

KSM MINING ULC

A SUBSIDIARY OF SEABRIDGE GOLD INC.

November 2, 2020

Attention:

Emma Gilchrist
Editor-in-Chief and Executive Director, The Narwhal

Via Email:

emma@thenarwhal.ca

Dear Ms. Gilchrist,

RE: Response to the Narwhal's October 22 article: *B.C. voters support mining reforms that protect the environment, make polluter pay: poll*, written by Matt Simmons

I am writing to correct the record with regard to the Narwhal's October 22 article: *B.C. voters support mining reforms that protect the environment, make polluter pay: poll*, written by Matt Simmons, Northwest B.C. Reporter.

In the article, Mr. Simmons quoted Nikki Skuce where she used Seabridge Gold's KSM Project's example to support her claim that B.C.'s mining laws support projects even if they are located near important watersheds.

However, in the article Mr. Simmons failed to mention that the proposed KSM Project successfully completed a rigorous independent joint harmonized BC-CANADA Environmental Assessment over a seven-year period (2007-2104) as mandated by the BC Environmental Assessment Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (1992) respectively.

Notably, the Canadian Minister of the Environment, in her decision statement approving KSM, concluded "*The project is not likely to cause adverse environmental effects as defined in the former Act (referring to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 1991), taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures described in the report*" and "*the mitigation measures and follow up programs described in the Report are appropriate for the project*".

This approval was granted following a thorough independent review of the KSM's environmental impact statement which described the potential residual effects associated with the project on all valued ecosystem components, including water quality and quantity, in accordance and as defined by the former Act. A regional cumulative effects assessment and alternative analyses were also completed, as required by CEAA (and BC). The Minister, in making her decision, relied upon a Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency scientific report which stated, "*The agency has concluded that no significant adverse impacts on water quality, water quantity, fish, or human health are expected on the Alaskan side of the Unuk River.*" This concluding statement also holds true for the Bell Irving watershed in which the Tailings Management Facility (TMF) is located.

The substantial public support that Seabridge has gathered for the KSM Project is also another significant omission in the article. During the EA process, Seabridge Gold conducted hundreds of meetings with community members, regulators, Treaty and First Nations. Seabridge also voluntarily conducted over 130 meetings/interactions with Alaskan community members, regulators and Tribes during the EA process. As a result of these meetings and feedback from all participants Seabridge made \$300 million dollars in design changes to the project's capital cost. We also 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.

For more than 10 years, Seabridge Gold has been working continuously with Indigenous people and businesses to ensure mutually beneficial Projects. We have also signed a far-reaching Benefits Agreement with the Nisga'a Nation in 2014 and Tahltan Nation in 2019 covering protections of Indigenous rights, the environment and shared economic benefits for the KSM Project.

In closing, it is important to emphasize that Seabridge fully meets the standards set by the Canadian and Provincial governments to ensure the structural and chemical stability of the project's water and tailings management systems and it was for these reasons that the project received its environmental approvals in 2014. Therefore, KSM will be able to operate without harming the environment, including the major watersheds in which we will operate,

I request an immediate clarification of the errors contained within the above-mentioned article and further request more accurate reporting of the KSM Project going forward.

If you or Mr. Simmons wish to discuss the project and what we are doing to protect water and aquatic life in greater detail and learn accurate facts about the Project, I can be reached via email, brent@seabridgegold.net.

Sincerely,



R Brent Murphy, M.Sc., P.Geol.,
Senior Vice President, Environmental Affairs
RBM/RS/...

CC. Matt Simmons
Northwest B.C. Reporter for The Narwhal
matt@thenarwhal.ca

Nikki Skuce
Director, Northern Confluence
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