

October 2, 2024

**Via Email:** [will@riverswithoutborders.org](mailto:will@riverswithoutborders.org)

**Attention:** Will Patric, Executive Director of Rivers Without Borders.

Dear Mr. Patric:

**RE: Misleading information about the KSM Project's Substantially Started Determination**

I am writing to address misinformation in your latest blog '*KSM - Substantially Started?*'. While Rivers Without Borders has a history of spreading misinformation about the KSM Project, your latest effort to discredit the Substantially Started Determination (SSD) status along with our two decades of dedicated efforts and the strong support of our First Nation partners for our KSM Project is particularly troubling. Your assertions are based purely on assumptions, lacking any factual basis.

We have previously extended invitations to engage with Rivers Without Borders, offering to meet and provide accurate information and address any legitimate concerns you may have. Unfortunately, these requests have been ignored, which raises serious questions about your true intentions. It leads us to believe that your organization is more focused on undermining our efforts and spreading misinformation rather than engaging in constructive dialogue or fact-based discussions.

Regarding your blog, it is worth noting that you referenced the commentary by your colleague Brian Lynch, published in the Anchorage Daily News. Once again, this piece was written without sufficient research and aimed at promoting a false narrative about the KSM Project. **We have already publicly refuted the claims made in Mr. Lynch's article, and our detailed response was published in the Anchorage Daily News under the title OPINION: Canada's mine decision was no rubber stamp.**

Moreover, you suggested that British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) had almost no legitimate basis for granting SSD status to the Project. Given your three decades of advocacy experience, it is very surprising you seem unfamiliar with how the BC EAO process works and the criteria for granting SSD. Surely a simple Google search would have provided you with the basic information that the **BC EAO determines three key factors while considering granting the SSD status to a project –**

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- **Whether work has begun on the project components authorized within the Certified Project Description (CPD).**
    - Seabridge has completed the 17 km Treaty Creek Access Road and initiated works on [six out of 32 physical project components](#) authorized within the project description.
    - Substantial progress has also been made on developing permanent infrastructure for electrical power supply and distribution component. To date, over CAD \$80 million has been paid to advance construction of the switching station for BC Hydro to build new system components and reinforcements.
    - Beyond what is outlined in the CPD, Seabridge has also made significant strides in the physical works of other vital Project components, including three camps, mine site roads, and the Glacier Creek Fish Habitat Offsetting Project, further underscoring the scale of work already completed.
  
  - **The amount spent on the Project construction activities.**
    - Seabridge has invested **nearly CAD \$1 billion to responsibly advance the KSM Project, with CAD \$500 million of that investment made since 2021 alone** to develop several main project components which contributed to achieving SSD status.
  
  - **The support of our First Nations partners.**
    - The KSM Project enjoys strong support from its First Nations Partners. Their confidence is reflected in the letters of support from the Nisga'a Nation, Tahltan Central Government and Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs, which were considered by the EAO as part of the evidence for granting SSD status.
    - Furthermore, the Impact benefits agreements with the Nisga'a and Tahltan Nations and our support for the establishment of the [Treaty Creek Limited Partnership](#) aimed at optimizing participation and maximizing economic benefits at the KSM Project further demonstrates our mutual commitment to advance the Project responsibly and collaboratively.
    - **Given the strong support of our First Nation Partners, are you suggesting that you understand and care more about their territories and values than the Nations themselves? Do you believe these Nations would support the KSM Project if it jeopardizes their territory and values? I don't think so!**

It's abundantly clear that the SSD status for the KSM Project was achieved by meeting or exceeding the EAO's criteria in every category—not because Seabridge is seeking an investment partner (which we have always been transparent about).

While we have received SSD status for the KSM Project, it does not mark the end of the public review process. We will continue to work closely with our First Nation partners while applying for any additional permits needed to advance the KSM Project into production. Like any major mining project, the Canadian and BC governments will continue to carefully consider the latest predictions and future implications of the KSM Project's operation before issuing any additional permits. However, with our extensive up to date environmental baseline database, we are well-

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positioned to secure these permits and move forward responsibly and in concert with the support of our First Nation partners. Without a doubt, KSM will become an economic anchor for northwestern BC in the foreseeable future.

We remain open to transparent, fact-based discussions and encourage you to engage with us constructively, rather than perpetuating baseless claims that only serve to mislead your supporters. If you are still interested in learning about facts, you can reach out to me via email - [brent@seabridgegold.com](mailto:brent@seabridgegold.com).

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Murphy".

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

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