

Factual Information about the KSM Project

Environmental Assessment

The proposed KSM Project successfully completed a rigorous independent joint harmonized BC-CANADA Environmental Assessment (EA) over a seven-year period (2007-2104) and under the Nisga'a Lisims Treaty. 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"*.

Furthermore, the Minister, in making her decision, relied upon Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's (CEAA) 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."*

Existing Water quality of Sulphurets Creek

Since 2007, Seabridge Gold has been conducting ongoing water quality and hydrology monitoring within both the Unuk River, which drains into the Alaska border and tributaries of the Bell Irving River, spending approximately \$1-1.5 M million annually on these programs. Based on the data collected, it has been determined that Mitchell and Sulphurets creeks (flowing into the Unuk River) contain elevated concentrations of selenium and other metals such as copper, zinc, and iron within the water, due to the natural erosion of the Mitchell Deposit, situated in the upper reaches of the Mitchell Creek, creating a chemical barrier to fish activity within these headwaters streams to the Unuk River. **Water quality in these watersheds cannot therefore be characterized as pristine.**

The picture below demonstrates the existing natural condition-



Photo 1: Confluence of Sulphurets Creek with the Unuk river depicting the impact of the natural erosion of the upstream mineral deposits on the regional water quality. The confluence is located approximately 22 miles upriver from the Alaska/BC border.

Protecting and improving the water quality in and around the KSM Project is one of the top priorities of the Seabridge Gold, and indeed a potential benefit of the development of the Project. Therefore, an extensive water management system has been proposed and vetted in the extensive environmental assessment process. This process will not only manage water that has been in contact with mining activities but will also **improve** the existing naturally poor water quality of the Mitchell and Sulphurets Creeks and Unuk River.

We would also like to add that Dr. Chris J. Kennedy, a qualified professional from Simon Fraser University after conducting an **independent assessment** of the KSM Project's impact on the water quality and fish species in the Unuk River concluded **that Seabridge and its consultants are accurate in predicting KSM will not impact the Unuk River.**

For additional information please visit –

<https://ksmproject.com/project/water-quality-map/protecting-and-improving-water-quality-2/>
<https://ksmproject.com/project/water-quality-map/unuk-river-watershed-baseline-characterization-report/>

Working with Alaska

The KSM Project's mineral deposits are situated geographically north of the BC/Alaska Border on Sulphurets Creek, River, an area in which both the BC and Canadian governments allow responsible mineral exploration and mining to occur. Due to the deposit's location, concerns of Alaskans along with the potential impacts to Alaskan waters were an important focus and carefully evaluated during the environmental assessment reviews. During the EA process, Seabridge Gold conducted hundreds of meetings with community members, Alaskan and US Federal regulators, Treaty and First Nations to learn and address the concerns of Alaskans. In response to concerns raised during the EA process, including those of Alaskan residents, Seabridge agreed to changes to the Project's design that will add more than \$300 million to the costs of building KSM.

The State of Alaska was concerned about the potential elimination of fish habitat in BC watersheds that drain to Alaska, and the impact downstream to Alaskan fishery resources and water quality. Following the EA process, the participating US Federal and State agencies did not identify any outstanding transboundary concerns.

An April 2014 article in the Juneau Empire described the US's review of the KSM Project as follows: *“Four of the same resource managers and specialists who review Alaskan mines have examined KSM's plan, said Kyle Moselle of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. They found no significant issues with the application.”*

Moreover, the CEAA Report states the participating US Federal and State agencies did not identify any outstanding transboundary concerns with the EA. Alaskan concerns and mitigation of these concerns were also identified within the British Columbia Provincial Government's “Reasons for Ministers’ Decisions on the KSM Project.

For additional information please visit - <https://ksmproject.com/responsible-development/working-with-alaska/>

Engaging with our Indigenous Partners

To Seabridge, working alongside Indigenous groups during Project permitting, planning and development stages is critical to the success of all Projects. For the past 12 years, Seabridge Gold has worked closely with the local communities to gain the social license to operate. Because of the trust built through these consultations, engagements and the accommodations made to address concerns, Seabridge entered into a comprehensive Benefits Agreements with both the Nisga'a Lisims Treaty Nation in 2014 and the Tahltan Nation in 2019 (the First Nations on whose traditional territory the KSM Project is located), covering protections of Indigenous rights, the environment and shared economic benefits for the KSM Project. Seabridge Gold also has an environmental agreement with the Gitanyow Wilps and the Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs have endorsed the Project with a letter of support for the environmental assessment approval. We have also received letters from the local communities of Terrace and Smithers both supporting the KSM Project.

For Seabridge Gold, protection of the environment in both Canada and the US is a guiding principle behind all our Projects. We are committed to sustainably developing all our Projects and would like to reiterate that the KSM Project has been through extensive environmental and technical evaluations by independent experts to ensure its operation will not cause harm to the surrounding environment, including waterways and fish, and has worked closely with all stakeholders, including Alaskans, to ensure that their concerns were acknowledged and addressed throughout the environmental assessment review.
