

March 16, 2020

Kevin Jardine, Associate Deputy Minister

Environmental Assessment Office

2nd Floor 836 Yates Street

PO Box 9426, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Via email: kevin.jardine@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Kevin Jardine,

Re: Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited – Red Chris Mine Request for #4 Amendment to EA Certificate #M05-02

Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited (NRCM), as owner and operator of the Red Chris Mine and holder of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Certificate #M05-02, is providing this letter as per Section 32 of the 2018 *Environmental Assessment Act* to apply for the fourth amendment of EA Certificate #M05-02.

Red Chris Mine is located in northwest British Columbia (BC), 450 km north of Smithers, within the traditional territory of the Tahltan Nation. The Mine entails the construction, operation, maintenance, reclamation, closure, and monitoring of an open pit mining and milling operation for the production of copper and gold concentrate. Red Chris Mine has been in operation since February 2015. NRCM became owner and operator of the Mine on August 15, 2019.

This request for amendment to #M05-02 is to increase camp flexibility with a surge increase in occupancy. At this time, NRCM is not proposing any other amendments to EA Certificate #M05-02.

Previous Amendments

EA Certificate M05-02 has been amended three times prior to March 2020, as follows:

- Amendment #1 (February 24, 2012): amend Condition 1 of the Certificate to reflect more recent language for proposed Project changes of the Certificate and to add a requirement for compliance reporting to the Certificate (Condition 8).
- Amendment #2 (August 19, 2016): amend commitments G10, M11, and M12 of the Certificate to allow design changes around the Tailings Impoundment Area and design changes to the South Dam related to water management.
- Amendment #3 (August 15, 2018): amend the Certificate to be in the name of Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited.

Amendment Request and Rationale

NRCM cares about the wellbeing of people in our host communities and ensuring our operations keep people safe and healthy. NRCM is in the early stages of a comprehensive review of the mine. This review, which considers feedback from our engagement with the Tahltan community, has identified an immediate need to improve and expand the camp capacity and facilities to better support our mine staff and contractors. NRCM believes that appropriate camp standards and facilities that support a positive camp culture, personal well-being, and health and safety are essential to a sound workplace environment.

With this amendment request, NRCM is seeking approval to increase camp flexibility with an increase in occupancy to 650 rooms. This amendment allows NRCM to better support current operational surges due to rosters, as well as near term exploration, mine planning, construction, and compliance activities associated with waste and water management on site.

NRCM plans to increase camp occupancy primarily within the existing footprint and disturbance area of the current camp facilities. Camp facilities and associated disturbance areas are included within the Mines Act permit (M-240) boundary; and any additional disturbance (if necessary) would be addressed at the permitting level during review and assessment of reclamation bonding.

NRCM has engaged Tahltan Central Government (TCG) with regards to increasing camp flexibility and occupancy to 650 rooms. Initial engagements identified no major concerns at this time. NRCM will continue to inform and engage TCG as part of this amendment process and as per established means of engagement within our Impact Benefit Co-Management Agreement.

Existing Conditions

The Mine is located in a geographically isolated and sparsely populated area of the northwest region of BC. Surrounding local communities are considered remote and include the Tahltan Nation communities of Iskut (18 km to the south), Dease Lake (80 km north), and Telegraph Creek (85 km northwest). Regional communities include Smithers, Terrace, and Stewart. As of March 2020, 492 people are employed at the Mine. Forty-one (41%) percent of NRCM's employees are from north-western BC communities, including 137 members of the Tahltan Nation.

Marshalling points for Red Chris Mine include Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, Smithers, and Williams Lake. Workers are transported from these marshalling points on charter airplanes with capacity of approximately 35 passengers, to the Dease Lake Airport. Daily (Monday to Friday) busses (1-2) collect the workforce from the Dease Lake Airport, the

Tahltan communities of Dease Lake and Iskut, and from the Red Chris pickup area located at the intersection of Highway 37 and the Mine Access Gate. Bussing for workers is provided from Smithers during inclement weather.

All mine workers are housed on site as per EA Certificate Commitment (A1) regardless of whether they reside locally or at communities remote from the mine site.

Current on-site services to support and ensure the health and safety of mine workers and minimize mine-related impacts on local community services include a new medial healthcare centre with remote nurse practitioners and access to medical professionals (on call doctors). This healthcare centre provides a high level of care for employee incidents or illness with standard clinic hours and offers after hours services for emergency services.

Potential Interaction with Valued Components

Potential interactions of amendment activities with valued components as identified in the initial environmental assessment application are described in Table 1, in the absence of mitigation. Where no interaction exists between the amendment activity and the valued component, rationale is provided.

Table 1. Potential Interactions with Valued Components

Valued Component	Potential Effects or Rational for Negligible Interactions	Included or Excluded
Environment Pillar		
Air Quality	Limited to no air emissions are anticipated by increasing the camp capacity.	Excluded
Noise	Limited to no change in ambient noise level associated with amendment activities.	Excluded
Water Quality and Quantity	No anticipated change to water quality and water flow in nearby streams.	Excluded
Fish and Aquatic Habitat	No anticipated change to fish and aquatic habitat.	Excluded
Soils and terrain	Amendment activities may result in ground disturbance although limited as camp capacity improvements are to occur within the existing footprint.	Excluded
Vegetation and Ecosystems	Limited vegetation clearing and soil compaction anticipated	Excluded
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Potential interaction of direct and indirect mortality of wildlife associated with increased camp garbage and potential camp personnel behaviours.	Included


Health and Social Pillars		
Community Health	Potential effect on demand on nearby community health services.	Included
Demographic change	Potential to change the demographics in the local communities.	Included
Housing	Change in local housing demand or specific negative effects on local housing that could cause prices to rise higher than could be afforded by non-mine workers.	Included
Traffic	Change in traffic along highway 37	Included
Economy		
Revenue to the Local Economy	Change in employment opportunities, education and training, contract and business opportunities.	Included
Employment Opportunities	Potential for increased employment opportunities.	Included
Education and Training	Potential for education and training to occur for an increased number of workers.	Included
Contract and business opportunities	Potential for an increase in contract and business opportunities for the local communities.	Included
Culture Pillar		
Land Uses	Conflicting land use and potential impact on individual properties and guide outfitting territory.	Included
Archaeology and Heritage Resources	Limited surficial ground disturbance and vegetation clearing for camp capacity increase as it is planned within the existing footprint and disturbance area thus negligible interaction with archaeological and heritage resources.	Excluded

CLOSURE

NRCM is committed to monitoring and managing the potential impacts of our activities to secure a sustainable environmental future for communities surrounding our sites today and into the future. We endeavour to continue to make improvements upon the health and safety programs, social services, and environmental protection programs at Red Chris Mine in accordance with Newcrest's policy and guidance provided by EMPR, ENV, EAO and TCG.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Wither

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Cc:

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