



File: 30200-20/BGOL-17

Reference: 329778

SENT VIA EMAIL

May 17, 2019

Ryan Todd
Director, Blackwater Project
New Gold Inc.
Suite 1800-555 Burrard St.
Vancouver BC V7X 1M9
Ryan.Todd@newgold.com

Dear Mr. Todd:

I am writing to advise that I am lifting the suspension on the 180-day application review time limit for the review of New Gold Inc. (New Gold) Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate (Application) for the proposed Blackwater Gold Project (Blackwater).

On August 15, 2016, pursuant to Section 24(2) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and at the request of New Gold, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) suspended the application review time limit. The suspension was to provide time for the Working Group to review additional information in relation to the water quality analysis, modelling and effects assessment and changes to the Project as well as to complete the remaining steps within the environmental assessment (EA). The EA was suspended at day 216 of 222 with 6 days remaining in the time limit.

On January 17, 2018 the EAO followed up with a letter to New Gold providing additional clarity that while the suspension focused primarily on water quality related matters that, given there were only six days remaining in the review and given the interlinkages between impacts on Valued Components (VCs) from water quality as well as other project components, the suspension was intended to allow the EAO sufficient time to complete a comprehensive and rigorous assessment of all the VCs, not only those specific to water quality.

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The EAO has now completed the assessment of Blackwater, in collaboration with Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation, Ulkatcho First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Saik'uz First Nation and Stelat'en First Nation, and with the advice of the EAO Working Group. I am satisfied that the intention of the August 15, 2016 and January 17, 2018, letters have been met. As such, I am lifting the suspension effective today, at day 216 of 222 of the Application Review period.

With best regards,



Kevin Jardine
Associate Deputy Minister

cc: Shelley Murphy, Executive Director
Environmental Assessment Office
Shelley.Murphy@gov.bc.ca

Chief Lillian Squinas,
Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation
lsquinas@lhooskuz.com

Chief Betty Cahoose
Ulkatcho First Nation
bcahoose@ulkatcho.ca

Chief Larry Nooski
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation
lnooski@nadleh.ca

Chief Priscilla Mueller
Saik'uz First Nation
priscilla.mueller@saikuz.com

Jackie Thomas, Councillor
Saik'uz First Nation
jackie.thomas@saikuz.com

Chief Archie Patrick
Stelat'en First Nation
chiefpatrick@stellatenfirstnation.ca

Natasha Anderson, Project Analyst
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Natasha.Anderson@canada.ca

