

NICO Project Community Scoping Issues - Wekweeti, November 2/3, 2009

Wekweeti citizens raised the following concerns and questions at the scoping session on November 2/3 2009. The Review Board will consider the points when deciding which issues the environmental assessment should focus on when developing the Terms of Reference. Review Board staff have organized the points and grouped them under general headings as follows:

Access

How will Wekweeti residents be transported to camp?

Accidents and Malfunctions

Effects from freeze-thaw of tailings

Effects of tailings pond leakage

Air Quality

Effects to surrounding from dispersion of dust

Effects on wildlife and vegetation from airborne contaminants (emissions, fumes etc.)

Aquatic Effects

Effects to drinking water from construction to closure

Effects on water from cyanide contamination

Effects to watershed from water usage [Volume? Source?]

Effects from winter discharge (previous companies have indicated summer discharge but have had to discharge in winter many times)

Effects from discharge dispersion – dispersion modeling predictions.

Closure and Reclamation

Closure and reclamation funding source

Pit closure and reclamation plans

Waste rock pile reclamation/configuration

Pit closure configuration

Mine closure and reclamation plans

Fish

Effects of development on fish

Fish relocation rationale and effects

Accurate fish baseline surveys

Cultural and Socio-economic Issues

Effects to burial sites and sacred trails

Cultural loss

Cultural sensitivity training for security officers

Compensation for cultural impacts

Social problems from road

Is there a similar conservation program with regards to culture as with the environment?

Will the developer have a 'three-strikes rule' for employees

Hiring policies that do not put Aboriginal people in labour-only positions (i.e. housekeeping)

Compensation for impacts to wildlife (in the context of impacts to wildlife as an adverse economic impact on trappers)

Hiring percentages for Northerners by demographic (Tli Cho, Inuk, Métis etc.)

Resource royalty distribution

Transparent hiring policies that do not allow for nepotism

Employment for Tli Cho community members and for youth

Equitable employment – not just a few people

Anti-abuse policies in the workplace

Subsidy programs to help with mortgages, fuel and utilities

Will the developer employ Tli Cho citizens in the environment department?

Will the developer donate or subsidize a winter road to Wekweeti; share responsibility for care and maintenance; the purchase of a winter road-grooming vehicle; training opportunities for winter road care for Wekweeti citizens?

Impacts-Benefits Agreement (IBA)

- Will IBA/developer accommodate community grieving
- Will IBA be flexible enough to include forgotten items
- Will IBA protect against layoffs due to market turmoil
- Will the IBA reflect the economics of the mine as it grows (for example, Ekati has grown from two pits to at least five with more coming)
- Will IBA terms also reflect the economics of each mineral that is mined
- IBA terms should not change if new management deems it inconvenient
- Will IBA apply to a company that may buy the mine and or Fortune Minerals?

Spills

Effects to footprint and surrounding land from spill contamination

Spill prevention systems

Spill contingency plans

Thoroughness of spill reporting

Training

Training location

Training and job opportunities for youth from construction to closure

Training policies as they relate to southerners and Aboriginal people (in context of training aboriginals up to skill of southerners the company would otherwise hire)

Listing of advancement opportunities for Aboriginal people

Vegetation

Effects of development on vegetation

Vegetation testing for contamination

Wildlife

Effects to wildlife from mine

Effects of mine components on wildlife predation (increased levels?)

Effects of mine components/configuration on wildlife migration

Effects from road on wildlife and Hislop Lake

Effects of airstrip on caribou (will there be a fence?)
Effects of berms on wildlife (especially caribou)
Effects of tailings area/waste rock on wildlife
Confidentiality of caribou location (no 'scouting')
Possibilities of trapping caribou/mitigations/contingencies
Compensation for impacts to wildlife
Wildlife open-pit protection mechanisms
Wildlife distribution in area – all types
Wildlife contamination from tailings/waste rock or other vector (licking)

Other

Effects of advanced exploration work
Tailings management methodology
Methodology for determining success of tailings containment
Cumulative effects from mine
Capacity issues for the tailings pond if development increases on site
Concreteness of current plans being presented
Waste management options and procedures