



Cariboo Gold – Summary of Engagement

PROCESS PLANNING PHASE

APRIL 29, 2021



EAO

Environmental
Assessment Office

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SUMMARY

Osisko Development Corporation (ODV), formerly Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd., proposes to develop the Cariboo Gold project (Cariboo Gold), an underground gold mine with a production capacity of 4,750 tonnes per day and an operational life of approximately 16 years, located in the District of Wells, British Columbia (B.C.).

On December 18, 2020, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) issued a notice of the Readiness Decision¹ for Cariboo Gold to proceed to an environmental assessment (EA) under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018) (the Act). The Readiness Decision then initiated the legislated 120-day process planning phase of the EA for Cariboo Gold. During process planning, the EAO developed the following documents² that set the scope, procedures, methods, and timelines for the EA of the proposed Cariboo Gold project:

- Process Order including the project scope, Assessment Plan and Application Information Requirements; and
- Regulatory Coordination Plan.

The three participating Indigenous nations for Cariboo Gold are Lhtako Dené Nation, Xat’súll First Nation, and Williams Lake First Nation. During process planning, the EAO sought feedback on these draft process planning documents from participating Indigenous nations, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the public through a 30-day public comment period. The EAO then collected all the feedback received on the draft process planning documents, worked with Technical Advisory Committee members and participating Indigenous nations to seek to address outstanding issues, and then issued the final Process Order and Regulatory Coordination Plan to ODV.

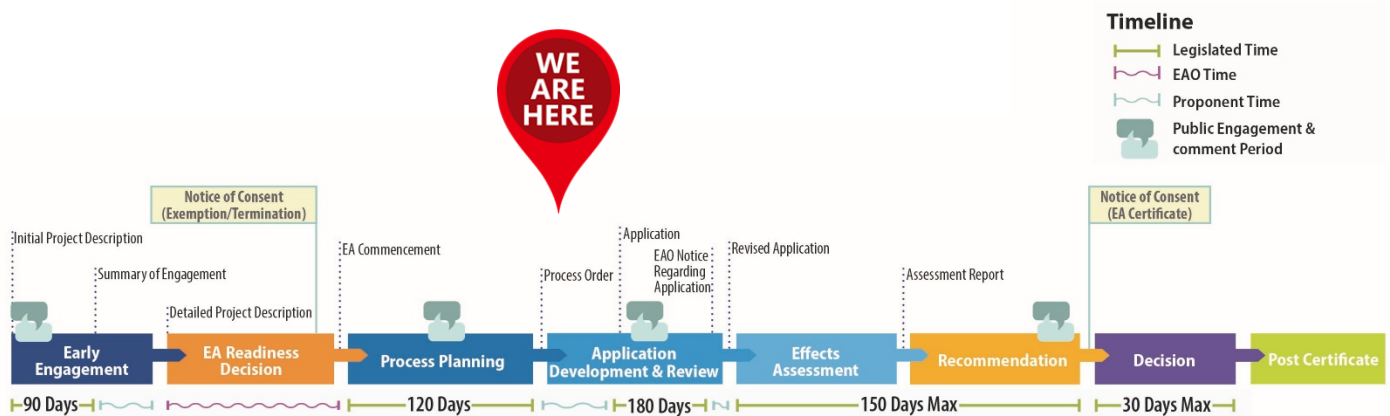


Figure 1. Environmental Assessment Process – Cariboo Gold is currently at the beginning of the Application Development and Review phase

¹ The Readiness Decision Report is available online at:

https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/5fdceba2819aa40021e5c791/download/FINAL_Readiness%20Report_20201218.pdf

² Each of the final process planning documents are available online at: <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/5d40cc5b4cb2c7001b1336b8/documents>

This Summary of Engagement Report contains information about the process planning phase for Cariboo Gold including:

- An overview of the feedback the EAO received from participating Indigenous nations, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the public;
- How feedback was addressed by the EAO; and
- The next steps in the EA process.

PARTICIPATING INDIGENOUS NATIONS

The EAO sought to achieve consensus with the three participating Indigenous nations (Lhtako Dené Nation, Xatśúll First Nation, and Williams Lake First Nation) on the process planning documents. The EAO shared the draft process planning documents with each participating Indigenous nation for their input. Additionally, the EAO held regular meetings with each participating Indigenous nation throughout the process planning phase. All three participating Indigenous nations provided comments on the draft process planning documents which resulted in the EAO making updates. The updates were shared with the participating Indigenous nations for their final review and comment. All three participating Indigenous nations indicated that consensus was achieved with the EAO on the process planning documents.

Participating Indigenous nations are also members on the Technical Advisory Committee and will have similar roles and responsibilities as Technical Advisory Committee members. However, involvement of participating Indigenous nations in the Technical Advisory Committee is in addition to the EAO's engagement with each participating Indigenous nation individually.

In discussing the draft process planning documents with each of the participating Indigenous nations, a focus was placed on the EAO's understanding of each of their Indigenous interests (a way of understanding the potential impacts to each Indigenous nation and its rights) which were preliminarily outlined in the Summary of Engagement³ during the previous early engagement phase. Based on feedback from participating Indigenous nation, the EAO would like to highlight the following updates that were made to the process planning documents:

- Each participating Indigenous nation's Indigenous Interests are outlined in Tables 19, 20, and 21 of the Application Information Requirements;
- Updates in the Assessment Plan to the timing of the Indigenous Engagement and Collaboration Plan and subsequent Indigenous Engagement and Collaboration Reports;
- Updates to both local and regional assessment boundaries for various topics in the Application Information Requirements; and
- ODV must include a conceptual site model to visually represent the potential interactions between the proposed Project activities and the biophysical components of the environment.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The EAO engaged with, and sought advice from, the Technical Advisory Committee on the draft process planning documents. The EAO provided the draft process planning documents to the Technical Advisory Committee for review and comment. Additionally, the EAO held regular meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee throughout the process

³ The Summary of Engagement in the Early Engagement phase is available online at:

https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/5f4e6826dc3ea30022f80d93/download/Cariboo%20Gold_Summary%20of%20Engagement_20200901.pdf

planning phase. The EAO received comments from the following members of the Technical Advisory Committee on the draft process planning documents:

- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation;
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy;
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development;
- Interior Health Authority; and
- Northern Health Authority.

The updates were shared with the Technical Advisory Committee for their final review and comment. Based on feedback from the Technical Advisory Committee, the EAO would like to highlight the following updates that were made to the process planning documents:

- ODV must assess Community Health as a topic in the Application including effects to health infrastructure and services as well as population health;
- Updates to both local and regional assessment boundaries for various topics in the Application Information Requirements;
- Updates to Table 2 in the Application Information Requirements (and in the relevant sections) under the “Topics to be Captured by the Assessment” column; and
- Updates to the potential reviewers as outlined in Appendix 20.4 – Reviews of Information of the Application Information Requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OVERVIEW

The EAO held a public comment period from February 16 to March 18, 2021 to inform the process planning phase of the EA for the Cariboo Gold project. This was the second public comment period held for Cariboo Gold, with the first public comment period occurring during the early engagement phase. During the public comment period held during process planning, the EAO received a total of 75 comments from across B.C. through the EAO’s Project Information Centre (EPIC) website. The comments received came primarily from individuals living near the location of Cariboo Gold including Wells, Quesnel, Prince George and McLeese Lake. Other comments came from individuals who indicated that they often travel to the region where Cariboo Gold is being proposed.

During the public comment period, the EAO held two virtual open houses, which were held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated safety measures. The first open house, on February 23, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, was attended by 43 participants while the second open house, on February 25, 2021 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, was attended by 39 participants. The open houses included:

- A presentation by the EAO on the process planning phase of the EA process;
- A presentation by ODV on the proposed project; and
- An opportunity to ask questions online to the EAO and ODV.

Public participation in the EA process helps ensure that community values and public goals are considered in project planning and decision-making. Public comments also help the EAO ensure that all potential adverse effects of a project are captured and appropriately assessed.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The EAO carefully reviewed the comments received through the public comment period and considered revisions and additions to the process planning documents for Cariboo Gold. Out of the comments received, the major themes

mentioned were socio-economic effects, environmental effects, archaeological and heritage effects, and tourism, arts, and culture effects.

Socio-economic Effects

Comments that discussed socio-economic effects included concerns regarding the location of mine infrastructure, workforce accommodations and effects to housing, and impacts to the viewscape of Wells. Some commentors noted the positive effects of increased jobs in the community due to the mine and the impact that would have on the economy. Impacts to the community, jobs, and the economy will be characterized and assessed in the Application. The following requirements were added to the process planning documents to address public concerns raised:

- ODV must describe alternatives considered during the project design, including the transmission line route options, location of the island mountain portal, and location of the concentrator;
- ODV must assess impacts to the availability of rentals under the 'Housing and Accommodation' topic;
- ODV must assess impacts to property values under the 'Infrastructure and Services' topic;
- ODV must conduct a visual impact assessment for Cariboo Gold that considers the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development guidance; and
- ODV must assess additional effects to visual resources under the 'Land and Resource Use' topic including effects to natural scenic values, heritage scenic values, light and shade.

In the Application, ODV is also required to outline the anticipated accommodations for the workforce for each project phase and workforce interaction with the community of Wells, including the proponent's worker code of conduct while on- and off-shift in the community of Wells.

Due to the proximity of Cariboo Gold to the District of Wells, many commentors were interested in understanding the specific community impacts on Wells. In response, to following revisions were made to the process planning documents:

- The Application must provide a plain-language summary of the impacts and benefits to the District of Wells; and
- The District of Wells must be assessed using a separate local assessment boundaries under the 'Employment and Economy' topic.

Environmental Effects

Many residents expressed concern with the potential air quality effects due to dust from the mine site and truck traffic through Wells. Noise and light effects in Wells from truck traffic and the mine generally were also a common concern raised. In response, to following requirements were added to the process planning documents:

- ODV must assess 'truck traffic' under the 'Acoustic' topic;
- ODV must assess 'traffic volumes' under the 'Infrastructure and Services' topic;
- ODV must assess lighting, including effects to light trespass and to skyglow during nighttime hours under the 'Land and Resource Use' topic.

Baseline data and modelling (where relevant) for all topics, including air quality and dust, must be provided in the Application. Updates to these models and data are being made by ODV in response to feedback from the public and technical reviewers.

Commentors also expressed concerns that the mine would affect water quality for the town residents, as well as for the environment as a whole. Impacts to water quality, including drinking water, must be assessed through both the Surface Water and Groundwater topics in the Application.

Other concerns included impacts to wildlife in the area and consistency of the project design with land use plans. Wildlife is a required assessment topic. In addition, ODV is required to summarize any land use plans relevant to the Cariboo Gold area and outline whether the project is consistent with the identified plans. In the updated process planning documents, the EAO clarified that this includes land and resource management plans and sustainable resources management plans.

Archaeological and Heritage Effects

Commentors raised concerns about potential impacts to sites of historical importance and specifically Barkerville Historic Town. A concern was raised that not all sites of historic importance in the area receive automatic protection under B.C.'s *Heritage Conservation Act* and wanted to understand how those sites would be considered, protected and assessed. Historic buildings in Barkerville and Wells must be addressed in the 'Archaeological and Heritage Resources' topic. In response, the following requirements were added to the process planning documents:

- ODV must assess historical resources, archaeological sites, and palaeontological resources under the 'Archaeological and Heritage Resources' topic; and
- ODV must assess effects to sites of historical importance including those pre- and post- 1848.

Tourism, Arts, and Culture Effects

Many commentors mentioned Wells is a cultural tourism destination that includes the visual, literary and performing arts. This includes individual/independent artists, theatre performances and festivals. Commentors raised concern about the impacts from Cariboo Gold to the tourism, recreation and arts sectors of Wells. Impacts of Cariboo Gold on the tourism sector must be considered and assessed under both the Employment and Economy and the Land and Resource Use topics

The following requirements were added to the process planning documents:

- ODV must assess the District of Wells arts sector as a subcomponent under the 'Culture' topic;
- Under this subcomponent, ODV must assess:
 - Effects to resident artists, art schools and galleries; and
 - Effects to community and cultural cohesion.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Over the past two public comment periods for Cariboo Gold, members of the public have had the opportunity to indicate their interest in joining a Community Advisory Committee. By the end of the process planning public comment period, there were 25 individuals who had indicated an interest in joining the Community Advisory Committee. Many of these individuals also provided comments during both public comment periods. Fourteen comments in the process planning phase were made by members of the Community Advisory Committee.

Due to the location of Cariboo Gold within the District of Wells and the level of community interest in the early engagement and process planning public comment periods, the EAO has determined that there is sufficient community interest to establish a Community Advisory Committee.

NEXT STEPS

The next phase of the EA process for Cariboo Gold is the Application Development and Review phase, during which ODV will develop its Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate and engage participating Indigenous nations and Technical Advisory Committee members in accordance with the requirements of the process planning documents. Once the Application is submitted to the EAO, the EAO, participating Indigenous nations, Technical Advisory Committee,

Community Advisory Committee and the public will have the opportunity to review and comments on ODV's Application through a public comment period.

For information on the deliverables, timelines, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the EAO, ODV, participating Indigenous nations, Technical Advisory Committee, Community Advisory Committee and the public for each of the subsequent EA phases, please see the Cariboo Gold [Assessment Plan](#).