



File: 30200-20/RMUG-05-06

Reference: 314415

March 13, 2018

Michael McPhie, M.Sc.
Chair, Board of Directors
Falkirk Resource Consultants
900 - 999 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6C 2W2
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Dear Mr. McPhie:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 12, 2018, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed Red Mountain Underground Gold project in which you request that the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) suspend the Application Review in order to provide additional time for IDM to respond to comments received from the Working Group and complete issues resolution.

The Prescribed Time Limits Regulations, BC Reg. 372/2002 establishes a time limit of 180 days for review of an Application under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). Pursuant to Section 24(2) of the Act, and after considering your request and reasons, I have granted your request to adjust the review schedule and have suspended the review time limit for Red Mountain effective today, March 13, 2018, on day 134 of the 180 day review period. The 180 day timeline will resume once I am satisfied that the following deliverables and associated engagement activities have been completed, and related issues resolved to the satisfaction of the EAO:

- a) an updated human health risk assessment and human health effects assessment;
- b) additional geotechnical information to support the portal plug design feasibility assessment;
- c) a mine waste disposal alternatives assessment, including responses to outstanding working group comments that provide further rationale and technical information on the assessment criteria and methods; and
- d) an updated surface water quality effects assessment.

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In determining the adequacy of the information required, the EAO will be consulting with the Working Group, including the Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Further details on the specific steps required to bring each of these items to resolution will be provided under separate cover from Ms. Lindsay Luke, EAO's Project Assessment Manager with delegated conduct of this assessment.

I note that IDM committed to the above deliverables and associated engagement activities in your letter, and indicated that it anticipates completing these in 30 to 45 days. Please inform the EAO as soon as possible if you anticipate a change in this timing. I encourage you to submit batches of responses, as it will support the timely consideration of responses and advancement of issues resolution. The EAO is committed to dedicating the necessary effort and resources to ensure a timely and efficient review of your materials.

As Red Mountain is undergoing a cooperative EA with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency), the EAO will be notifying the Agency of the timeline suspension.

If you have any questions related to this letter or the time limit suspension, please contact Lindsay Luke, Project Assessment Manager, by phone at 778 698-9308 or by email at Lindsay.Luke@gov.bc.ca.

With best regards,



Kevin Jardine
Associate Deputy Minister

cc: Andrea Raska, Project Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
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Lindsay Luke, Project Assessment Manager
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