

NEWSLETTER

Red Chris & Bronson Slope MINE PROPOSALS



Environmental Assessment Office

April 1996

Number 2

RED CHRIS MINE PROPOSAL

American Bullion Minerals Ltd. has applied for a project approval certificate under the *Environmental Assessment Act* for the Red Chris Copper/Gold Mine Project in northwest B.C. The company is proposing to develop an open pit copper/gold mine on the Todagin Plateau near Ealue and Kluea lakes, approximately 18 km southeast of the Village of Iskut and 80 km south of Dease Lake.

APPLICATION REVIEW PHASE COMPLETED

The review of the Red Chris Mine application documentation by the public and government agencies ended on January 16, 1996. On January 17, 1996, American Bullion Minerals submitted a request to amend the application to withdraw the powerline option from the proposed Kemess Mine and include a new option which involves construction of a transmission line from the Skeena substation in Terrace to the mine site. The amendment was accepted by the Environmental Assessment Office on January 29, 1996, on the recommendation of the Red Chris Project Committee.

The public review period for the application was extended until March 18, 1996 to allow adequate time for the review of the amendment. The company held an open house in Terrace on March 6, 1996 to present information on the project and the amendment.

At the January 31, 1996 Project Committee meeting, based on the comments received on the initial application document, the committee decided to allow the project to proceed to the second review stage (Project Report stage) and the applicant was officially notified on March 25, 1996.

The comments received from the public, First Nations and government agencies were used to develop the draft specifications for the project report. These specifications set out the information which the proponent must provide in the project report documentation to address outstanding issues and concerns. The main areas of concern which the proponent is required to address are:

- potential impacts to aquatic resources—fish and fish habitat, water quality and quantity, etc.
- potential impacts to terrestrial resources—wildlife and wildlife habitat, vegetation, etc.

- need for a detailed mine plan and reclamation plan, specifically addressing the mine site and tailings facility
- potential for acid rock drainage and related impacts
- potential impacts of the access road and power transmission line corridors
- potential for social and economic impacts to local and regional communities, including employment, social and health services, tourism industry, etc.
- potential for impacts to First Nations traditional uses and aboriginal rights.

The draft project report specifications were forwarded to American Bullion Minerals Ltd. on April 15, 1996 and were placed on the EAO Project Registry on April 22, 1996.

BRONSON SLOPE MINE PROPOSAL

International Skyline Gold Corporation has applied for a project approval certificate under the *Environmental Assessment Act* for the Bronson Slope Mine Project in north-west B.C. The company is proposing

to develop a gold, copper, silver and molybdenum mine at Bronson Slope near Cominco's Snip Mine, located about 30 km west of Homestake's Eskay Creek Mine, and 80 air km east of Wrangell, Alaska.

APPLICATION REVIEW PHASE COMPLETED

International Skyline Gold Corporation held additional open houses on the project in Iskut, Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake on January 16, 17 and 18, 1996, respectively. Information on the project was presented and there was an opportunity for people to ask questions of the company.

The review of the Bronson Slope Mine application documentation by the public and government agencies ended on February 14, 1996.

At the February 29, 1996 Bronson Slope Project Committee meeting, based on the comments received on the initial application document, the committee decided to allow the project to proceed to the second review

stage (Project Report stage), and the proponent was officially notified on March 25, 1996.

The comments received from the public, First Nations and government agencies were used to develop the draft specifications for the project report. These specifications set out the information which the proponent must provide in the project report documentation to address outstanding issues and concerns. The main areas of concern which the proponent is required to address are:

- potential impacts to aquatic resources—fish and fish habitat, water quality and quantity, etc.
 - potential impacts to terrestrial resources—wildlife and wildlife habitat, vegetation, etc.
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- need for a detailed mine plan and reclamation plan, specifically addressing the mine site and tailings facility
- potential for acid rock drainage and related impacts
- potential impacts of the access road and power transmission line corridors, and the proposed run-of-river generating facility
- potential for impacts to First Nations traditional uses and aboriginal rights
- potential cumulative environmental effects.

The draft project report specifications

were forwarded to International Skyline Gold Corporation on April 15, 1996 and were placed on the EAO Project Registry on April 22, 1996.

On April 15, 1996 the proposed extension of the Iskut Valley Road to the mine site, from Volcano Creek to Bronson Creek, was designated as part of the reviewable project by the Executive Director of the Environmental Assessment Office, and draft project report specifications for this proposed road extension were also prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED ON THE RED CHRIS AND BRONSON SLOPE DRAFT PROJECT REPORT SPECIFICATIONS

The public is invited to review the draft project report specifications for both of these projects from April 29, 1996 to May 29, 1996. Copies of the applications and the draft project report specifications are available at the following locations:

- Environmental Assessment Office Project Registry, 1st Floor, 836 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. (604) 356-7441
- Dease Lake Reading Centre, Northern Lights College, Dease Lake. B.C. (604) 771-3636
- Iskut School Library, Iskut, B.C. (604) 234-3561
- Smithers Public Library 3817 Alfred Ave, Smithers, B.C. (604) 847-3043
- Stewart Public Library, Stewart Secondary School, Stewart, B.C. (604) 636-2380
- Terrace Public Library, 4610 Park Ave., Terrace, B.C. (604) 638-8177
- Vancouver Public Library, 350 W. Georgia, St., Vancouver, B.C. (604) 331-3600

All comments should be forwarded by May 29, 1996 to:

Jackie Hamilton, Environmental Assessment Office
2nd Floor, 836 Yates St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Tel: (604) 387-1624 Fax: (604) 387-2208

All public and agency submissions will be available to the general public through the Environmental Assessment Office Project Registry as originally submitted and required by the *Environmental Assessment Act*. If your submission does not indicate that you wish your address to be treated in confidence, your name and address will be filed in full on the EAO Project Registry.

In addition, public workshops will be held in Iskut on May 15 and 16, 1996 to provide for public review and discussion of the draft project report specifications for both projects. For information on the workshops, please contact the Environmental Assessment Office at (604) 387-2204.

REVIEW PROCESS KEY DATES

As a result of the delays caused by the amendment to the Red Chris project, the key dates for the Red Chris and Bronson Slope Mine project proposals are identical.

Project Report Specifications Timelines for Red Chris and Bronson Slope Mine Project Proposals

- April 15, 1996 Draft project report specifications provided to the proponents.
- April 22, 1996 Draft project report specifications placed on the Project Registry.
- April 29, 1996 Public comment invited on the draft project report specifications.
- May 15 & 16, 1996 Public workshops to be held in Iskut to review and discuss draft project report specifications for the Red Chris and the Bronson Slope mine project proposals.
- May 29, 1996 Public comment period concludes.
- June 18, 1996 Final project report specifications due to the proponents.
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NEXT STEPS

The Red Chris and Bronson Slope Project Committees will consider public, government agency and First Nations comments on the draft project report specifications and will then finalize the specifications by June 18, 1996. Once finalized, the project report specifications will be provided to the proponents who will then have as much time as they need to do the necessary work and prepare the required reports. The reports will then be submitted for review by government and the public.

Following the review of the project reports, the Project Committees will make recommendations regarding whether the proposals should be approved, rejected, or should proceed to a public hearing in Phase 3 of the EA process. The Project Committees' recommendations will take into consideration any public comments received. The Ministers will then make a decision for each project, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Project Committees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to receive updates on the Red Chris and/or Bronson Slope Mine project reviews and/or general information on the environmental assessment process, please fill in the information form below and send it to the Environmental Assessment Office Project Registry at:

Environmental Assessment Office Project Registry

1st Floor, 836 Yates Street

Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Telephone (604) 356-7441 Facsimile (604) 356-7440

I would like to be on the mailing list for the review of the Red Chris and Bronson Slope Mine projects:

Name _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone # _____ Fax # _____

E-Mail Address: _____

- Check the box if you wish to receive updates on the Red Chris Mine Project
- Check the box if you wish to receive updates on the Bronson Slope Mine Project
- Check the box if you wish to receive more information on the environmental assessment process
- Please check if you wish to be taken off our existing mailing list and return this form with your mailing label.*

** If our records of your current address are incorrect, please send in your address label with any corrections.*