference.

## **Application reviews**

The application review period begins once the government agencies agree the application is complete and has all the necessary project information. The application includes a detailed project description, environmental baseline studies (soils, vegetation, water, wildlife, fish, aquatics, climate, air and noise, archaeology and traditional use studies among others), as well as predicted impacts of the KSM Project on the environment (physical and social) and the actions Seabridge has taken to avoid, prevent or mitigate potential impacts. During this time, the BC EAO, CEAA, Provincial and Federal regulators, Treaty and First Nations and general public review the application.

The BC EA review period is 180 days and includes 30 days for the general public to review the application and provide comments to the government. The application is on the BC EAO website during

the review period. Under the CEAA review, the application is posted to its website and public comment periods are available.

The EAO and CEAA will each complete a report documenting their respective findings from the application, including how project concerns have been addressed and whether there are any outstanding issues. Assessment reports are then posted on each of the websites. Seabridge is actively involved in these reviews, presenting aspects of the Project and answering questions from reviewers.

## **Minister's decision period**

The BC EAO and CEAA forward the assessment reports to their respective ministers, along with a recommendation from the EAO about whether or not to issue an EA certificate. The EAO ministers have 45 days to make their decision. The CEAA Minister of the Environment makes a decision within a similar time period.

## **Once a decision is made**

There's a common misperception that once an EA certificate is granted, a company can immediately begin building a mine. That's not the case. The Environmental Assessment is a systematic analysis and evaluation of the impacts of a proposed project in terms of its environmental, economic and social sustainability. Once an EA certificate is granted, a proponent then has to apply for the necessary permits, licenses and land-use approvals (federal and provincial) in order to build and operate the mine.

## **Learn more about the KSM Project in person**

Seabridge will be holding community open houses in Smithers (September 11), Terrace (September 18) and Stewart (October 18) to share more information about the KSM Project. For more information, visit the News-Events on [www.ksmproject.com](http://www.ksmproject.com) and look for our ads in upcoming community newspapers.



**Learn more about the KSM Project**

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