

# KSM MINING ULC

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December 16, 2021

Attention:

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Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

**Re: Inaccurate information about the approval of the KSM Project**

The purpose of this correspondence is to address inaccurate information regarding the environmental assessment approvals of the KSM Project published in your recent report titled '*U.S. Pressure Builds for B.C. to Address Upstream Mine Threats*'.

In this report you falsely state that the British Columbia Government gave the go-ahead to the KSM mine without a federal environmental review (page 9 of the report). Nothing could be further from the truth, and we can't comprehend how or why this falsehood was published in your report. 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. These independent environmental assessment review processes occurred over 70 months between March 2008 and December 2014 and concluded with the **receipt of the federal government's approval as signed by the Minister of Environment on December 19, 2014**. You can read the [Minister of the Environment's Environmental Assessment Decision Statement here](#).

In the report, you also conveniently omitted the fact that the KSM Project underwent one of the most comprehensive environmental assessments ever undertaken by Canada and British Columbia. Between 2008 and 2014, approximately 250 independent scientists from across 20 disciplines along with a cadre of geophysical, geotechnical mining, design and civil engineers, social scientists, and Indigenous traditional scientists worked together to research and publish 36,000 pages of scientifically rigorous information as it related to the potential environment, economic, social, heritage, cumulative, health, and international impacts of this Project. Once the 36,000 pages of scientific information was collected and collated, **the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**, the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office along with numerous Canadian, US Federal and Alaska regulatory agencies, the Nisga'a Lisims' Government and the Tahltan Central Government, through their Tahltan Heritage Resources Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT), conducted extensive, independent reviews of the information.

To be clear, in 2014, **After a seven-year review process, the KSM Project received approvals under the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (1992) and the Nisga'a Final Agreement.**

**The Canadian Government, as represented by the 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 1992), 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.*"

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While we are always willing to consider, debate and discuss science and alternative perspectives about the KSM Project, we strongly feel the misinformation in your report was intentionally perpetuated to harm Seabridge Gold and the KSM Project's reputation. As such, we are taking this matter seriously and require a full public retraction and correction of the incorrect information by December 31, otherwise we will consider our next steps.

For Seabridge Gold, protection of the environment in both Canada and in the US is a guiding principle behind the KSM Project. 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 provincial and federal government environmental assessment reviews.

In closing, I would be happy to answer any questions you have about how we are sustainably advancing the KSM Project. You can reach out to me via email [brent@seabridgegold.com](mailto:brent@seabridgegold.com).

Sincerely,



R. Brent Murphy, M.Sc., P.Geo  
Senior Vice President, Environmental Affairs  
Seabridge Gold

RBM/RS/...

CC. Kyle Moselle, Executive Director, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

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