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2.0 CONSULTATION

2.1 Introduction

First Mining Gold Corp. (FMG) has aimed to establish positive and constructive relationships with local Indigenous groups, government agencies, and public stakeholders throughout the environmental assessment (EA) processes and will continue to provide opportunities over the life of the Springpole Gold Project (Project). FMG recognizes that meaningful engagement is based upon the timely provision of relevant information and ongoing dialogue and interaction to help ensure that both concerns and opportunities are understood and taken into consideration as the Project advances.

FMG has carried out extensive consultation and engagement activities with local Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders, guided by community preferences, consultation plans, company policy, the approved amended Terms of Reference (ToR) commitments, and provincial and federal regulatory requirements for the Project. Active participation in the Project from local Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders helps to inform Project planning and contributes to developing a mine that achieves a high level of environmental protection and delivers benefits to local and Indigenous communities and the region.

FMG's focus for Project consultation and engagement to date has focused on key decision-making milestones, including the following:

- Consultation processes and capacity;
- The provincial ToR (including valued components [VCs], criteria and indicators);
- Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use (TK/TLU) information;
- Baseline studies;
- Assessment of alternatives; and
- Draft EIS/EA (including VCs, criteria and indicators, effects assessment methods and results, mitigation and monitoring).

FMG's approach to consultation and addressing the approved amended ToR commitments was an integrated process. The development and finalization of the ToR took more than one year as FMG shared information, engaged and communicated to seek feedback on VCs, criteria and indicators proposed for measuring changes in VCs, as well as on the proposed consultation plans.

Another key engagement point was when the draft EIS/EA was circulated with the criteria and indicators, as well as the initial alternatives assessment, Project description, and effects assessment results, for review and input. The benefit of providing the draft EIS/EA was that the Project and effects assessment could be reviewed holistically and allow interested parties to provide feedback and input on the assessment, results, and proposed mitigation and monitoring. The draft EIS/EA illustrated an early view of the Project and allowed another review opportunity on key EA milestone aspects. The draft EIS/EA consultation process occurred over a two-and-a-half-year period from May 2022 to October 2024.

Since the Project initiation in 2018, FMG has been engaging in multiple ways with local Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested public stakeholders and has considered feedback. Section 2.6 specifies how FMG engaged with each entity regarding each key EA milestone. The comments

shared through the review of the draft EIS/EA have been considered to help shape the Project and all facets of the final EIS/EA submission.

In this chapter, the terms consultation and engagement are used interchangeably and are defined as the activities that FMG undertakes with Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders with the purpose of facilitating communication and dialogue regarding the Project as well as meeting regulatory consultation requirements.

For the purposes of publication of the final EIS/EA, a cut-off date for the RoC (Appendix D) of June 30, 2024, was used, except for key meetings and information exchange that occurred up to September 2024, which is summarized in Section 2.7.

2.2 Consultation Requirements

On April 18, 2018, FMG entered a Voluntary Agreement with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to prepare an Individual EA for the Project. On June 19, 2018, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) issued the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines for a federal EA under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012; S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52) (CEA Agency 2012) for the Project. FMG has undertaken coordinated consultation activities beyond what is required by the provincial and federal EA processes to maximize opportunities for engagement with Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders. This consultation section describes Project consultation from January 2017 through June 2024.

The provincial and federal EA processes each have requirements for consultation requirements under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. E.18) and CEAA 2012 and are described at a high level in Section 2.2.1 and Section 2.2.2, respectively. FMG has undertaken consultation activities with Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders and plans to continue to meaningfully coordinate these activities as appropriate, throughout the EA process. This includes that FMG has provided significant capacity funding throughout the process to support meaningful opportunities to understand the Project and share feedback towards FMG's ability to receive questions and understand concerns such that they can be addressed through information sharing, Project design optimizations, mitigation measures, monitoring and adaptive management.

To help demonstrate how FMG has addressed consultation requirements, Appendix B-4 (Approved ToR Commitments/Consultation) and B-5 (Table of Concordance (ToR)) provide a table of concordance for the approved amended ToR, including items related to consultation.

2.2.1 Provincial Requirements

The provincial requirements for consultation as part of the EA process are set out in the *Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process* (MECP 2016). Consultation is defined as a two-way exchange of information, utilizing different methods of communication, between the proponent and persons who may be affected by the Project.

As noted in the MECP's April 25, 2018, letter to FMG, the procedural aspects of consultation with Indigenous communities have been delegated to FMG for the provincial EA process. FMG's responsibilities for the procedural aspects of consultation include the following:

- Providing identified communities with information about the proposed Project (including anticipated impacts and information on timelines);

- Following up with communities to confirm they receive Project information and that they are aware of opportunities to provide comments about the Project;
- Gathering information from the communities about how the Project may adversely impact their Aboriginal and/or treaty rights or sites of cultural importance;
- Considering comments provided by communities and providing responses;
- Discussing potential mitigation strategies with communities; and
- Bearing the reasonable costs associated with these procedural aspects of consultation.

The consultation plans for the Project submitted with the amended ToR, dated April 29, 2021, were developed to meet the provincial requirements, followed throughout the EA process and include:

- Indicating how potentially interested and affected persons, including local Indigenous communities, will be identified, notified and consulted;
- Indicating how government agencies will be identified, notified and consulted;
- Identifying the points in the EA process when interested persons will be consulted;
- Identifying the methods that will be used to consult;
- Identifying the decisions that interested persons can provide input to and what role they can play when FMG makes choices; and
- Acknowledging and attempting to address concerns raised during the EA process.

The consultation plans also outline additional information including:

- General consultation methods;
- How input from interested persons will be obtained;
- A description of key decision-making milestones, including the draft EIS/EA review phase, during the preparation of the EA documentation when consultation will occur; and
- An issues resolution strategy.

The consultation plans are found in the approved amended ToR. FMG has been following and will continue to follow those consultation plans throughout the regulatory process and the life of the Project including during construction and operation.

2.2.2 Federal Requirements

A Project description was submitted to IAAC in February 2018, where IAAC determined that the Project required a federal EA under CEAA 2012. IAAC issued the *Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines* (EIS Guidelines) for the Project on June 19, 2018, later issuing an amended version in March 2022.

The EIS Guidelines for the Project set out the expectations for FMG to:

- Provide current Project information to the public, including Indigenous communities, and opportunities to participate in the EA process and comment on the EIS/EA documents;
- Fulfill the statutory obligations of CEAA 2012 to assess environmental effects of the proposed Project on Indigenous peoples (Section 6.26); and

- Assist IAAC in fulfilling the Crown's constitutional obligations to consult with potentially affected Indigenous groups on potential impacts to Aboriginal and treaty rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The consultation approach is further detailed in Section 2.3. A table of concordance for the Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement Pursuant to CEAA 2012 is provided in Appendix B-2.

Figure 2-1 presents the key consultation milestones through the coordinated provincial and federal EA process to share information, consult and engage on the Project.

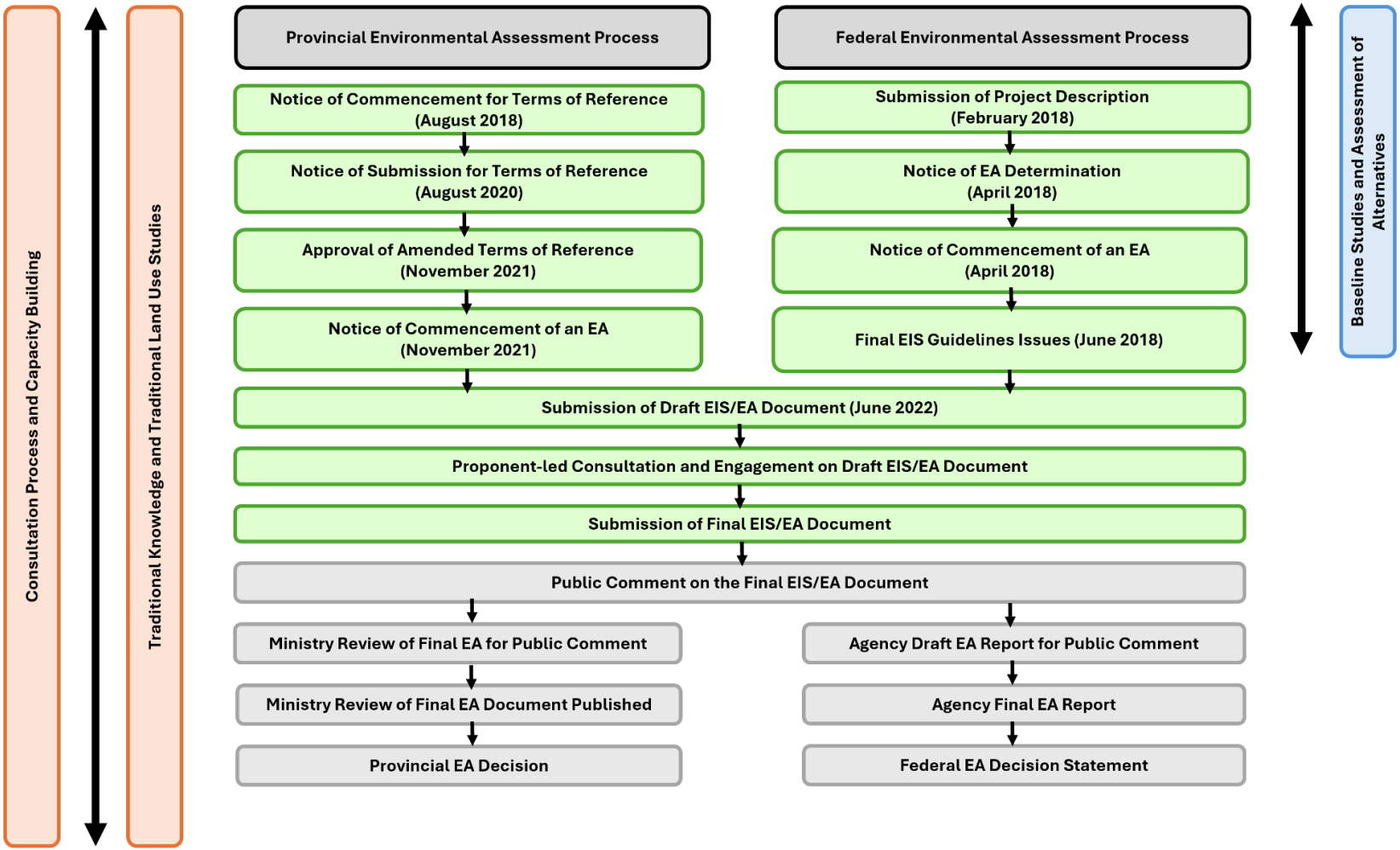

Figure 2-1: Overview of Key Consultation Milestones

2.3 Approach

FMG appreciates the importance of environmental protection within traditional territories of Indigenous communities and places this as a central focus in project planning. FMG believes that through meaningful consultation and collaboration, in the spirit of reconciliation, that projects can be developed to support the respective vision and development goals that Indigenous communities may have for themselves. Additionally, FMG appreciates the Project also involves many public stakeholders, local municipalities, and regulators. In developing projects, FMG strives to provide benefits locally and regionally, while minimizing adverse effects. This section provides details related to FMG's consultation approach.

FMG believes that respect for local and Indigenous community values is integral to meaningful consultation and being able to operate in a positive way in the region. FMG aims to provide meaningful benefits to the local area through participation in the Project. Collaborative efforts to plan the Project are undertaken along with efforts to identify and support the respective vision and development goals of each community.

In striving to take a meaningful approach to consultation, FMG has, and will continue to gather feedback, while promoting environmentally responsible decision-making in a collaborative manner with local and Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders by:

- Seeking to understand the information needs and capabilities of local Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders, and tailoring consultation opportunities to the local context;
- Identifying key public stakeholders and community leaders;
- Providing financial capacity for local Indigenous community needs related to the EA process, (e.g., meetings, Community Information Sessions, technical advisors);
- Working with local Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders to share information, request feedback, and address comments and questions;
- Involving local Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders early in the project planning and continuing engagement throughout the EA process;
- Being open and transparent;
- Providing clear, concise, and relevant information; and
- Focusing timing of engagement and consultation activities at key decision-making (consultation) milestones.

As described in Section 2.5, FMG is carrying out consultation by:

- Asking local Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders about their interest in the Project, how they prefer to receive information and their preferred approach for consultation;
- Providing opportunities for local Indigenous communities to undertake TK/TLU Studies or provide TK/TLU information specific to the Project area;
- Providing opportunities for local Indigenous communities to participate in field work;
- Facilitating tours of the Project site;

- Hosting Public and Community Information Sessions to share Project updates and information related to baseline environment conditions and alternatives for various Project components;
- Providing reasonable capacity funding support to facilitate participation by Indigenous communities in the EA process;
- Providing local Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders with opportunities to understand the proposed Project, identify potential environmental effects, and potential effects on Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and interests;
- Identifying, considering, and responding to feedback on the baseline information, alternatives, the effects assessment and mitigation measures;
- Establishing tailored processes and approaches to consultation with proximate Indigenous communities;
- Documenting and responding to comments and interests raised throughout the consultation process and demonstrating how shared comments have been considered; and
- Adhering to regulatory requirements for consultation during the EIS/EA preparation, as well as adapting and improving the consultation program throughout the process.

2.4 Identification of Indigenous Communities, Government Agencies and Public Stakeholders

The following sections provide details related to local Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders that were identified early in the Project based on having an interest in, or the potential to be affected by the Project. Section 2.4.1 provides details related to Indigenous communities; Section 2.4.2 provides details related to government agencies; and Section 2.4.3 provides details related to public stakeholders.

A list of Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders to be consulted was also included in the amended ToR for the Project and the EIS Guidelines.

2.4.1 Indigenous Communities

As described in Section 3.2.2, the Project is located within Treaty No. 9 lands, also known as the James Bay Treaty. Treaty No. 9 was signed in 1905, and adhesions to the Treaty were later signed in 1929 and in 1937. Three Indigenous communities engaged in the Project are located within Treaty No. 9 lands including Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation (MON), Slate Falls Nation (SFN), and Cat Lake First Nation (CLFN). Treaty No. 3, also known as the North-West Angle Treaty, was signed in 1873. Three Indigenous communities engaged in the Project are located within Treaty No. 3 lands, including Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN), Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (ONS), and Wabauskang First Nation (WFN). Treaty No. 3 also includes the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC). Treaty No. 5, refers to the Winnipeg Treaty and was signed during the years 1875 to 1876. Pikangikum First Nation (PFN) is located within Treaty No. 5 lands.

Lands encompassed by Treaty No. 9 are located north of the geographical divide between the Great Lakes watershed and the Hudson Bay and James Bay drainage basins, Treaty No. 3 territory is located in present-day northwestern Ontario and eastern Manitoba, and Treaty No. 5 encompasses a substantial portion of present-day central and northern Manitoba, as well as parts of Saskatchewan and Ontario (Figure 3.2-2). The Project also falls within Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 (NWOMC) Traditional Harvesting Territory.

The communities located in closest proximity to the Project include CLFN, SFN, LSFN and MON. In 2017, CLFN, LSFN, and SFN entered into a Shared Territory Protocol agreement. Under this agreement, CLFN, LSFN and SFN are referred to as the "Shared Territory Protocol Nations" (STPN) and have agreed to certain geographic areas referred to as the "Shared Territory"; to share ownership in development and management of natural lands and resources within their territory, and to maximize benefits for each community. As of December 2023, CLFN and LSFN have continued to work together on many aspects of Project consultation; while SFN has moved forward on its own and is currently working independently on Project consultation.

The MECP and IAAC identified local Indigenous communities (interchangeably referred to as Indigenous communities or local Indigenous communities throughout Section 2) that may have an interest in or may be affected by the Project. Guidance from the regulators did not indicate if identification of local Indigenous communities was based on rights or interest only; FMG followed regulatory guidance and Section 6.21 (Traditional Land and Resource Use) includes a summary of treaty rights, as part of the assessment of effects on the exercise of treaty rights. The Indigenous communities identified by the MECP or IAAC for the EA process include:

- CLFN (identified by both the MECP and IAAC), located approximately 51 km from the Project site;
- LSFN (identified by both the MECP and IAAC), located approximately 129 km from the Project site;
- MON (identified by both the MECP and IAAC), located approximately 144 km from the Project site;
- ONS (identified by the MECP), located approximately 154 km from the Project site;
- PFN (identified by the MECP), located approximately 126 km from the Project site;
- SFN (identified by both the MECP and IAAC), located approximately 52 km from the Project site; and
- WFN (identified by both the MECP and IAAC), located approximately 124 km from the Project site.

The Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 1, as represented by NWOMC (identified by both the MECP and IAAC), office is located in the City of Dryden, 185 km from the Project site.

2.4.2 Government Agencies

The process of identifying relevant government agencies began prior to the submission of the draft ToR. Based on FMG's understanding of other mining projects in the region, FMG developed an initial list of government agencies with which FMG would consult with. The list has been modified through engagement and consultation with government agencies as the Project has advanced. Ongoing consultation has focused primarily on government agencies with a regulatory interest in the Project. The agencies are presented below based on their role in the EA process.

Provincial Government

Core provincial agencies that have been heavily consulted throughout the EA process on various aspects of the Project, such as planning, design and data collection, include representatives from the MECP; the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR); the Ministry of Mines (MINES); the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM); and the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation (IAFNER). FMG has also engaged other provincial agencies, including the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Ministry of Transportation; and the Ministry of Infrastructure, to a lesser extent. Any records captured from communications with these agencies are

included in Appendix D. Provincial agencies have received communications and notices to keep them informed on the status of the Project and have been consulted based on their level of interest and available expertise/guidance. Provincial agencies that are not on the list of core agencies may become more involved in the Project as it proceeds through other phases. A description of the core provincial agencies (MECP, MNR, MINES, MCM, and IAFNER) is provided below:

- The **MECP** is responsible for ensuring environmental protection and conservation in mining projects. The MECP administers key legislation such as the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (S.O. 2006, c. 22). As the primary government agency with regulatory jurisdiction on EA approval at the provincial level, the MECP serves as the lead agency for the province and has been a liaison with other relevant agencies whose technical expertise and regulatory authorities intersect with components of the Project, including future permits and approvals that will be required. Consultation with the MECP has considered logistics including (but not limited to) air; consultation; environmental planning; hydrogeology; hydrology; parks; policy; wildlife and species at risk (SAR); waste; and wastewater as described in Section 2.6.2.2.
- The **MNR**, formerly the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and formerly a part of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF), administers legislation related to natural resources and forestry, including the Ontario *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* (S.O. 1994, c. 25). The MNR is essential for sustainable resource management in mining projects, overseeing environmental protection, forestry practices, and land use planning. They contribute to responsible and environmentally conscious resource development in the province, ensuring the conservation of natural resources. Consultation with MNR has considered logistics including (but not limited to) baseline and caribou studies; approvals and permitting; and management of Crown lands, traplines, and bait harvesting areas as described in Section 2.6.2.3.
- **MINES,** formerly a part of the NDMNRF and the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (MENDM), is responsible for administering mining-related legislation, including the Ontario *Mining Act*. MINES provides crucial regulatory guidance and expertise for mining projects, with a focus on responsible resource development, land management, and addressing mining-related concerns, ensuring the mining industry's sustainable growth and compliance with relevant regulations in the province. Consultation with MINES has considered logistics including (but not limited to) natural resource use management; site design and optimization; geochemistry; and mine hazard areas as described in Section 2.6.2.4.
- The **MCM** works to conserve and promote cultural heritage resources, including archaeological resources and cultural heritage landscapes. The ministry oversees archaeological assessments and licensing in Ontario, and administers the *Ontario Heritage Act*, which was transferred to MCM from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, and Ministry of Sport (MTCS) (formerly the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport [2022]/Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries [2019]) in June 2024. Consultation with MCM has considered logistics, including archaeological and cultural heritage resource evaluation, as described in Section 2.6.2.5).
- **IAFNER** (formerly the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs [MIA]) focuses on engaging with Indigenous communities in mining projects to address their concerns and help ensure mutual benefits. IAFNER administers relevant legislations, such as the *Far North Act, 2010* (S.O. 2010, c. 18) and the *Mining Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. M.14). This ministry facilitates consultation, collaboration, and agreements

between mining companies and Indigenous communities, aiming to respect Indigenous rights, interests, and sustainable resource development, promoting reconciliation in the province. Consultation with IAFNER has consisted of the distribution of Project updates and information, with some communications focusing on comments regarding TK/TLU Studies, as described in Section 2.6.2.

Federal Government

Core federal agencies that have been consulted throughout the EIA/EA process on various aspects of the Project, such as planning, design and data collection, include representatives from IAAC; Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); Indigenous Services Canada (ISC); Health Canada (HC); Natural Resources Canada (NRCan); and Transport Canada (TC). Any records captured from communications with these authorities are included in Appendix D. Federal agencies have received communications and notices to keep them informed on the status of the Project and have been consulted based on their level of interest and available expertise/guidance. Federal agencies which are outside the list of core agencies may become more involved in the Project as it proceeds through other phases. A description of the core federal agencies is provided below:

- **IAAC**, formerly the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency), is responsible for administering the *Impact Assessment Act* (S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1), CEAA 2012 and other relevant legislation. IAAC plays a central role in evaluating the environmental, social, and economic impacts of mining projects. They conduct comprehensive impact assessments to help ensure that mining activities are conducted sustainably and in compliance with regulatory standards. IAAC's objective is to provide an informed basis for decision-making, balancing the benefits of resource development with the protection of Canada's environment and communities. As the primary government agency with regulatory jurisdiction on EA approval at the federal level, IAAC has served as the lead federal agency and has acted as a liaison with amongst other relevant agencies whose technical expertise and regulatory authorities intersect with components of the Project, including future permits and approvals that will be required. Consultation with IAAC has considered logistics including (but not limited to) EIS/EA methodology and timelines; baseline studies; alternatives assessment; consultation; and incorporation of TK/TLU studies as described in Section 2.6.2.7.
- **ECCC** administers vital environmental legislations, such as the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (S.C. 1999, c. 33), the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (S.C. 1994, c.22), and the *Species at Risk Act* (S.C. 2002, c. 29). ECCC plays a pivotal role in mining projects, overseeing environmental impact assessments (EIAs), permitting and compliance to help ensure environmental sustainability and address climate change concerns. It provides valuable data, research, and guidance to support responsible resource development and the protection of Canada's natural heritage. Consultation with ECCC has considered logistics including (but not limited to) baseline studies, wildlife, site design and optimization, and habitat compensation, as described in Section 2.6.2.8.
- **DFO** is responsible for administering a range of legislation related to Canada's aquatic resources, including the *Fisheries Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14) and the *Species at Risk Act*. DFO plays a crucial role in the context of mining projects near waterbodies by safeguarding aquatic ecosystems and fish habitats. They are committed to ensuring that mining operations do not harm fish populations, water quality, or aquatic habitats. DFO also collaborates with mining industry public stakeholders to mitigate environmental impacts and promote sustainable resource development in harmony with Canada's water resources. Consultation with DFO has considered logistics including (but not limited

to) baseline studies; timelines and anticipated regulatory approvals and permits; fish and fish habitat; and fish habitat compensation and offsetting measures as described in Section 2.6.2.9.

- **ISC** is responsible for administering various legislation, including the *Indian Act*. ISC is instrumental in the context of mining projects by addressing the social and economic well-being of Indigenous communities. They work to help ensure that mining projects consider the health, education, and socioeconomic needs of these communities. ISC is dedicated to facilitating partnerships, supporting capacity building, and enhancing the quality of life for Indigenous peoples affected by mining activities. Consultation with ISC has mainly consisted of the distribution of Project updates and information, including attendance at technical meetings relating to the human environment; cultural heritage and archaeology; TK/TLU; commercial land and resources; local and regional economy, infrastructure, and services; and caribou as described in Section 2.6.2.10.
- **HC** is responsible for administering various legislation and regulations related to public health, including the *Food and Drugs Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. F-27) and the *Hazardous Products Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. H-3). HC's involvement in mining projects focuses on ensuring the health and safety of workers and nearby communities. They oversee occupational health and safety standards, assess potential health risks from mining activities, and regulate the use of hazardous materials. HC plays a vital role in safeguarding the well-being of individuals involved in mining and those residing in proximity to mining sites. Consultation with HC has mainly consisted of the distribution of Project updates and information, including attendance at technical meetings relating to the human environment; cultural heritage and archaeology; TK/TLU; commercial land and resources; local and regional economy, infrastructure, and services; and caribou as described in Section 2.6.2.11.
- **TC** is responsible for administering a wide range of legislation and regulations related to transportation and infrastructure, such as the *Canada Transportation Act* (S.C. 1996, c. 10), the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992* (S.C. 1992, c.34), and the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. N-22). They ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods and materials, including those extracted in mining projects, through various transportation modes. TC plays a critical role in regulating the transportation of hazardous materials and ensuring the safe operation of infrastructure such as ports and railways, which are vital for the mining sector. Its focus is on facilitating secure and sustainable transportation practices that support the mining industry and the overall Canadian economy. Consultation with TC has mainly focused on guidance and applicability of the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* and navigability assessment, as described in Section 2.6.2.12.
- **NRCan** is responsible for administering legislation and regulations related to Canada's natural resource sectors, including the *Mining Act* and CEAA 2012. NRCan provides critical support and guidance to the mining industry, covering aspects such as mineral resource development, geoscience research, and mineral sector policies. They work to optimize mineral exploration, sustainable resource development, and the responsible management of mining activities. NRCan also promotes innovation, economic growth, and environmental stewardship within the Canadian mining sector, contributing to the nation's natural resource prosperity. Consultation with NRCan has mainly consisted of the distribution of Project updates and information, including attendance at technical meetings relating to the human environment; cultural heritage and archaeology; TK/TLU; commercial land and resources; local and regional economy, infrastructure, and services; and caribou as described in Section 2.6.2.13.

Municipal Government

Based on the Project location, expected interest in potential effects, and knowledge of the area, the municipalities with which FMG has and will continue to consult were identified based on their proximity to the Project. As described in Section 1.2 and shown in Figure 1.2-1, the Project site lies approximately 110 kilometres (km) northeast of the Municipality of Red Lake. The Town of Ear Falls is 105 km to the southwest and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout is situated approximately 150 km southeast of the Project site.

- The **Municipality of Sioux Lookout** (Section 2.6.3.1) collaborates with provincial agencies and local public stakeholders to oversee land use planning, permitting, and zoning in the context of nearby projects. They ensure that activities align with local bylaws and regulations, promoting community interests, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development practices within their jurisdiction.
- The **Township of Ear Falls** (Section 2.6.3.2) collaborates with provincial agencies and local public stakeholders to oversee land use planning, permitting, and zoning decisions related to mining projects in its jurisdiction. It ensures that activities adhere to local bylaws and regulations. The township also prioritizes community interests, environmental preservation, and responsible resource development to benefit its residents and the region.
- The **Municipality of Red Lake** (Section 2.6.3.3) plays a pivotal role in managing land use planning, permitting, and local regulations concerning projects in the area. They ensure that project operations comply with municipal bylaws and regulations. The municipality prioritizes community well-being, environmental protection, and the responsible extraction of mineral resources, contributing to the prosperity of its residents and the region.
- The **City of Dryden** (Section 2.6.3.4) collaborates with provincial agencies and local public stakeholders to manage land use planning, permitting, and zoning decisions that may affect projects nearby. They ensure that project activities align with municipal bylaws and regulations. The city also plays a vital role in safeguarding community interests, environmental protection, and sustainable development within its jurisdiction.

2.4.3 Public Stakeholders

To identify public stakeholders, FMG considered the following:

- Land tenure holders in the immediate vicinity of the Project;
- Local land users, including outfitters, trappers, and baitfish harvesters; and
- Local and regional public stakeholders with interest in the Project.

The distribution list, as identified in the approved amended ToR and updated as requested by interested parties on an ongoing basis. The list includes outfitters in the Regional Study Area (RSA) for commercial land and resource use (Section 6.17) and FMG has undertaken efforts to contact and share information with them regarding the Project. In several cases, outfitters expressed interest in selling their business for a variety of reasons, which FMG supported through purchase arrangements. This is the distribution list:

- Bamaji Air
- Barry's Baits and Plow Inc.
- Best Baits Service
- Little Canada Camp

- Birch Lake Lodge
- Boreal Prospectors Association
- Cat Island Lodge
- Canada North Lodge
- Clark's Resorts and Outposts
- Ear Falls Hunters and Anglers
- Ear Falls Trappers Council/Northwestern Fur Trappers Association (now also representing trappers from the previous Red Lake Trappers Association)
- Erickson's Woman Lake Lodge
- Fly North Outfitters
- Fort Frances Northern Wilderness Outfitters
- Golden Eagle Resort
- Green Airways & Fly-In Camps
- Independent First Nations Alliance
- J and M Camp
- KaBeelo Lodge
- KayAir Service
- Kenora District Camp Owners Association
- Knobby's Fly-In Camps
- Lac Seul Airways Ltd.
- Lac Seul Whitewing Lodge
- Latreille Lake Lodge
- Land Use Permit #12005-1008550 (Commercial Outpost)Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario
- Net News Ledger
- Ontario Mining Association
- Ontario Prospectors Association
- Patricia's Fly-In Service
- Pickerel Arm Camp
- Private landowners (including trapline licence holders, bait harvest area licence holders, bear management areas)
- Red Lake District Chamber of Commerce
- Red Pine Lodge and Outposts
- Shabu Wildness Outposts
- Sioux Air Ltd.
- Sioux Lookout Bulletin
- Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce
- Slate Falls Outpost
- Swain Post Camp
- TB News Watch
- The Dryden Observer
- The Minnow Shed
- *The Northern Sun News*
- *The Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal*
- Trout River Lodge
- *Wawatay News*
- Wenasaga Outposts Ltd.
- Woman River Camp & Outposts

As additional stakeholders are identified, they are added to the distribution list; however, not all stakeholders respond to the information provided by FMG. A Record of Consultation (RoC) (Appendix D) was completed that accurately reflects when information has been shared with the distribution list; a record specific to a stakeholder is included if a response is shared.

2.5 Methods

This section details the range of consultation methods FMG uses to share Project information, provide notice of key involvement and feedback opportunities, as well as to provide opportunities to engage in dialogue about the Project.

The draft EIS/EA review process was a key consultation opportunity by providing local Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders the ability to have an in-depth understanding and review of the Project, including how the potential effects are being assessed, the associated results, as well as proposed mitigation measures. The comments shared through the review of the draft EIS/EA have been considered to help shape the Project and this subsequent final EIS/EA submission.

FMG's relationships with local Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders are important to FMG and vital to the ongoing development of the Project. FMG will continue to engage over the life of the mine and welcomes appropriate consultation opportunities at any time.

Further detail on consultation methods with local Indigenous communities (Section 2.5.1), government agencies (Section 2.5.2) and public stakeholders (Section 2.5.3) are included below.

2.5.1 Local Indigenous Communities

FMG provided consultation opportunities to local Indigenous communities throughout the EA process in an open and transparent manner and provided significant capacity support to facilitate participation in the various opportunities. Consultation was proactive, flexible, and based on a goal of continuous improvement, particularly as local Indigenous communities identified how they prefer to engage throughout the EA process and the Project.

FMG used a combination of methods and tools to reach out to, provide information to, and collect feedback from local Indigenous communities including:

- **Meetings to scope issues:** FMG offered meetings with local Indigenous communities to discuss community comments, especially at key decision-making milestones.
- **Engagement in environmental baseline field studies:** FMG offered the opportunity to local Indigenous communities for local Indigenous community members to act as environmental monitors to join field teams in collecting environmental baseline information. They had the opportunity to ensure traditional interests are protected while learning about environmental data collection methods. A key role of the environmental monitoring was to communicate environmental findings to their community leadership and membership.
- **STPN Springpole Environment Committee (SEC):** The SEC was formed in 2021 and included members from CLFN, SFN and LSFN who met with FMG to facilitate discussions around Project specific TK/TLU concerns, the environment, education and training and other community goals and vision. The Committee provided a forum for two-way distribution of information as well as to discuss community questions, comments, and goals. The SEC was engaged in the Project through early 2022 after which other engagement methods were preferred by the communities as described below, despite FMG's offers to continue the SEC. Additional details on SEC participation in the Project engagement process are provided in Section 2.6.1.2.
- **Engagement in TK/TLU Studies and information sharing:** TK/TLU collection and sharing was discussed with Indigenous communities who expressed an interest as Project planning progressed and was supported by FMG through appropriate funding. TK/TLU studies were shared with FMG from six communities on the Project, including all the most proximate communities.
- **Community Information Sessions:** FMG hosted Community Information Sessions to present Project information and provide opportunities for community members to provide input and ask questions about the Project. This includes approximately 14 meetings within communities that accepted offers to hold meetings. FMG used poster boards and a presentation to share information with attendees and promote questions and encourage feedback. Attendees were encouraged to sign a register at the door to be placed on the Project distribution list, and to fill out and return comment forms following the session to provide feedback on the Project and ask questions. FMG used advertising in advance, as well as provide a meal and door prizes. to encourage attendance at Community Information Sessions.

- **Workshops:** FMG hosted workshops with members of local Indigenous communities on specific topics of interest (e.g., fish and fish habitat, caribou) to present Project information and provide opportunities for community members to provide input into the Project plans, including mitigation measures.
- **Local office:** FMG opened an office in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout to increase local awareness of FMG and the Project. The office also provides an opportunity for those who may prefer to meet in-person to ask questions and make comments.
- **Notice and radio announcements:** FMG published a Notice of Commencement at the beginning of the EA process and provided notices of Public Information Sessions/Open Houses in local newspapers. FMG also aired radio announcements on Wawatay Radio and CKDR (a radio station in Dryden, Ontario).
- **Information sharing and written review of EIS/EA documents:** FMG circulated copies of applicable documents for review and comment and worked with communities to obtain constructive feedback. The key EIS/EA documents circulated included:
    - Baseline studies;
    - Alternatives assessment information;
    - Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples; and
    - Comprehensive Draft EIS/EA.

    Consultation opportunities were provided throughout 2021 and 2022, and FMG gathered feedback in 2022, 2023 and 2024 on all aspects of the Project assessment through provision of the draft EIS/EA before plans were updated for the final EIS/EA.
    - FMG received and responded to over 250 comments from Indigenous communities on the ToR.
    - FMG received and responded to over 270 comments from Indigenous communities on the baseline studies (prior to the draft EIS/EA).
    - FMG received and responded to over 30 comments from Indigenous communities on the alternatives assessment (prior to the draft EIS/EA).
    - FMG received and responded to over 630 comments from Indigenous communities on the draft EIS/EA.
- **Factsheets:** FMG developed factsheets on various topics, that were circulated at Community Information Sessions and made available on the Project website.
- **Meetings/presentations:** FMG undertook meetings/presentations with communities and/or Chiefs and Councils, as well as their selected technical advisors, throughout the EA process. These ranged from general Project updates to technical meetings with EIS/EA reviewers.
- **Newsletters:** FMG developed annual Project newsletters in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. FMG continues to provide newsletters and make them available on the Project website. The newsletters are also translated to Ojibway and distributed to local Indigenous communities.

- **Community bulletins:** FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. FMG continues to provide community bulletins. The community bulletins included the following topics and are provided in Appendix D:
    - Community Bulletin 1 - Baseline Studies Update;
    - Community Bulletin 2 - CDF [co-disposal facility] Optimization;
    - Community Bulletin 3 - EA Progress;
    - Community Bulletin 4 - Fish Habitat Offsetting;
    - Community Bulletin 5 - Final EIS/EA Site Plan;
    - Community Bulletin 6 - Water Management;
    - Community Bulletin 7 - 2024 Baseline Update;
    - Community Bulletin 8 - Training and Job Opportunities; and
    - Community Bulletin 9 - Transmission Line Route.
- **Project website:** FMG maintains a Project EA website (also referred to as the Springpole EA Portal), which provides access to the EA materials as well as videos and factsheets summarizing the different aspects of the environment (physical, biological, and human environments) being studied. The website continues to be updated with current information.
- **Social media:** FMG utilizes social media platforms (e.g., Facebook) for engagement through the EA process, providing updates and information on the Project, as well as publicizing upcoming opportunities for engagement with FMG to discuss Project-related concerns.
- **Plain language and translated summaries:** FMG circulated plain language summaries of technical documents, as appropriate, including a summary of the draft EIS/EA to ensure that feedback could be provided by non-technical reviewers. Summaries are also translated into Ojibway whenever possible.
- **Community relations email:** FMG established a community relations email address (communityrelations@firstmininggold.com) to provide an additional forum for interested parties to connect with FMG representatives regarding the Project.
- **Webinars:** FMG hosted online webinars that were open to the public throughout the EA process as another way to provide flexibility for those who may prefer to not meet in-person. The webinars provided Project information and updates, as well as an opportunity for members of local communities to ask questions and make comments on the Project and EIS/EA.

Throughout the consultation process, the results of consultation are documented to ensure that key comments, questions, and interests are captured and considered, along with FMG responses explaining how they have or will be considered/addressed in the EA of the Project.

2.5.2 Government Agencies

The objective of consultation with government agencies in the early stages focused on scoping issues about the Project and potential environmental effects that should be addressed in the EA. The consultation on the

EIS/EA was organized based on the EA process including baseline, effects assessment, and mitigation and monitoring, with the draft EIS/EA being a key opportunity for input prior to finalizing the EIS/EA.

FMG used a combination of methods and tools to share information, and collect feedback from government agencies including:

- **Meetings to scope issues:** FMG met with federal and provincial government departments and agencies, primarily the MECP and IAAC, to scope other meetings throughout the development of the Project.
- **Circulation of documents:** FMG circulated copies of applicable documents for review in a timely manner. FMG provided initial baseline studies to government agencies in June 2021 and shared/discussed feedback about them through May 2022. Workplans for 2022 were shared with government agencies in May and discussed through that summer. Alternatives assessment materials were provided to the MECP and IAAC in October 2021 and discussions about them continued into August 2022. The draft EIS/EA was submitted in May 2022 and circulated to government agencies. FMG continued to gather feedback about the draft EIS/EA from government agencies into 2024 on all aspects of the Project, including workplans, baseline studies, alternatives, potential effects and mitigation measures.
- **Technical meetings/presentations:** FMG undertook virtual or face-to-face meetings/presentations with federal and provincial government departments and agencies through the EA process to keep an open dialogue on the progress of the Project and address comments and concerns raised from reviewers.
- **Project website:** FMG maintains a Project EA website, as mentioned above, which provides access to the baseline reports, alternatives assessment materials as well as videos and factsheets summarizing the different aspects of the environment (physical, biological, and human environments) being studied. The website continues to be updated with available information.
- **Local office:** FMG opened an office in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout to increase the local awareness and education of the Project and company and allow members of local government representatives to have a place to meet, ask questions and make comments in person.

Throughout the consultation process, the receipt of comments and questions was documented, together with FMG responses. FMG reviewed with federal and provincial departments how comments have been considered/addressed in the EA of the Project.

2.5.3 Public Stakeholders

Identified public stakeholders have been and will continue to be engaged using various methods to provide notification and collect feedback from interested persons. FMG reached out to public stakeholders through the following methods:

- **Contact lists:** FMG created a contact list of interested public stakeholders, which is maintained and modified as requested throughout the duration of the EA process (referred to as the Public Contact List, different than the Project Contact List, which includes local Indigenous communities and government agencies.
- **Public Information Sessions:** FMG hosted Public Information Sessions for public stakeholders in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, the Municipality of Red Lake, the Township of Ear Falls and the City of Dryden to present Project information and provide opportunities for input. FMG presented

a series of poster boards, gave a presentation, and provided handouts to attendees on the baseline data collected to date and on the alternatives assessment.

- **Local office:** FMG opened an office in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout to increase the local awareness and education of the Project and company and allow members of local communities to have a place to come and ask questions and make comments in person.
- **Notice and radio announcements:** FMG published a Notice of Commencement at the beginning of the EA process and provided notices of Public Information Sessions during the EA process in local newspapers, radio stations and their associated websites.
- **Circulation of documents:** FMG made the EA-related documents available on the Project website and at public viewing locations including the Ear Falls Public Library and the Sioux Lookout Public Library. FMG also circulated the link to the draft EIS/EA to the Public contact list for review and comment.
- **Letters**: FMG has used letters, and associated maps, to provide information and updates to local land users in the Project area.
- **Social media**: FMG utilized social media platforms (e.g., Facebook) for engagement through the EA process, providing updates and information on the Project and advertising for local events.
- **Factsheets:** FMG developed factsheets on various topics, which were circulated, provided at Public Information Sessions, and made available on the Project website.
- **Meetings:** FMG undertook virtual or face-to-face meetings/presentations with interested public stakeholders, as appropriate, through the EA process.
- **Newsletters:** FMG developed and shared Project newsletters starting in 2021 and continues to circulate Project newsletters regularly and make them available on the Project website.
- **Plain language summaries and videos:** FMG circulated plain language summaries of technical documents, as appropriate, to ensure that feedback could be shared by non-technical reviewers.
- **Project website:** FMG maintains a Project EA website throughout the duration of the Project which provides access to the baseline reports, alternatives assessment materials, the draft EIS/EA report, as well as videos and factsheets summarizing the different aspects of the environment (physical, biological, and human environments) being studied. The website continues to be updated with available information.
- **Precision targeted mailouts:** Using the Canada Post online Precision Targeter mail tool, FMG distributed flyers to residents and landowners in the Sioux Lookout Area and Indigenous communities. The flyers were distributed based on an identified area considering the Project location, potential expected interest in Project potential effects, as well as proximity to and knowledge of the Project area. The flyers were distributed to share information and keep the public informed about the Project. This method was used to distribute the Notice of Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment, Notices of Public Information Sessions/Open Houses, Notice of the draft EIS/EA release, and Project newsletters.
- **Public events:** FMG had a booth at many local public events throughout the EA process to increase the public awareness and education on the Project, as well as provide an opportunity for local community members to ask questions and provide comments. Some examples include Central

Canada Resource Expo held in Thunder Bay, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Conference in Toronto, Ear Falls Safety Night, and the Sioux Lookout Blueberry Festival.

- **Social media:** FMG utilizes a social media platform (e.g., Facebook) for engagement through the EA process, providing updates and information on the Project.
    - **Community relations email:** FMG established a community relations email address (communityrelations@firstmininggold.com) to provide an additional forum for interested parties to connect with FMG representatives regarding the Project.
- **Webinars:** FMG hosted online webinars that were open to the public throughout the EA process as another way to provide flexibility for those who may prefer to not meet in-person. The webinars provided Project information and updates, as well as an opportunity for members of local communities to ask questions and make comments on the Project and EIS/EA.

Throughout the consultation process, the receipt of comments and questions was documented, along with FMG responses as described further in Table 2.6-20 and Appendix C.

2.6 Summary of Consultation and Engagement with Local Indigenous Communities, Government Agencies and Public Stakeholders

Section 2.6 includes summaries of consultation activities that occurred from January 2017 through March 2024 with local and Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders. The summaries presented within this section are based on key decision-making milestones that occurred throughout the Project and comments shared throughout EA engagement up to June 30, 2024, with responses provided by FMG, including discrepancies between views.

The key decision-making milestones are identified below and include:

- **Consultation process and capacity building:**
    - The development of community-specific Indigenous consultation approaches, if requested, for participating in the EA process; and
    - The opportunity to establish community committees, environmental monitors/participation in fieldwork and other capacity-building opportunities.
- **ToR (including VCs, criteria and indicators):**
    - The development of criteria and indicators for the assessments of alternative methods and the preferred undertaking (Project); and
    - The development of the data collection methods, evaluation and results of baseline studies.
- **TK and TLU information**
    - The development and implementation of TK and TLU studies.
- **Baseline studies**
    - The development of the methodology, evaluation and results of Baseline Studies.
- **Assessment of alternatives**
    - The development of the evaluation method for the assessment of alternatives and the preferred undertaking (Project); and

- The conclusion of the assessment and evaluation of alternatives (including the identification of potential effects and the development of appropriate mitigation and management measures).

- **Effects Assessment (Draft EIS/EA)**
  - The assessment and evaluation of the preferred Undertaking (Project) (including the development of mitigation and monitoring measures to address any potential effects); and,
  - The conclusion of the assessment and evaluation of the preferred Undertaking (including potential effects, and appropriate effects management measures).

This section is supported by several appendices, which are described below:

- **Appendix B-4 (Approved ToR Commitments/Consultation):** This Appendix provides a table of concordance for the approved amended ToR commitments, including items related to consultation;
- **Appendix B-5 (Table of Concordance [ToR]):** This Appendix provides a table of concordance for the approved amended ToR, including items related to consultation;
- **Appendix C (Comment Response Concordance Tables):** This Appendix provides verbatim comments from Indigenous communities, government agencies and public stakeholders and responses from FMG based on review of the draft EIS/EA and baseline studies, including items related to consultation along with a reference to where the comment has been addressed in the final EIS/EA; and
- **Appendix D (Communication Log/Record of Consultation):** The RoC presented within this Appendix includes logs of each record of contact through June 2024 for Indigenous communities, government agencies, municipal governments and public stakeholders (Appendices D-1.1 through 1.4, respectively). Within each appendix, logs are presented as a table specific to each community, agency or municipality. The RoC items that relate to early engagement during the ToR process are summarized to focus on key records only (such as milestone information sharing). These items are prior to the subheader "Post-ToR RoC" in the RoC. The attachments to these appendices (D-2.1 through 2.4, respectively, aligning with D-1.1 through 1.4) provide key supporting documents including presentations, letters, comments, and internal meeting notes, associated with each record of contact, as appropriate. Appendix D-2.5 includes the ToR RoC items from early engagement.

Additionally, the tables at the end of each subsection summarize comments shared by Indigenous communities, federal and provincial government agencies, and public stakeholders through general EA engagement to date with responses provided by FMG as to how the comments were considered in the final EIS/EA. Comments were shared through general EA engagement to date with responses provided by FMG with the goal of resolving comments to the extent reasonable, including any discrepancies between views. Versions of these tables were included in the draft EIS/EA, which Indigenous communities and stakeholders had the opportunity to review (and identify opinions regarding how FMG had addressed the comments potentially). Any further comments on the draft EIS/EA shared in writing from Indigenous communities and stakeholders are included in Appendix C. Additionally, Indigenous communities will have an opportunity to review the final EIS/EA during the federal and provincial review process and FMG remains committed to addressing comments to the extent reasonable through the process and life of the Project. Comments provided via the socioeconomic study for the Project and TK/TLU Studies or other community-specific studies or processes are captured in the respective sections of the EIS/EA.

The key factors included in the amended ToR commitments outlined in Appendix B-4 are summarized as:

- Following the Indigenous Consultation Plan in the ToR, providing the opportunity to communities for flexible consultation methods, approaches and processes;
- The development of the method, evaluation and results of baseline studies;
- The development of criteria and indicators and the evaluation method for the assessment of alternatives and the preferred undertaking;
- The conclusion of the assessment and evaluation of alternatives (including the identification of potential effects and the development of appropriate mitigation and management measures);
- The development and implementation of TK and TLU studies;
- The assessment and evaluation of the preferred undertaking (including the development of mitigation and monitoring measures to address any potential effects); and,
- The conclusion of the assessment and evaluation of the preferred undertaking (including potential effects, and appropriate effects management measures).

The sections below describe how FMG met these commitments throughout the EA process. Appendix B-4 provides a concordance table describing how each commitment was met. In addition to the summary of consultation provided below and the appendices referenced in this section, Section 6.1.1 of the final EIS/EA includes a summary of input shared on the VCs, and the associated criteria and indicators. Additionally, Section 4.2 and Table 4.1-4 of the final EIS/EA further demonstrate consultation related to the alternatives assessment (including criteria and indicators).

The summaries below present key communications for each community, agency, or municipality, but are not exhaustive and additional community/agency/municipality-specific communications regarding the various milestones are detailed in subsequent sections. Occasionally, key milestone communications are repeated.

2.6.1 Consultation and Engagement with Local Indigenous Communities

This section provides an overview of consultation with local Indigenous communities (CLFN, SFN, LSFN, NWOMC, MON, ONS, PFN and WFN), including consultation and engagement activities that have been common among participating Indigenous communities (Section 2.6.1.1), as well as those that are community-specific (Section 2.6.1.2 through Section 2.6.1.10).

FMG acknowledges and appreciates the importance of meaningful consultation and collaboration to build trust and sustainable relationships. While each opportunity provided is not always acted upon by communities, consultation with local Indigenous communities has occurred to enhance awareness of the Project, understand comments, interests and concerns, and address or resolve issues raised about the Project. Consultation with the communities has primarily focused on the key EA milestones, including sharing baseline studies, the assessment of alternatives, the comprehensive draft EIS/EA, TK/TLU studies/information as well as other topics of importance to communities (environmental protection, community health and wellness, economic and employment opportunities, and education and training). Enhanced opportunities to participate in the planning process were provided based on the level of interest communities expressed in the process. To date, CLFN, LSFN, MON, NWOMC and SFN have expressed a higher level of interest compared to other communities. ONS has expressed an interest in staying informed about the Project and participation in training, employment and other potential opportunities.

2.6.1.1 Overview of Consultation and Engagement Common to Indigenous Communities

Section 2.6.1.1 provides an overview of Project-related information-sharing activities that have been common among identified Indigenous communities. This includes information distributed by FMG to Indigenous communities throughout the EA process to keep them informed of ongoing Project-related activities. FMG has engaged with Indigenous communities throughout the technical review process of the draft EIS/EA through a variety of flexible methods, such as distributing Ojibway and English summary documents and videos, presenting findings through virtual webinars, hosting Community Information Sessions and meetings/workshops, where accepted, using social media, and continuing to relay information to community contacts through email, meetings and phone calls.

Comments from Indigenous communities on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-2, Table 2.6-4 and Table 2.6-6 and Appendix C.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities common across Indigenous communities.

FMG established processes and approaches to consultation with participating Indigenous communities: CLFN, SFN, LSFN, MON, NWOMC and ONS. FMG worked with and continues to work with Indigenous community leadership to determine the communities' preferred approach to consultation that best suit their needs (such as preferred meeting formats), while also meeting commitments described in the approved amended ToR and other considerations such as process and reasonable funding needs. For example, in-person meetings were held in MON in 2022; however, the NWOMC typically prefers to meet virtually.

FMG followed and will continue to follow the consultation plans outlined in the approved amended ToR, as well as continue to reach out and share information with Indigenous communities on a regular and frequent basis throughout the EA process and Project life. As the Project advanced, the development of community-specific consultation plans has been achieved through various workplans and/or agreements based on mutually agreed upon Nation-specific approaches to consultation processes and workplans.

Starting in early 2021, FMG encouraged the involvement and participation of the most proximate Indigenous community members in environmental monitoring field activities being carried out as part of Project planning. Details regarding community-specific opportunities provided by FMG related to the identification and participation of environmental monitors are described in Section 2.6.1.2 through Section 2.6.1.10. In December 2021 and December 2022, FMG provided workplans and available environmental monitor positions. In 2022, environmental monitors participated in a six-week accredited training course, through Northern College. While not all Indigenous communities identified environmental monitor candidates, FMG continued to discuss filling these roles with communities through 2022, 2023, and 2024. Two environmental monitors participated in field programs in 2022, of which one continued to participate in 2023. To date, one local Indigenous environmental monitor from LSFN has transitioned to a role as a full-time FMG employee.

In addition to learning about environmental data collection methods, the environmental monitors had the opportunity to protect traditional interests and communicate findings to other community members and community leadership. Future positions for environmental monitors will continue to be discussed with communities guided by the goals and vision of the communities.

Throughout the EA process, FMG has provided employment and business opportunities to local Indigenous communities by sharing job postings and procurement information. In 2023 alone, FMG spent $3,900,000 in goods with local businesses, including Indigenous businesses (FMG 2024) and will continue to work with local and Indigenous businesses to enhance the opportunity to participate in the supply of goods and services for construction and operations (e.g., workshop about opportunities available, work with small businesses to prepare bids in response to Request for Proposals, business education).

Additionally, FMG has invited members from various Indigenous communities to visit the Project site for tours and offered to host in-community meetings.

Additional community-specific communications regarding consultation processes are detailed in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement

This section describes consultation and engagement activities common to Indigenous communities related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with Indigenous communities prior to the draft EIS/EA submission and that was not related to a key EA milestone.

General project information sharing with Indigenous communities started on October 26, 2017, when FMG shared a news release that provided an update on Project permitting activities. Following this, on February 5, 2018, FMG sent a notification letter to Indigenous communities regarding CEAA 2012.

A notification of the submission of the Project description for the Springpole federal EA was distributed on March 8, 2018, to Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders, noting the initiation of the federal EA process. On August 29, 2018, FMG sent notifications to local Indigenous communities, announcing the commencement of the ToR phase of the provincial EA Process for the Project. Key consultation and engagement activities related to the submission and review of the ToR are provided in the next section. On January 20, 2021. FMG provided the Project's Pre-Feasibility Study results to Indigenous communities to continue to keep them informed of the progress being made on developing the Project.

The MECP provided a notice of approval for the amended ToR on November 8, 2021.

On November 24 and December 1, 2021, the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA was shared in the Sioux Lookout Bulletin newspaper. FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement to Indigenous communities via email on December 3, 2021. The Notice of Commencement provided a description of the Project location, the provincial EA and consultation process, as well as a link to the Project website.

FMG regularly shares Project newsletters with Indigenous communities and encourages that they be shared with community members.

- In June 2021, FMG shared the summer 2021 Project newsletter, which provided a link to the Project Website that included information on the Project in plain language documents, the approved amended ToR and EIS guidelines, baseline studies and data collection, the preliminary assessment of alternatives, engagement programs, and additional information that was updated on an ongoing basis. FMG noted that the website included videos and factsheets that assist in describing the EA process, as well as studies being undertaken as part of the EA process for physical, biological, and

human environment components. FMG also noted that materials would be readily available and publicly accessible through the EA website and that community representatives could share the materials with community members.

- In December 2021, FMG shared the Winter 2021 Project newsletter, which included another announcement about the commencement of the EA and updates on Project activities and local event participation, information on why the Project is a proposed open pit mine, as well as an environmental baseline study update.
- In April 2022, FMG shared the third Project newsletter, which included information on the economic and employment benefits of the proposed Project, as well as a reminder about the Notice of Commencement of the EA and a link to the approved amended ToR.

Additional community-specific communications related to general Project information sharing are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

This subsection summarizes consultation related to the ToR (including valued components, criteria, and indicators) prior to the draft EIS/EA submission common across Indigenous communities.

The individual EA process requires approval of a ToR in prescribed format that will guide the content of the provincial EA. FMG prepared a draft ToR which was issued for regulatory, Indigenous and public comment in February 2020. After over a year of thorough consultation, the final amended ToR was approved by the Ontario Minister of the MECP on November 8, 2021. FMG provided capacity support when it was requested and consulted with Indigenous communities during the ToR process on Project VCs, including the method for the assessment of the VCs, and selection/determination of indicators and criteria. As described below, this process involved several opportunities for input on the VCs, and resulted in the refinement and finalization of the amended ToR, as well as beginning to the resulting EA process:

- On April 28, 2018, the MECP emailed Indigenous communities notifying them that FMG had volunteered to have the Project subject to an individual EA under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* and provide information on the EA Process for the Project
- On August 29, 2018, FMG sent a notification to local Indigenous communities announcing the commencement of the ToR phase of the provincial EA process for the Project.
- On February 26, 2020, FMG provided a copy of the draft ToR to local Indigenous communities for review.
- On August 19, 2020, FMG distributed the draft ToR, which included a list of preliminary potential VCs, to Indigenous communities via email and hard copy by mail.
- On August 27, 2020, FMG reminded communities of the mailed hard copy for comment and review, and a digital download copy was sent via email again. FMG provided an Acknowledgement of Receipt form to be filled out and sent back to the MECP.
- The initial response period was to end October 5, 2020, but was extended to November 23, 2020, for Indigenous communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In October 2020, FMG met with the MECP to hold two meetings specific to the review of the draft ToR and request an extension to the review period to allow Indigenous communities additional

time for input. Following this, FMG submitted the draft amended ToR (which incorporated feedback, comments, and review) to the MECP in January 2021.

- On December 18, 2020, FMG provided a letter to Indigenous communities to give advance notice of FMG's intention to amend the ToR and circulate a draft copy for an additional 30-day review period, prior to submitting to the MECP.
- On January 8, 2021, FMG provided the draft amended ToR to Indigenous communities and provided a cover letter explaining how comments were reflected in the updated document as well as a copy of responses to previous comments. The draft amended ToR included the list of VCs as well as the preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment. FMG requested that comments on the draft amended ToR be submitted by February 5, 2021.
- On February 11, 2021, FMG requested a third extension to submit the amended ToR to the MECP which was granted by the MECP with a deadline of April 29, 2021.
- On April 29, 2021, FMG submitted the amended ToR (which addressed feedback shared) to the MECP.
- On May 10, 2021, FMG requested the MECP to confirm if the amended ToR had been circulated to Indigenous communities and Government reviewers and the date for receipt of comments. The MECP responded confirming that the amended ToR had been circulated to those on the Government Review Team List and Indigenous communities for a 45-day comment period.
- Throughout June to August 2021, FMG worked with the MECP to resolve comments from Indigenous communities on the draft amended ToR.
- On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared the Notice of Approval for the Project's amended ToR with local Indigenous communities.

The ToR process allowed for early and detailed consultation on the proposed Project, EA methods including VCS, indicators and criteria, and consultation plans.

Additional community-specific communications related to the ToR (including VCs and criteria and indicators), as well as alternatives assessment method are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Baseline Studies

This subsection summarizes consultation related to baseline studies prior to the draft EIS/EA submission common across Indigenous communities.

FMG encouraged the involvement and participation of local Indigenous community members in the baseline studies and environmental monitoring for the Project. Indigenous communities have been engaged on the baseline studies by reviewing and providing input on workplans and permits, invitations to participate/oversee in field studies, as well as completing technical reviews of reports documenting the results of the studies. FMG has also welcomed members from various Indigenous communities at the Project site for tours and offered in-community meetings.

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly Community Bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. This included notification to NWOMC and MON on May 31, 2021, STPN on June 18, 2021, and to ONS, PFN and WFN on October 8, 2021. FMG also provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming baseline studies to inform

communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. The list of baseline studies made available included:

- 2018 Fish Community and Habitat Existing Conditions Report;
- 2019 - 2020 Aquatic Resource Assessment Report;
- Baseline Terrestrial Biology Report;
- Winter Aerial Wildlife Survey Results;
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Report;
- Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report;
- Interim Baseline Air Quality Summary Report;
- Geochemical Characterization Program Update Report;
- Surface Water Quality Baseline Report;
- Baseline Hydrology Report; and
- Sound and Vibration Baseline Report (Leaves-Off Program).

In 2021, FMG met with local Indigenous communities and held technical review meetings to discuss the baseline studies completed to date, and present findings, as well as receive feedback on the Project. Additional material and resources were provided to support Indigenous community members understanding of the studies being completed, including a series of videos, poster boards, presentations, factsheets summarizing different aspects of the existing environment, plain language summaries of technical documents, and overall information on the area of the baseline environment. Key changes made to the baseline programs resulting consultation with Indigenous communities are provided in the Influence of Consultation subsection for each VC-specific chapter in Section 6.0.

FMG provided reminders to communities about the studies available on the Project website in October 2021 and supported the funding of technical advisors for local Indigenous communities to review and provide comments on these studies, materials, and resources.

Additional community-specific communications related to baseline studies prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other Indigenous communities are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

This subsection summarizes consultation related to TK/TLU prior to the draft EIS/EA submission common across Indigenous communities.

FMG worked with local Indigenous communities to undertake TK/TLU studies and information sharing to inform the EA process and planning for the Project. To support this, FMG offered capacity support for the TK/TLU studies and provided shapefiles associated with the Project to facilitate community mapping. The early sharing of the draft EIS/EA provided a holistic view of Project information available at the time and helped facilitate the development and delivery of TK/TLU and other community-based studies for the Project. The final EIS/EA considers the available information contained in community TK/TLU Studies, Land Use Plans and TK/TLU information provided prior to submission.

Additional community-specific communications related to TK/TLU information prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other Indigenous communities are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Assessment of Alternatives

This subsection summarizes consultation related to the alternatives assessment prior to the draft EIS/EA submission common across Indigenous communities.

FMG consulted on the method for the alternatives assessment (and the associated criteria and indicators) during the ToR process as described above, and shared input from provincial government agencies, Indigenous communities, and some federal departments/agencies on shaping the final amended ToR.

In October 2021, FMG provided a preliminary alternatives assessment for the Project to local Indigenous communities via email. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. FMG also presented these materials through community meetings in November 2021 to seek feedback prior to the submission of the draft EIS/EA, where FMG provided a comparative analysis that focused on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process. In May 2022, the draft EIS/EA, including the draft alternatives assessment, was also provided to local Indigenous communities for review, along with a request for feedback. FMG consulted on the draft EIS/EA for two and a half years.

Additional community-specific communications related to the assessment of alternatives information are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement

This section describes consultation and engagement activities common to local Indigenous Communities related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This section summarizes general consultation activities with local Indigenous communities after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On January 31, 2023, FMG provided Indigenous communities with a hyperlink to the new Project overview video that highlighted key features of the Project, including a visualization of the Project facilities to provide a better understanding of the Project and the development of proposed components and features through time. FMG noted again that the draft EIS/EA was published and could be accessed through the hyperlink provided. FMG also notified the communities that it was planning to host Community Information Sessions located in Sioux Lookout and Ear Falls in the Spring of 2023. On May 4, 2023, FMG emailed Indigenous communities providing a hyperlink to the Project overview video with subtitles translated to Ojibway and draft EIS/EA documents. FMG invited questions or comments about the Project and offered to present the video at an in-person meeting.

FMG regularly shares Project newsletters with Indigenous communities as an information sharing method. Each newsletter also contains contact information for questions and comments. The newsletters have been distributed as follows:

- In August 2022, FMG shared the fourth issue of the Project newsletter, which re-iterated through the front-page article of the Project newsletter that the draft EIS/EA had been published and described how to provide feedback and comment on it. A version of the draft EIS/EA summary translated to Ojibway was made available 2023/2024 community meetings and distributed within Indigenous communities to increase the accessibility and reach of the document by providing Indigenous community members an opportunity to review the Project in a familiar language.

- In October 2022, FMG shared the fifth issue of the Project newsletter, which outlined recent community engagement activities, highlighted the compact design of the Project footprint and included a feature on the environmental training program. A version translated to Ojibway was shared in January 2023.
- In April 2023, FMG shared the sixth issue of the Project newsletter, which included highlights from 2022 as well as an update on the environmental baseline programs, including the Caribou and Wolverine studies. The newsletter also included links to the draft EIS/EA, Project video and FMG's 2022 ESG Report.
- In July 2023, FMG shared the seventh issue of the Project newsletter, which included an updated on FMG's 2023 ESG priorities, an overview of the Aquatic eDNA sampling program for the baseline studies, as well as a feature on an employee from CLFN.
- In October 2023, FMG shared the eighth issue of the Project newsletter, which outlined environmental work and community engagement activities conducted over the third quarter of 2023. The newsletter also included links to upcoming webinars on the Project, as well as information on the upcoming Public Information Sessions in November 2023.
- In January 2024, FMG shared the ninth issue of the Project newsletter, which included information related to Project updates; the upcoming Final EIS/EA submission; a description and link to the Project video; a description and link to the 2023 ESG Report; information on the Wolverine and Caribou studies; community and engagement related news, including (but not limited to) the public Open Houses that took place in the Municipality of Red Lake on November 29, 2023 and in the City of Dryden on November 30, 2023, the fish and fish habitat workshop; as well as links to a series of webinars that FMG held throughout November 2023 on the EA update/optimizations, fish habitat offsetting and compensation strategies, water management and treatment, and alternatives assessment process.
- In April 2024, FMG shared the tenth issue of the Project newsletter, which outlined environmental work and community engagement activities conducted over the first quarter of 2024. The newsletter also included job opportunities, as well as information on community meetings in April 2024. FMG requested the newsletter be shared with community members.

Beginning in July 2023, FMG provided Indigenous communities with monthly bulletins that summarize ongoing work related to the Project and EA, as well as provide general information about topics of interest, as identified through Community Information Sessions, meetings, workshops and technical reviews of the ToR, baselines, and draft EIS/EA to be shared with community members. Each bulletin also contains contact information for questions and comments. The bulletins have been distributed as follows:

- FMG sent the first Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on July 4, 2023, which included an overview of the environmental baseline data collection programs planned for 2023 as well as a notice of how FMG is maintaining the existing portage trail between Springpole Lake and Birch Lake at the exploration camp to allow for easier access for land users.
- FMG sent the second Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on August 11, 2023, which provided an update on optimizations made to the engineering design for the CDF including a plain language summary of the design optimizations with two technical memorandums attached. FMG offered to answer any questions or present the information in a meeting.

- FMG sent the third Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on September 22, 2023, which summarized the EA progress including an update on ongoing baseline studies and the alternatives assessment, outlined feedback shared to date on the draft EIS/EA and provided information on how community members could engage with the Project.
- FMG sent the fourth Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on October 20, 2023, which summarized the revised Fish Habitat Offsetting and Compensation Plan (FHOCP) since the draft EIS/EA. FMG asked that the bulletin be shared with community members and offered to answer any questions regarding the FHOCP or the EA process.
- FMG sent the fifth Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on November 17, 2023. The bulletin provided site plan optimizations that have occurred since submission of the draft EIS/EA. The bulletin presented the site plan that was proposed to be included in the final EIS/EA so that any comments and input could be shared from the communities in advance and considered before submission of the final EIS/EA. FMG also offered to discuss any questions.
- FMG sent the sixth Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on December 11, 2023, which summarized water management and treatment proposed for the Project. FMG offered to answer questions regarding the water management and treatment or the EA process, and/or provide a copy of previous monthly bulletins.
- FMG sent the seventh Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on February 23, 2024, which summarized the supplemental environmental baseline programs planned for 2024. FMG invited community members to participate in baseline program planning sessions or a site visit during one of the water sampling events. FMG noted that the first water sampling event is scheduled for May 2024.
- FMG sent the eighth Community Bulletin to Indigenous communities on April 9, 2024, which summarized the status of the EA process and described training, job, and procurement opportunities expected to be available if the Project moves forward.

On January 27, 2023, FMG provided Indigenous communities with the Project overview video highlighting key features of the proposed Project and an animation of the Project description. FMG also provided a hyperlink to the draft EIS/EA again, inviting questions or comments about the Project. FMG emailed the hyperlink to the Project contact list as well on January 31, 2023.

On July 18, 2023, FMG provided Indigenous community representatives with a letter describing the process and schedule for the establishment of the Independent Geotechnical and Tailings Review Board (IGTRB), in accordance with FMG's commitment in the draft EIS/EA. The role of the IGTRB is to provide independent review and oversight on the design, construction, operation, performance, and closure planning of the CDF. The letter provided the CV of the first identified board member. FMG offered to address any questions and requested for the information to be shared with the rest of the community members. On September 15, 2023, FMG provided Indigenous community representatives with an update letter on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and included information on the three members, as well as next steps for the board.

FMG invited Indigenous communities to attend a luncheon meeting at the PDAC Convention in Toronto in June 2022, as well as a corporate event.

On June 20, 2022, FMG shared its 2021 Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Report with Indigenous communities to keep them informed of ongoing business practices and goals and FMG's commitment to

sustainability and responsible business practice and on June 16, 2023, FMG shared its 2022 ESG Report with Indigenous communities. On June 17, 2024, FMG shared its 2023 ESG Report with Indigenous communities.

Additional community-specific communications related to general Project information sharing after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other Indigenous communities are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

This section summarizes consultation related to the draft EIS/EA (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, and mitigation and monitoring) common to Indigenous communities after the draft EIS/EA submission.

During this time, FMG undertook targeted consultation and sought feedback from communities on the draft EIS/EA including effects and mitigation, as well as other aspects of the EIS/EA (including alternatives and methods, criteria, and indicators), baseline studies, cumulative effects, and monitoring.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to local Indigenous communities. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

A version of the draft EIS/EA Summary translated to Ojibway was made available in November 2022 to increase the accessibility and reach of the document, and understanding of the Project, by providing an opportunity to review the Project in a familiar language. The translated summary was also provided at community meetings in 2023 and 2024 and distributed within Indigenous communities.

Following distribution of the draft EIS/EA, on September 27, 2022, FMG provided an invitation to a series of five virtual webinar presentations to discuss the findings of the draft EIS/EA. The five presentation themes were water resources, fish and fish habitat, human environment, terrestrial environment and atmospheric environment. The sessions included a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period with WSP Canada Inc. (WSP, FMG's EA consultants). Specifics regarding which entities participated are provided in the Sections below. In addition to these public sessions, community-specific engagement was ongoing.

These webinars to share Project information and provide an opportunity for Indigenous communities, government agencies, and public stakeholders to provide feedback on and ask questions about the findings of the draft EIS/EA were held in October 2022. FMG invited the Project's distribution list, including Indigenous communities, to these webinars in September 2022. Each webinar was two hours long and focused on one of five key technical areas of the draft EIS/EA including fish and fish habitat, atmospheric environment, water resources, terrestrial environment and human environment. The webinars were held on weekday evenings and each presentation included an overview of the existing conditions, EA methods (including indicators and measurable parameters), mitigation measures, the results presented in the draft EIS/EA and a question-and-answer period. FMG provided presentation recordings of the webinars to Indigenous communities and public stakeholders upon request and posted them on the Project website.

On February 16, 2023, the MECP provided FMG with letters that the MECP's Environmental Assessment branch sent to Indigenous communities providing an update on the provincial EA process and offering to meet with each Indigenous community to discuss the process.

On November 2, 2023, FMG distributed an email inviting parties on the Project Contact List, including Indigenous community representatives, to a four-part public webinar series in November 2023 on the CDF, FHOCP, water management and treatment strategy, and alternatives assessment process and provided links to each webinar. FMG conducted the four-part webinar series regarding the draft EIS/EA and Project optimizations to continue to provide ongoing updates on Project activities and how consultation was shaping the Project. The webinars were held weekday evenings, on November 7 (federal and provincial EA processes), November 14 (FHOCP strategies), November 21 (water management and treatment) and November 28, 2023 (alternatives assessment). The topic of each presentation was selected to highlight feedback shared during the draft EIS/EA review that led to advanced studies. A question-and-answer period was held for each webinar. FMG provided presentation recordings of the webinars to public stakeholders and communities upon request and posted them on the Project website.

Additional community-specific communications related to draft EIS/EA (including VCs, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, and mitigation and monitoring specific to Indigenous communities are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Baseline Studies

This section summarizes consultation related to baseline studies common to Indigenous communities after the draft EIS/EA submission.

In May 2022, the draft EIS/EA, including the completed baseline study reports and technical workplans for 2022 baseline studies, was uploaded to the Project website, and a link was provided to local Indigenous communities for review, along with a request for feedback. Hard copies and digital versions on USB sticks were offered and provided if requested. Review of the draft EIS/EA provided another opportunity for additional feedback to be shared. Discussion on comments shared is provided in the community-specific Sections below.

Throughout 2021 to 2024 FMG engaged local Indigenous communities on the terrestrial studies, including the Caribou baseline studies. In June 2022, the MECP notified Indigenous communities regarding the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA; S.O. 2007, c.6) 17(2)(b) permit for Caribou telemetry program that FMG had submitted, as well as feedback shared from Indigenous communities regarding the permit that was to be provided to FMG. On January 11, 2023, FMG emailed Indigenous communities informing them of the upcoming Caribou study in the Project area. FMG provided details on what the study would entail and attached a map of the Project location for reference. The Caribou study supported baseline research on terrestrial wildlife for the Project EIS/EA.

Indigenous communities have been engaged on the fisheries program for the Project including opportunities to provide input on sampling plans, invitations to participate in sampling, as well as review fish collection permit applications required to allow FMG to collect the baseline aquatic resource data to support the assessment of effects on fish and fish habitat for the Project. In July 2022, FMG provided local Indigenous communities with a copy of a fish collection permit licence application submitted to the MNR. No comments were shared from Indigenous communities and the MNR issued the permit.

On September 22, 2023, FMG emailed Indigenous communities to provide an update on ongoing baseline studies and outlined feedback shared to date on the draft EIS/EA. FMG also provided information for community members on how they can engage on the Project.

Additional community-specific communications related to baseline studies after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other Indigenous communities are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

This section summarizes consultation related to TK/TLU common to Indigenous communities after the draft EIS/EA submission.

As of June 2024, Project-specific TK/TLU studies from CLFN, LSFN, SFN, MON, NWOMC, and WFN have been shared with FMG. FMG has offered to support TK/TLU information data collection and sharing with ONS and PFN; however as of June 2024, ONS and PFN have not indicated interest in sharing TK/TLU information with FMG.

Additional community-specific communications related to TK/TLU information after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to Indigenous communities are outlined in Section 2.6.1.2 to Section 2.6.1.10.

2.6.1.2 Shared Territory Protocol Nations

As described above, CLFN, LSFN, and SFN entered into a Shared Territory Protocol agreement in 2017 and under this agreement are referred to as the STPN. As of December 2023, CLFN and LSFN have continued to work together on many aspects of Project consultation; while SFN has moved forward on its own and is currently working independently on Project consultation.

FMG initiated Project consultation with the STPN prior to the start of the EA process and the STPN and FMG have been engaging regarding the Project ever since. FMG has shared information with the STPN on the EA milestones as described below, as well as received considerable input into the Project planning and final EIS/EA from the communities. FMG has considered comments shared by the communities, and incorporated them into the final EIS/EA, as described in and Appendix C.

This section provides a summary of engagement specific to the STPN organized by key EA milestone. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided further below.

As of December 2023, CLFN and LSFN continue to work together on many aspects of Project consultation; SFN has since moved forward on its own and is working independently on Project consultation activities. The consultation summaries reflect this change.

Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and the STPN up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from the STPN and FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-2, Table 2.6-4 and Table 2.6-6 and Appendix C.

This section provides a summary of engagement specific to the STPN organized by key EA milestone. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided further below.

As of December 2023, CLFN and LSFN continue to work together on many aspects of Project consultation; SFN has since moved forward on its own and is working independently on Project consultation activities. The consultation summaries reflect this change.

Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and the STPN up to June 30, 2024.

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Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities for the STPN. This includes discussions related to the communities potential preferred consultation approach, communications related to invitations for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions and other in-person engagement such as site tours.

In 2017 FMG participated in dialogue with CLFN, LSFN and SFN regarding the establishment of a Shared Territory Protocol Agreement to facilitate the collaboration between Nations on Project consultation activities and related Project activities. From 2017 to late 2019, five meetings were held to discuss various Project-related topics, consultation processes and the relationship between the STPN communities and various items from exploration to benefits.

On September 30, 2019, the STPN and FMG met to discuss the agreements, the EA process, and consultation for the Project. On October 29, 2019, the STPN and FMG met to discuss the Project overview, draft ToR, Indigenous consultation, EIS/EA baseline studies, alternatives assessment methods, and agreements. On November 21, 2019, FMG and the STPN met to discuss the consultation process moving forward. Additional meetings were held on April 3 and April 28, 2020, to continue these discussions. During the April 28, 2020, meeting, FMG's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided the communities with Project updates including work at the Project exploration camp site during the COVID-19 pandemic, the upcoming submission of the ToR, funding of TK/TLU studies, and discussed environmental concerns. The meeting ended with the communities needing to meet internally to determine what their plan will be to work together moving forward. Following the meetings held in April 2020, the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 impacted in-person Project consultation and engagement, and FMG limited communications during this period to respect community priorities. Further, the CLFN elections in June 2020, June 2022, and June 2024 influenced community priorities with respect to Project consultation.

Throughout early 2021, FMG worked with the STPN, with support from the Municipality of Sioux Lookout Economic Development Coordinator and Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord to establish the STPN Springpole Environment Committee (SEC) for the Project. On January 29, 2021, FMG provided an update to the STPN where the creation of a forum for engagement involving the three communities was discussed; and a formal framework for engagement was adopted. On February 22, 2021, FMG sent a letter to the STPN supporting the establishment of the SEC. In April 2021, the roles for the community positions and SEC were discussed and next steps identified upcoming meetings to support the EA process.

On May 27, 2021, FMG provided the STPN with the draft SEC Terms of Reference for review. The SEC noted that they will circulate the document within the SEC and Chiefs for final review. On June 10, 2021, FMG and the SEC held a meeting where FMG provided an update on the Project including an overview of the EA process and the value of building long-term relationships with the First Nations. Discussions on next steps for the committee took place. Following the meeting, the SEC indicated to the MECP on June 16, 2021, that CLFN, SFN and LSFN were working collaboratively to review the Project and have officially formed the SEC. Additionally, the SEC requested an extension to submit their collaborative review of the Project's ToR to the MECP and FMG. FMG responded on July 17, 2021, noting their support of the SEC and that they were pleased with the progress to date.

On June 18, 2021, FMG emailed the SEC conveying that it understood STPN hired a consultant to support the Project and provided a link to the Springpole EA Project website containing the baseline studies for review. Further information on the baseline study review is included in that subsection below.

On July 3, 2021, the SEC provided the STPN SEC's Vision Board. The SEC noted that during the SEC meetings in June, they undertook a visioning exercise to reflect on and identify areas of importance, improvement, and opportunity. This feedback was intended to help guide the relationship, prioritize initiatives, and shape the planning and design of the final Project as the SEC and the broader communities established a relationship with FMG. The document outlined the SEC vision pillars and potential actions to support these goals. FMG confirmed receipt on July 5, 2021, and formally responded to the document on November 15, 2023.

On September 29, 2021, the SEC informed FMG that the CLFN meeting scheduled for October 5, 2021, and the site tour scheduled for October 8, 2021, would have to be rescheduled due to an emergency in the community. The SEC asked if FMG would still like to continue with the planned visits with LSFN and SFN to which FMG responded that it looked forward to the next opportunity to visit CLFN and that it would proceed with the visits to LSFN and SFN. These meetings are described in more detail in the community-specific sections (2.6.1.4 and 2.6.1.5) below.

On October 11, 2021, FMG provided a letter to the STPN expressing FMG's commitment to work towards the development of an agreeable STPN Community Consultation Process.

Following an email and letter from the MECP regarding the approval of the amended ToR on November 9, 2021, FMG reached out to the Chiefs of the STPN on November 10 to thank them for allowing FMG to visit their communities earlier that month. FMG noted the STPN's important input on the amended ToR through the work of the SEC. FMG stated that considering the important role of the STPN, a meeting with political representatives could be coordinated if of interest to the Chiefs. FMG offered to assist with making the arrangements and noted that it was a potential opportunity to discuss some of the aspects important to the First Nations such as the Cat Lake Road Project and other community initiatives. In addition to Project engagement, FMG has been collaborating on the discussions and planning for the Cat Lake Road Project, which is a separate community undertaking for which applications have not yet advanced.

On November 17, 2021, the STPN provided FMG with a letter expressing frustration with the method and timing of the announcement of approval of the amended ToR by the MECP on November 9 and stated that First Nations must be formally involved in all aspects of the EA and mining process. On the same, day, FMG responded noting its understanding of the perspectives expressed by the communities and identified that it would be timelier and more sensitive in sharing key information. FMG suggested a call to better understand expectations on the communications process with the STPN communities.

In response to the letter from the STPN on November 17, 2021, FMG provided a letter to the STPN on November 22, 2021, reiterating that a collaborative partnership with the STPN is important to FMG and would continue to be strived for. FMG explained that over the past year, it had sincerely tried advancing collaboration, indicated its willingness to discuss and establish a development agreement and proposed a weeklong in-person session during December 6 to 13, 2021.

FMG provided another letter in response to the STPN November 17, 2021, letter on December 10, 2021, to establish a meeting date to understand and address concerns towards demonstrating FMG's continued commitment to providing opportunities to the STPN for meaningful participation in every step of the process. FMG noted its desire to work with the STPN and that FMG remains available to meet in a location and date that best suits the STPN Chiefs.

The SEC emailed FMG on December 9, 2021, requesting a schedule of the fieldwork and exploration activities planned for 2022. In response, on December 10, 2021, FMG stated that the draft EIS/EA would likely be submitted by February or March 2022 to the SEC for review and noted that the timing of activities

is being finalized and FMG will produce a schedule as soon as the information is available. Following up on the original request, on January 10, 2022, FMG provided the Chiefs of CLFN, LSFN, and SFN with an update on activities occurring at the existing exploration camp including care and maintenance works and environmental fieldwork.

On February 11, 2022, FMG provided the SEC with the 2022 environmental monitoring field schedule, inviting environmental monitors from the communities to participate. FMG also provided the SEC with a list of at home learning modules environmental monitors could complete when not in the field and noted environmental monitor training would take place in April 2022.

On January 14, 2022, CLFN provided a letter to FMG regarding their concerns. FMG emailed CLFN, SFN and LSFN a letter to CLFN on February 15, 2022 addressing their concerns. On February 25, 2022, SFN provided FMG with a response to the letter provided to CLFN on February 15, 2022. These communications are further described in the community-specific sections (Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and Section 2.6.1.5).

On March 30, 2022, the Chiefs of the STPN provided a response letter to FMG's letter to CLFN on February 15, 2022, that continued to emphasize their concerns with the consultation process associated with the EA and indicated that the STPN wished to learn about the potential environmental impacts of the Project and proposed that a community consultation process be conducted. The STPN suggested a virtual meeting at the end of April to discuss an agreement regarding the consultation process. On April 13, 2022, FMG reached out to the Chiefs of LSFN, CLFN and SFN, regarding holding a virtual meeting towards the end of April 2022 to discuss comments and concerns on the Project. During the meeting held in May 2022 the STPN expressed their interest in developing a community consultation process and requested that FMG fund the process development costs. FMG agreed in principle subject to discussions on a workplan and budget.

Prior to the submission of the draft EIS/EA, FMG and the STPN commenced conversations regarding capacity support funding for review of the draft EIS/EA.

On May 30, 2022, FMG emailed the STPN to inform them of FMG's availability to assist with a June meeting on their preferred Community Consultation Process by providing capacity support and assistance in answering questions about the Project. FMG noted that a workplan would be required to form the consultation process agreement. FMG provided a link to the draft EIS/EA.

On September 20, 2022, the STPN provided FMG a letter pertaining to the granting of an extension request under CEAA 2012 for the EA. The letter noted that the STPN would be discussing the matter further with IAAC and requested that FMG provide funding to each of the Nations to support the design of their Community Consultation Process. On the same day, FMG and the Government Relations Coordinator for the STPN communicated about setting up a meeting to further discuss the extension request for the EA under CEAA 2012 for the Project. On October 11, 2022, FMG provided the STPN with a response letter which noted that FMG remains committed to collaborating and funding the reasonable costs of the development of a process to carry out their community consultation, and the sharing and protection of TK/TLU to inform the assessments. On October 13, 2022, IAAC responded to the September 20, 2022, letter from the STPN to FMG regarding the Community Consultation Process.

The STPN provided FMG with a final workplan for their Community Consultation Process (October 28, 2022). On November 8, 2022, FMG followed up to inform the STPN that it would support the initiative and requested to meet to discuss the process and opportunities for FMG to participate.

On January 6, 2023, FMG met with the STPN to discuss their priorities including the Community Consultation Process, the Cat Lake Road Project, and mental health and addictions. FMG expressed openness and willingness to support community initiatives as well as their participation in the EA process. FMG considered the feedback shared during this meeting by supporting the completion of a TK/TLU study and socioeconomic study for the STPN as well as the inclusion of a draft Health & Wellness Strategy in this final EIS/EA (Appendix Q-3).

Following this discussion, on January 8, 2023, the STPN provided FMG with a revised workplan the preferred Community Consultation Process. FMG provided questions regarding the workplan on January 10, 2023.

On March 7, 2023, FMG met with the STPN to discuss the Project, economic benefits of the Project, job opportunities, community wellbeing, the exploration agreement, as well as road and transmission line infrastructure.

Between June 6, 2023, and June 8, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN to provide information on and coordinate an opportunity for community members to participate in surface water sampling at the Project site. Two members of CLFN expressed interest in this opportunity, which took place between June 13 and June 15, 2023, as described further in the Section 2.6.1.3. Additional opportunities to participate in field studies have been offered including on September 6, 2023, when FMG invited STPN members to participate in upcoming archaeological assessment fieldwork.

On June 6, 2023, the STPN and FMG had a phone call to debrief on the previous week's STPN meeting related to the scope of work and the process agreement for the STPN Community Consultation Process. Emails were exchanged throughout June related to this and on June 30, 2023, the STPN and FMG had a phone call to discuss logistics related to the process and the presentation by Firelight Group, who was working as an EA advisor consultant for STPN.

On July 18, 2023, FMG had a phone call with the STPN, who noted that it the proposed Community Consultation Process was almost complete and would be sent to the STPN leadership to review FMG noted that they had discussed the draft EIS/EA review and the TK/TLU study with Firelight (STPN consultants) during a phone call on August 21, 2023, and it was and determined by the STPN that Firelight would proceed with the TK/TLU study and draft EIS/EA review.

Throughout September and October 2023, FMG communicated with the STPN to seek clarification on the Community Consultation Process. FMG requested opportunities to participate and collaborate with the STPN throughout the process. The workplan for the Community Consultation Process was reviewed and discussed, through multiple emails, phone calls and meetings.

On October 23, 2023, LSFN emailed FMG advising that communications regarding a proposed archeological assessment site visit and the STPN involvement should be directed to the STPN Government Relations Coordinator or the STPN's Community Consultation Process team. FMG responded clarifying that the STPN Government Relations Coordinator had advised FMG to reach out to the LSFN community representative directly. FMG also discussed concerns related to the ability of community representatives to fulfill their responsibilities outlined in the job description given the restrictions on the communication process. FMG noted that it would continue to provide consultation opportunities to LSFN with the hopes that opportunities are being communicated to the community representatives. In response on October 24, 2023, LSFN acknowledged receipt of the email regarding FMG's concerns regarding the communication process. LSFN also responded clarifying that communications should be addressed to the STPN moving forward. FMG responded and expressed its interest in open and transparent communication. On October 26, the Government Relations Coordinator emailed FMG advising that the STPN representatives would be meeting

to discuss the communication process and requested that FMG prepare and send any additional items that require regulatory review.

FMG made further attempts to schedule a meeting on November 2, 6, 7, 9, and 14, 2023. The STPN Government Relations Coordinator responded that they were waiting for instruction from the Nations' leadership and that the Nations were preparing logistics on communication and next steps.

On November 15, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN regarding the STPN SEC's Vision Document for the Project prepared by the SEC in June 2021. FMG noted that it delayed providing formal responses until there was a forum to discuss the items raised in the document; however, as the STPN had not yet been able to schedule meetings to discuss these areas, FMG felt it was important express openness to discussing this again. To demonstrate that, FMG explained how they have sought ways to incorporate the document into Project planning, responses to each of the items brought forward were provided. FMG noted that it looked forward to ongoing discussions and improving the process moving forward.

On November 27, 2023, FMG requested an update on the STPN Community Consultation Process workplan; subsequently, meetings were held on November 30 and December 14, 2023, to discuss the proposed Community Consultation Process.

As of December 2023, the relationship between the STPN changed. CLFN and LSFN continued to work together on many aspects of Project consultation, while SFN moved forward on its own working independently of the STPN on Project consultation.

Additional details related to communications specific to each of CLFN, LSFN, or SFN are detailed in those subsections (Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, Section 2.6.1.5) below.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This subsection describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the STPN related to the Key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones. The consultation summary presented below for the STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in Sections 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, Section 2.6.1.5.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the STPN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent Sections.

On July 19, 2017, FMG met with the STPN to provide a Project description presentation, and the group requested a follow-up meeting at the end of the month.

In July 2021, FMG and the SEC corresponded regarding the Cat Lake – Slate Falls Community Based Land Use Plan (July 2011) and FMG obtained the files and appendices related to this for consideration in Project planning.

Additionally, throughout July and August 2021, FMG and the STPN SEC discussed and coordinated the scheduling of Community Information Sessions in the fall.

On November 22, 2021, FMG informed the Chiefs of the STPN, the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord, and the SEC that they may hear from Wataynikaneyap Power regarding a planned study in relation to the Project

power requirements. FMG noted it was engaging with the Independent Electricity System Operator and Wataynikaneyap Power regarding a potential transmission line connection in the future.

On November 23, 2021, FMG provided advance notice to the SEC that FMG was beginning the Project EA and that a Notice of Commencement would be published in the Sioux Lookout Bulletin. FMG attached the Notice of Commencement and noted that it would be published upon amended ToR approval. On January 7, 2022, following an email dated December 22, 2021 (which discussed available work for environmental monitors and the 2022 field schedule), FMG provided the SEC with an update on the environmental monitoring work. FMG noted that work had been delayed until later in January 2022.

Additional community-specific communications related to general Project information sharing prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to CLFN, LSFN and SFN are outlined in Sections 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, Section 2.6.1.5.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

This subsection summarizes consultation related to the ToR (including valued components, criteria and indicators) with the STPN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent sections.

FMG and the STPN engaged in substantial discussions throughout the ToR process, meeting a total of seven times from the Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process in August 2018 and the submission of the draft amended ToR in April 2021 that resulted in updates to the ToR. The STPN provided comments and FMG provided responses on the draft amended ToR.

FMG provided CLFN, LSFN and SFN with the draft amended ToR in January 2021 and further information is available in those community-specific sections (Sections 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, Section 2.6.1.5).

The STPN emailed the MECP on June 16, 2021, requesting an extension to submit their collaborative review of the draft amended ToR. On June 21, 2021, FMG contacted the MECP to inquire about receiving comments on the draft amended ToR from the MECP, as the comment deadline passed on June 20, 2021. The MECP responded on June 22, 2021, providing comments from MON and NWOMC on the draft amended ToR. The MECP provided more comments from NWOMC and MON on June 29, 2021. FMG responded with an update on the progress made on finalizing the approach for consultation on the EIS/EA for MON, NWOMC, and the STPN of CLFN, SFN, and LSFN.

On June 30, 2021, FMG met with the SEC to review and discuss the commitments outlined in the amended ToR. FMG provided an overview of the amended ToR and the purpose of it and answered questions from the SEC. FMG presented the eight commitments that were included in the amended ToR, as agreed to with the communities' leadership, and a status update on each of them

The STPN provided their comments on the draft amended ToR to the MECP on July 16, 2021. On July 22, 2021, FMG emailed the MECP providing its responses to the STPN comments on the draft amended ToR.

This was followed by a meeting on July 26, 2021, with the SEC to discuss the STPN comments on the draft amended ToR. FMG responded on July 27, 2021, explaining that the commitments made in the draft amended ToR are comprehensive and new commitments are not required. FMG would confirm this understanding internally and the SEC would also confirm this understanding via email that week. On July 28, 2021, the STPN emailed FMG with proposed revisions to the amended ToR which were incorporated into the final approved ToR. STPN SEC responded to FMG's responses to their comments on the ToR

inquiring what process will be implemented to track that FMG's responses to the SEC's comment are fulfilled during the EA. FMG replied stating that a concordance table will be included in the EA. STPN SEC responded stating this is satisfactory. The ToR was approved on November 8, 2021.

Additional community-specific communications related to the ToR (including VCs and criteria and indicators) specific to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN are detailed in Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and Section 2.6.1.5.

Baseline Studies

This subsection summarizes consultation related to baseline studies with the STPN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent Sections.

On January 11, 2019, FMG contacted representatives of CLFN, LSFN and SFN to inquire about population data to supplement the baseline studies. No response was shared; however, since that time, CLFN, LSFN and SFN provided community-specific socioeconomic baseline studies to be considered in the EIS/EA (see Sections 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, Section 2.6.1.5 for more information).

FMG provided the SEC with the 2022 environmental monitoring field schedule on February 11, 2022, inviting environmental monitors from the communities to participate. FMG also provided the SEC with a list of at home learning modules environmental monitors could complete when not in the field and noted that environmental monitor training would take place in April 2022.

The STPN have been engaged on the fisheries program for the Project including opportunities to provide input on sampling plans, invitations to participate in sampling, as well as review permit applications required for baseline data collection. On July 12, 2021, FMG provided the STPN a copy of the licence to collect fish application. FMG provided the application again on August 30, 2021, and offered to review the application with the SEC if needed. The STPN indicated that they would review at their meeting and let FMG know if a follow-up session is required. The STPN did not indicate that a follow-up session was required.

2.6.1.1FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly Community Bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input, as described in Section 2.6.1.1, On June 18, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

In addition, FMG notified the STPN that workplans for the upcoming baseline fieldwork were available on the Project website in May 2021. These were sent directly to the SEC again on August 17, 2021.

On July 28, 2021, FMG emailed the STPN looking to organize technical review meetings on the environmental baseline studies to provide background to STPN reviewers. On August 17 and 18, 2021, FMG held a series of technical review meetings with the STPN to discuss the surface water, groundwater, aquatic, terrestrial, air quality, noise and vibration, and ambient light baseline studies. The presentations included an overview of the Project, and a description of the baseline data collection to date, including methods and results. The consultants hired by the STPN to complete the technical review attended, along with members of the SEC, and were invited to ask questions. On August 19, 2021, FMG provided a link to recordings of the technical meetings to STPN's reviewer. FMG noted that it would prepare presentation materials for the upcoming meetings.

On August 25, 2021, FMG informed the SEC Coordinator that the Baseline Sound and Vibration (Leaves On/summer) Report was posted on the Springpole EA Project website. FMG noted that the results were consistent with the leaves-off report previously provided and provided the link to the document.

On September 22, 2021, the STPN contacted FMG to ask if the country foods sampling program had proceeded as scheduled and described in the workplans provided in May. They also requested that FMG share the list of country foods considered and how the list was compiled. FMG responded the next day confirming that the country foods program progressed as planned and followed up on October 1, 2021, providing an update on the country food sampling that was completed in 2021, including the details regarding the selection of species and what was collected. FMG noted that if there were additional species of interest or input that the SEC had on the program, FMG would like to discuss how that can help shape future programs. The SEC did not provide additional species of interest or input.

On October 8, 2021, FMG provided the STPN with the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. FMG also provided the 2021 technical workplan summaries to describe the plans and methods for upcoming programs. FMG noted that additional material and resources are available on the website, including a series of videos and factsheets describing the work that has been done and information on the baseline investigation area to support community members' understanding of the studies.

On October 12, 2021, the STPN provided FMG with their general and specific technical comments on the baseline studies. The comments included a thorough review of the baseline studies, and the review incorporated the community traditional practices and priorities identified in the Cat Lake – Slate Falls Community Based Land Use Plan (July 2011) and the STPN SEC's Vision Board. A copy of the comments is provided in Appendix D. FMG responded noting that draft responses to the specific technical comments are being prepared by FMG and proposed an October 2021 meeting to discuss the comments, and next steps for the communities. FMG also suggested discussing a plan for any additional follow-up calls that may be required to address the specific technical comments. A meeting was held on October 17, 2021, to discuss the general comments included in the review report of the baseline studies and a plan for follow-up calls to discuss the specific technical comments. FMG followed up on October 20, 2021, to request meetings to discuss comments on the baseline studies related to archaeology and culture, air quality, sound and vibration, aquatics, geochemistry, groundwater, surface water, climate change and terrestrial environment.

FMG provided written responses to the STPN general comments on the baseline studies on October 26, 2021, and informed the STPN that it would discuss specific technical comments in the meetings prior to providing written responses to ensure understanding of the comments and address them appropriately. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

The SEC and FMG held technical meetings on October 28 and 29, 2021 related to the STPN comments on the baseline studies and FMG's proposed responses. On October 28, there was a discussion on the general comments provided in the review, as well as the archaeology, cultural heritage, air quality, and sound and vibration baseline studies. On October 29, the discussion included the comments and responses related to the terrestrial, aquatic, and water resources baseline studies. A thorough discussion was held on each comment and the proposed responses, allowing for an opportunity for further input from the SEC before the responses were finalized. On November 29, 2021, FMG provided the STPN with written responses to comments shared by the STPN on the baseline reports. The feedback received from the SEC was incorporated into the baseline programs moving forward, as described in Table 2.6-2, Table 2.6-4 and

Table 2.6-6. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

In November 2021, FMG hosted Community Information Sessions in each of the STPN communities which included presentation materials, including poster boards and handouts related to the baseline studies. These meetings are described further in the community-specific sections below.

On November 3, 2021, the STPN informed FMG that the reports and corresponding shapefiles related to the SAR studies on Lake Sturgeon and Wolverine carried out by the MNRF, SFN and CLFN would be provided by the MNR. FMG followed up again on December 4, 2021, requesting the studies. They were provided to FMG on December 6, 2021; and FMG has considered these studies in the assessment on fish and fish habitat (Section 6.10) and Wolverine (Section 6.14).

On November 11, 2021, FMG shared a copy of a permit application for the Caribou telemetry study with the STPN, which included a description of the scope of work and the animal care protocol. FMG noted that the permit was required for work in early 2022 and that it would like to set up a meeting to discuss the program with the STPN. A meeting was held on December 6, 2021, to review the workplans for 2022 baseline studies including answering questions related to the Caribou baseline program.

On November 12, 2021, the STPN and FMG met to discuss the water and aquatic sampling locations and methods. FMG described why the locations are chosen and explained how the sampling is carried out. Following this, the workplans were updated to incorporate the SEC's feedback on the baseline reports, as well as feedback shared during the meetings on October 28 and 29 and on December 2, 2021, FMG provided the 2022 workplans for surface water quality, hydrology, groundwater, fish and fish habitat, terrestrial biology, and air quality baseline studies fieldwork to the STPN. FMG noted that the Caribou program would also be discussed at the meeting. The STPN noted that the workplans were reviewed and provided comments in advance of the meeting on December 6, 2021.

A meeting was held on December 6, 2021, to review the workplans for 2022 baseline studies fieldwork with the SEC and their consultants. FMG provided an overview of the workplans and the SEC asked questions and provided feedback. FMG presented the proposed new water monitoring stations that were added as a result of the previous discussions with the SEC and the SEC was satisfied with the updates. as described in Appendix D.

Additional community-specific communications related to baseline studies prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN are detailed in those Sections 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and, Section 2.6.1.5.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

This subsection summarizes consultation related to TK/TLU with the STPN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent Sections.

To help the STPN undertake mapping for their TK/TLU studies, FMG provided a memo and shapefiles on June 2, 2021. The SEC thanked FMG and asked if FMG had a file that illustrated the potential areas of ground disturbance based on the conceptual mine design and ancillary infrastructure. FMG responded noting where to find this information within the provided files.

On July 26, 2021, FMG contacted the STPN to request the appendices for the Cat Lake – Slate Falls Community Based Land Use Plan (July 2011). The STPN indicated that they would provide digital copies to FMG. FMG followed up on August 11, 2021, requesting an update on when to expect the appendices of the Land Use Plan. On August 13, 2021, the STPN provided Appendix 2 of the Land Use Plan to FMG on August 13, 2021, and indicated that Appendix 1 may be provided by the MNRF.

FMG emailed STPN on October 14, 2021, to request a phone call to discuss the status of the TK/TLU studies. However, the STPN did not respond to the request. On November 9, 2021, the STPN requested shapefiles FMG of the proposed operation footprint from FMG. The STPN noted that progress was being made with the mapping activities for the TK/TLU Study and requested to reschedule a Land Use Planning meeting. FMG responded the next day providing the STPN with the requested shapefiles for the mine development area to facilitate the development of their TK/TLU studies.

On February 1, 2022, an SEC member informed that the SPTN would not be able to attend the meeting scheduled on February 3 to discuss funding of the Project's TK/TLU study and noted that they would be in touch with FMG to reschedule once the STPN Chiefs had met.

The draft EIS/EA was released in May 2022 and further information related to engagement on TK/TLU studies after the draft EIS/EA submission is provided below.

Additional community-specific communications related to TK/TLU specific to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN are detailed in Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and Section 2.6.1.5.

Assessment of Alternatives

This subsection summarizes consultation related to the alternatives assessment with the STPN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent Sections.

As described in Section 2.6.1.1, on October 1, 2021, FMG provided the STPN with the preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive written feedback from STPN on these tables; however, they were discussed in Community Information Sessions in November 2021.

In November 2021, FMG hosted Community Information Sessions in each of the STPN communities which included presentation materials, including poster boards and handouts related to the alternatives assessment. These meetings are described further in the community-specific sections (Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and, Section 2.6.1.5) below.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the STPN related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This section summarizes general consultation activities with the STPN after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries are provided further below.

FMG emailed a poster invitation to Public Information Sessions coming up in Ear Falls and in Sioux Lookout to the STPN on May 29, 2023, inviting them to attend if interested.

On January 27, 2023, FMG forwarded the STPN an email regarding a news release from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs that noted the Ontario government has launched the annual funding applications for the Indigenous Economic Development Fund and the Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program. FMG offered to assist the communities with applications but did not receive any uptake.

FMG and the STPN met on March 7, 2023, to discuss the Project, economic benefits of the Project, job opportunities, Project contributions to community wellbeing, the exploration agreement, and road and transmission line infrastructure. On the following day, FMG emailed the STPN thanking them for the meeting and provided STPN with the slides presented during the meeting. FMG indicated that it would follow up with the STPN regarding the next steps for the Cat Lake Road. On April 11, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN Chiefs directly providing the sixth issue of the Springpole quarterly newsletter; acknowledging comments from SFN about the Nation not being aware of activities at Springpole and trying to distribute more information. FMG noted that the newsletter was being translated to Ojibwe and would follow up to start scheduling dates for a June site tour. Site tours occurred as described in the community-specific Sections.

Between April and December 2023, FMG sent the STPN two Springpole Explorer newsletters, an advanced copy of the 2022 ESG Report, and multiple bulletins outlining current Project activities (as described in Section 2.6.1.1).

FMG emailed the STPN on October 27, 2023, providing FMG's feedback on the document that the Firelight Group (the STPN consultant) had prepared comparing the Springpole and Lac des Iles Mine and the errors contained in the materials. FMG requested to schedule a meeting to discuss further and noted the importance of relaying accurate information to the communities.

On November 1, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN to confirm that they had the invitations to a series of webinars being held by FMG in November 2023. Webinars provided updates on the CDF engineering design, FHOCP, water management and treatment, and the alternatives assessment process. FMG provided links to the invitations for each webinar.

Additional community-specific communications related to general Project information sharing after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to CLFN, LSFN and SFN are outlined in Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and, Section 2.6.1.5.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

This section summarizes consultation related to the draft EIS/EA (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, and mitigation and monitoring) specific to the STPN after the draft EIS/EA submission. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent sections.

The STPN and FMG have been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources

(e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to the STPN communities. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

FMG sent the STPN the Ojibway translated version of the draft EIS/EA summary on November 14, 2022; this translated version of the draft EIS/EA summary was also made available on the Project's website. The translated summary was also provided at community meetings in 2023 and 2024 and distributed within Indigenous communities

On January 6, 2023, FMG met with the STPN to discuss their priorities including the Community Consultation Process, the Cat Lake Road Project, and mental health and addictions. FMG expressed openness and willingness to support community initiatives as well as their participation in the EA process. FMG has considered the feedback shared during this meeting in development of the final EIS/EA by inclusion of a Health & Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3) as a mitigation measure.

On July 14, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN noting that it was awaiting the STPN's comments on the draft EIS/EA, and that the comments would be considered. During a phone call on July 18, 2023, the STPN indicated that a review of the draft EIS/EA was proceeding.

On September 28, 2023, in response to an email from the STPN dated September 27, FMG provided details and timelines for the draft EIS/EA review, TK/TLU study and Socioeconomic Study. FMG requested for Firelight Group (STPN's selected technical consultant) to confirm details regarding the interim deliverables for end of 2023 for the TK and Socioeconomic studies. The Firelight Group confirmed the details requested and noted the studies are on track.

In response to an email from FMG on September 29, 2023, the Firelight Group (on behalf of the STPN) confirmed on October 2, 2023, that it would complete the draft EIS/EA review by the end of October or November.

On October 26, 2023, FMG emailed Firelight Group (on behalf of the STPN) a complete list confirming the draft EIS/EA chapters, documents, and appendices that were available for review and noted that they are also available on FMG's website to help with the review.

FMG emailed a letter to the Chiefs and the STPN on November 6, 2023, inviting their communities to a FHOCP workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to present information on the options proposed in the draft FHOCP and discuss new potential offsetting options and answer questions on existing studies and plans. The communities were invited to share knowledge, comments and questions on the options and bring forward potential new ideas to be considered in developing the updated FHOCP. The workshop was proposed for December 6, 2023, in Thunder Bay and FMG offered support and funding for the logistics. Details on the workshop(s) that were held are included in the community-specific sections below.

FMG followed up to the invitation on November 15, 2023, and requested a response before November 17. FMG requested confirmation on November 20, 2023, and November 23, 2023, that the STPN would attend the workshop and on November 24, 2023, FMG cancelled the workshop due to the lack of response from the STPN expressing interest in the opportunity and FMG stated it would aim to provide another opportunity in 2024. Ongoing engagement is captured in the CLFN, LSFN, and SFN sections below (Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and, Section 2.6.1.5).

On November 30, 2023, FMG emailed Firelight Group (on behalf of STPN) to request an update on its review of the draft EIS/EA. Firelight informed FMG that the review would be sent to the STPN to confirm the Chiefs' approval.

As of December 2023, CLFN and LSFN continued to work together on many aspects of Project consultation, while SFN moved forward working independently on Project consultation. Consultation on the draft EIS/EA moving forward is described in the community-specific sections (Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and, Section 2.6.1.5)

Baseline Studies

This section summarizes consultation related baseline studies specific to the STPN after the draft EIS/EA submission. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent sections.

On June 6, 2022, FMG emailed the STPN informing them of a potential archeological find that FMG geologists discovered on the north end of Birch Lake during regional exploration work. FMG noted that the artifact was left undisturbed as per company procedure, and that the mineral claims where it was found are owned by Pelangio Exploration. FMG provided the STPN with an image of the artifact and FMG's Chance Find Procedure document for further information. STPN did not request further information.

The STPN emailed FMG on March 21, 2023, requesting the previous SEC comments on the baseline studies from 2021. FMG provided the STPN comments and FMG responses to the associated comments on the baseline work that were originally sent in 2021. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

On April 17, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN communities providing an update on a planned 2023 aquatics eDNA study focused on Lake Sturgeon potential spawning locations. FMG noted that based on the TK shared with FMG, Lake Sturgeon were present in Springpole Lake in the past; and inquired if the communities could provide more information on where spawning may have been historically observed so these locations can be further studied. The study was carried out in Spring 2023 and targeted likely spawning locations identified through local community knowledge.

On April 17, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN communities informing them of and inviting them to participate in an archaeology program. FMG also inquired if there were any additional areas of interest to STPN in the Local Study Area that could be incorporated into the program. FMG invited a representative of the STPN to participate in these programs during fieldwork in mid-May 2023. Considering that the STPN communities chose not to participate in the spring, FMG offered another opportunity in the fall. FMG emailed on September 6, 2023, inviting STPN members to participate in an archaeological demonstration that was planned for September 28. On September 7, 2023, the STPN informed FMG that STPN members are not available to attend the proposed archaeological assessment and FMG replied requesting alternative dates. On September 11, 2023, the STPN instructed FMG to contact the communities directly to schedule the upcoming archaeological demonstration and provided contact information. On September 12, 2023, FMG sent an invitation for community members to participate in the archaeological assessment and requested to arrange the logistics for the participants as required. On September 18, 2023, and October 16, 2023, FMG followed up on this inquiry and invited community members to participate in the archaeological assessment again. The STPN chose not to participate in this opportunity due to ongoing internal discussions between communities.

Additional community-specific communications related to baseline studies after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN are detailed in Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and, Section 2.6.1.5.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

This section summarizes consultation related TK/TLU specific to the STPN after the draft EIS/EA submission. The consultation summary presented below for STPN is common to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN and community-specific consultation summaries, which provide more detail, are provided in subsequent sections.

FMG held discussions with the STPN throughout 2023 regarding the development and sharing of TK/TLU studies. During a phone call on July 18, 2023, the STPN indicated that the TK study was planned to be conducted by the Firelight Group; however, the exact timing was unknown. Following this, throughout the months of August and September, FMG and the STPN participated in discussions related to appropriate funding of the proposed Community Consultation Process which resulted in delays to the completion of the TK/TLU studies. On September 12, 2024, FMG emailed the STPN to reiterate that the workplan for TK/TLU studies, socioeconomic baseline studies, and draft EIS/EA review were already approved to proceed earlier this year

On November 30, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN and Firelight Group to confirm that SFN would be pursuing their own TK and socioeconomic baseline studies. Therefore, more information on the TK/TLU information after this point is included in the community-specific sections below.

Additional community-specific communications related to the TK/TLU information after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to CLFN, LSFN, and SFN are detailed Section 2.6.1.3, Section 2.6.1.4, and, Section 2.6.1.5.

2.6.1.3 Cat Lake First Nation

FMG initiated Project discussions with CLFN in July 2017 and CLFN and FMG have been engaging regarding the Project since. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to CLFN organized by key EA milestones. FMG has shared information with CLFN on the EA milestones as described below and throughout the process has received valuable input from the community. FMG has considered the comments and feedback received, and where appropriate, incorporated it into the final EIS/EA, as described in Table 2.6-2 and Appendix C. FMG has received a TK/TLU Study as well as a Socioeconomic Baseline Study from CLFN for consideration in Project planning. FMG and CLFN have developed a process agreement and workplan for engagement on the Project and EA. Additional engagement relevant to CLFN, but undertaken via the STPN, is presented above in the STPN Section. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and CLFN up to June 30, 2024.

The key topics of interest identified by CLFN to date include water quality, social aspects, employment and training, fish habitat, TLU and access, and monitoring. Comments from CLFN and FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-2 and Appendix C.

Table 2.6-1: Summary of Key Engagement with Cat Lake First Nation

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
December 1, 2017	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in CLFN to introduce the Project, as well as the environmental assessment process and associated consultation processes to community members. FMG also provided an overview of the Terms of Reference and baseline studies. This allowed for an early opportunity to ask questions about the Project and process.
July 24, 2018	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in CLFN to discuss the environmental assessment process and associated consultation processes with community members.
February 4, 2020	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in CLFN to provide an overview of the Project, the draft Terms of Reference, Indigenous consultation processes, baseline studies, and alternative methods to community leadership and members.
November 2020	Document Review: Provincial Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference	FMG and CLFN engaged in substantial discussions throughout the Terms of Reference process including holding multiple Community Information Sessions in the community and providing written input into the final approved Terms of Reference.
December 3, 2021	Notice: Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
June – December 2021	Document Review: Baseline Studies	FMG provided CLFN the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input on June 18, 2021. FMG also provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming baseline studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. CLFN provided FMG with their technical comments on the baseline studies on October 12, 2021. FMG and CLFN held multiple technical meetings to discuss and resolve comments. FMG provided responses to the technical comments on November 29, 2021. FMG and CLFN held additional technical meetings to discuss and resolve comments in December 2021.
August – December 2021	Technical Review Meetings: Baseline Studies	FMG met with CLFN to discuss comments on the baseline studies, workplans for future years, and how they have been adjusted to address CLFN comments.
October 1, 2021	Document provided for review: Preliminary Alternatives Assessment	FMG provided CLFN with a preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive written feedback from CLFN on these tables.
October 27, 2021	Site Tour	FMG hosted a site tour at the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with CLFN community representatives, which provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site.
November 3, 2021	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in CLFN to share information on the Project, baseline studies, and the alternatives assessment. In general, the key discussion and comments were held around the environmental assessment process, protection of the environment including wildlife and fish, as well as TK of the area.
May – June 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to CLFN.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, CDF, EA, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
June 13, 2023	Site Visit/Participation in Baseline Sampling	CLFN representatives attended a two-day Project site visit and participated in the water quality sampling program.
March – June 2024	Document Review: Draft EIS/EA	CLFN emailed FMG on March 4, 2024, providing a cover letter and technical review comments on the draft EIS/EA. The comment table attached included approximately 200 comments on the draft EIS/EA across various topics, including the Project description, TK/TLU, human and ecological health, fish and fish habitat, water quality, archaeology, cultural heritage, terrestrial environment, and geochemistry. On June 18, 2024, FMG provided responses to the comments received on the draft EIS/EA related to the Project description, TK/TLU, human and ecological health, fish and fish habitat, water quality, and geochemistry. On June 28, FMG provided responses related to the terrestrial environment, archaeology, and cultural heritage comments.
April 24, 2024	CLFN Socioeconomic Report	CLFN provided FMG with the community's baseline Socioeconomic Report.
April 24, 2024	CLFN Indigenous Knowledge and Use Report	CLFN provided FMG with the community's Indigenous Knowledge and Use Report.
June 5, 2024	Community Information Session	FMG hosted a Community Information Session in CLFN to present updates on the Project to community members and receive feedback. FMG gave a presentation providing information and updates on the Project design, Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment, and FMG's current understanding of CLFN priorities including their interest in an all-season community access road.
August 15, 2024	Technical Review Meeting: Fish and Fish Habitat	FMG met with CLFN to discuss their comments on the draft EIS/EA related to Fish and Fish Habitat, and FMGs responses.
September 4, 2024	Site tour	FMG hosted a site tour of the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with representatives and community members from CLFN.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities related to CLFN. This includes discussions related to the potential preferred consultation approach; communications related to open calls for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions or other in-person engagement such as site tours.

Since 2017, FMG has been working with CLFN leadership to develop and implement community consultation processes and provide capacity support for substantial and influential participation in the Project.

FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with CLFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones.

- December 1, 2017 - to introduce the Project, as well as the EA process and associated consultation processes to community members. FMG also provided an overview of the ToR and baseline studies. This allowed for an early opportunity to ask questions about the Project and process.
- July 24, 2018 – to discuss the EA process and associated consultation processes with community members. There were over 20 community members in attendance who had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the Project and EA process.
- February 4, 2020 - to provide an overview of the Project, the draft ToR, Indigenous consultation processes, baseline studies, and alternative methods to community leadership and members. FMG provided a presentation related to these topics and encourage questions and comments. FMG provided handouts of the presentation materials and questionnaires.
- November 3, 2021 - to share information on the Project, baseline studies, and the alternative assessment. A series of poster boards and handouts were set up to provide further detail on the environmental baseline data, Project components and alternatives assessment methods. CLFN provided translation for this meeting and the members in attendance provided their input.

On May 11, 2018, CLFN and FMG met to discuss the Community Consultation Process.

On May 25, 2018, FMG met with CLFN, SFN and the MNR to discuss land use planning and implementation. There was discussion regarding the EA process for Springpole and that the CLFN Land Use Planning Committee would like to be kept up to date with the EA process. There was also discussion regarding the ability of the committee to provide TK and TLU information to FMG and to help FMG with information on heritage and cultural sites.

CLFN and FMG met on July 21, 2020, to facilitate introductions with the new CLFN Chief and Council. FMG provided a Project update including discussions around TK/TLU studies, the Cat Lake Road Memorandum of Understanding, the draft ToR, and environmental monitor and community liaison positions being offered by FMG.

On October 15, 2020, FMG met with Chief and Council to discuss the process for engagement and consultation on the Project, the potential environmental monitor committee and CLFN noted they have hired a consultant. CLFN noted they had reviewed the ToR and would be requesting an extension for the comment deadline.

FMG and CLFN met on November 4, 2020, to discuss the draft ToR review, road routes for the access road and feasibility studies, capacity support, TK/TLU, environment committee, upcoming Pre-feasibility Study, future business opportunities, and future employment and training. Throughout 2020 and 2021, most communication related to consultation processes and capacity support for CLFN were done through the STPN and are summarized in Section 2.6.1.2.

In addition, the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 impacted Project consultation and engagement, with FMG limiting communications during this period to respect community priorities.

FMG met with CLFN and LSFN on August 26, 2021, as an opportunity for the communities and FMG to meet in-person. FMG provided an update on the EA process and plans for the coming months.

On November 3, 2021, FMG held a community meeting in Cat Lake, with attendees including CLFN representatives on the SEC and community Elders, to share information on the Project, baseline studies, and the alternatives assessment. A series of poster boards and handouts were set up around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and Project components and methods for the alternatives assessment. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide feedback. CLFN provided translation for this meeting and the members in attendance provided their questions and input. In general, the key discussion and comments were held around the EA process, protection of the environment including wildlife and fish, as well as TK of the area.

In response to FMG's letters to the STPN on November 22 and December 10, 2021, and January 6 and 10, 2022, CLFN provided FMG with a letter on January 14, 2022, copying LSFN and SFN regarding the community and the Project. The letter outlined issues that the community is having regarding capacity as well as concerns. The letter also described the Nations' view of FMG's misrepresenting them as a partner. On January 24, 2022, FMG responded to the Chief of CLFN with a letter expressing regret for the unintended miscommunication. FMG indicated its appreciation for the concerns CLFN raised and noted it was preparing a detailed response. FMG indicated it would like to meet in person to discuss any concerns and was evaluating options to delay the start date of some scheduled exploration site activities to accommodate the communities' request. On February 2, 2022, FMG followed up with the Chief of CLFN requesting to meet to discuss the concerns raised in CLFN's letter from January 14, 2022, prior to FMG providing a more detailed response. FMG welcomed feedback and a suggested a discussion with CLFN on how best to move forward. FMG followed up via email and phone call to schedule a meeting but was unsuccessful. In lieu of meeting with CLFN, on February 15, 2022, FMG sent a response letter to CLFN's January 14, 2022, letter. The letter outlined that, in the absence of being able to meet, FMG was providing feedback on CLFN's concerns in writing, and once again invited further discussion. FMG noted that it is committed to the advancement of the Project and would be sharing the draft EIS/EA at the beginning of Q2 2022 for review and consultation. FMG noted its commitment to ensuring that CLFN has every reasonable opportunity to meaningfully participate in the process and be meaningfully consulted on the Project. The letter also provided a summary of the various opportunities related to consultation, capacity support and participation in the Project that FMG has continued to offer. On March 10, 2022, FMG reached out to the Chief of CLFN inquiring if there is any update on organizing a meeting to work through any outstanding concerns.

In response to the February 15, 2022, letter to CLFN, the STPN responded to FMG providing a letter on March 30, 2022, that continued to emphasize their concerns with the consultation process associated with the EA and indicated that the STPN would like to conduct a community consultation process.

Through March and April of 2022, correspondence was carried out through the STPN as described in Section 2.6.1.2. FMG and the STPN commenced conversations regarding capacity support for review of the draft EIS/EA.

FMG had a phone call with CLFN on May 30, 2022. CLFN requested a USB copy of draft EIS/EA documents and a hard copy of the draft EIS/EA. CLFN also informed FMG of the upcoming CLFN election on June 3, 2022.

The community election in June 2022 resulted in some slow-down of correspondence with FMG during the process.

On July 22, 2022, FMG called CLFN and later followed up with an email related to an inquiry CLFN had sent regarding employment opportunities for a community member interested in the environmental monitor position. FMG informed CLFN of upcoming training for environmental monitors to support participation.

FMG met with the STPN on January 6, 2023, to discuss their priorities including the Community Consultation Process, the Cat Lake Road Project, and mental health and addictions. FMG expressed openness and willingness to support community initiatives as well as their participation in the EA process. FMG considered the feedback shared during this meeting in development of the final EIS/EA by supporting the completion of a TK/TLU study and socioeconomic study for CLFN as well as the inclusion of a draft Health & Wellness Strategy in this final EIS/EA (Appendix Q-3).

On February 17, 2023, the Chief of CLFN provided a letter to FMG in response to a letter from FMG dated February 7, 2023, related to the development of a process agreement. FMG representatives responded clarifying that FMG was supportive of developing the STPN Community Consultation Process and suggested to wait until the process was fully defined before seeking to describe it in a process agreement.

Beginning on June 13, 2023, CLFN representatives attended a two-day site visit and participated in the water quality sampling program. The representatives toured areas where the open pit dikes are proposed in Springpole Lake and described the fish removal and dewatering process, while CLFN provided information regarding current TK/TLU activities on the lake. FMG and CLFN also discussed the potential positive benefits of the Cat Lake Road Project. On September 1, 2023, FMG emailed CLFN requesting to schedule a time to confirm the upcoming discussions about the potential wellness and/or healing center that FMG has proposed supporting. FMG also offered to support CLFN in the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority discussions regarding mental health and addictions. FMG followed up on October 4, 2023, requesting a meeting to discuss the exploration camp and recent external communications. FMG also noted that it would like to continue previous discussions related to how FMG can support community wellbeing and a potential community healing centre.

The Chief of CLFN provided FMG with a letter on November 28, 2023, that noted concerns with capacity and funding to participate in the Project and concerns for exploration activities. FMG responded by letter on December 14, 2023, noting its desire to be a good neighbour and a champion of industry-leading practices to protect the natural environment and collaborate with proximate Indigenous communities. FMG welcomed an opportunity to better understand CLFN's capacity needs, including for the purpose of ensuring that CLFN can respond to correspondence from FMG. FMG noted the various items it has funded since 2019 and that it is generally supportive of a proposal put forward by CLFN to fund its engagement the Community Consultation Process, with the understanding that such process would be conducted in a collaborative manner with FMG. FMG welcomed any opportunity to engage with the CLFN community to help FMG better understand and work to address concerns, and to help CLFN members understand the current state of the Project, its assessed potential impacts, the industry-leading steps FMG is taking to minimize environmental

impacts, and how the Project can bring significant long-term benefits to proximate Indigenous communities including CLFN.

Between December 5, 2023, and December 8, 2023, FMG and CLFN discussed capacity support for the Community Consultation Process. CLFN provided FMG with an update on the status of the Community Consultation Process.

Between December 15, 2023, and January 26, 2024, FMG and CLFN exchanged emails discussing the Community Consultation Process, including steps for moving forward and the workplan. FMG and CLFN also discussed attendance at the March 2024 PDAC convention. On February 8, 2024, FMG met with CLFN and LSFN to discuss advancing the consultation process and associated workplans for their consultants.

FMG emailed CLFN on March 1, 2024, providing a draft meeting agenda for a meeting with CLFN scheduled for March 5 in Toronto. The agenda included the Cat Lake Road, well-being, capacity building and the Community Consultation Process. CLFN replied requesting that FMG add an interim process agreement as a discussion topic to the meeting agenda. FMG confirmed it would be added.

On March 5, 2024, CLFN and FMG met to discuss engagement and consultation with FMG and the Ontario Government. CLFN advised that the communities did not have the capacity to meet government timelines to complete EA processes. FMG and CLFN discussed the progress and delays on the Community Consultation process. FMG and CLFN discussed funding for a temporary building to support the community healing centre. FMG and CLFN discussed the Cat Lake Road Project, and a request for a Community Information Session meeting in CLFN.

FMG emailed CLFN on March 12, 2024, offering to host a Community Information Session to present the Project and the draft EIS/EA in the community of Cat Lake and requested that CLFN confirm interest. CLFN replied providing, and requesting, information, related to the finalization of the Interim Process Agreement, noting that these items should be addressed prior to FMG hosting the Community Information Session. FMG replied confirming FMG's, intention to address the matters related to the Interim Process Agreement and aim of arranging the Community Information Session thereafter.

CLFN and LSFN met with FMG on March 19, 2024, to discuss the workplan for the Communities Consultation Process, FMG's exploration activities, the Cat Lake Road, and working towards a process agreement for consultation on the Project and related activities. CLFN and LSFN advisors were to draft another process agreement and send it to FMG.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 4, 2024, requesting availability for a meeting in Cat Lake. On April 5, 2024, FMG offered June 5, 2024, for a community meeting in Cat Lake. On April 9, 2024, CLFN and LSFN confirmed the June 5, 2024, meeting in Cat Lake.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 10, 2024, regarding topics for the upcoming meeting and attached a draft workplan for the Community Consultation Process and a job description for a technical team lead for the Process. FMG replied, acknowledging receipt of documents from the previous meeting and advised it would review the documents and respond. On April 30, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN providing comments on the workplan for the Community Consultation Process. FMG noted that they felt a meeting should be scheduled between FMG, CLFN and LSFN. FMG offered to provide interim capacity support for May 2024 to support continued work and scheduled meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on May 11, 2024, providing the workplan for CLFN and LSFN from April to September 2024 and provided a recommendation for the disbursement of funds. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that Chief Wesley had been re-elected. Throughout May, FMG and the Government Relations

Coordinator for CLFN and LSFN corresponded several times on the workplan for the Community Consultation Process.

On June 20, 2024, CLFN and LSFN informed FMG of the proposed Project site tour date on July 11, 2024. FMG and CLFN and LSFN continued to correspond regarding the site tour after the end of June 2024.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on June 25, 2024, confirming that 14 CLFN and LSFN participants would be joining the Project site tour scheduled for August 7, 2024. Unfortunately, the site tour was cancelled at the last minute due to weather; however, it was rescheduled for September 4, 2024, and then reschedule again to November 2024 as described in Section 2.7.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to CLFN related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with CLFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that were not related to a key EA milestone.

On September 20, 2017, FMG sent a letter to CLFN to update the community on the Project Preliminary Economic Assessment news release, working to keep the community informed of progress on the Project.

After release of the notification informing communities of the commencement of the federal EA process for the Project, CLFN emailed FMG on February 14 and February 18, 2018, with comments regarding the Project and the EA. These were discussed throughout the EIS guidelines and ToR process.

FMG commenced of the ToR process in August 2018 and consultation from 2018-2019 is mostly described in that Section below.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with CLFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones.

An in-person meeting with Chief and Council was held on February 19, 2020, to introduce FMG's CEO and provide a Project update, including updates on baseline studies and the ToR, as well as to discuss the Cat Lake Road.

On July 16, 2020, FMG had a brief meeting with the newly elected Chief and provided an overview of the Project, an update on the ToR and discussed the process for advancing through the next phases of the provincial and federal EA process. The Chief stated that he is easily reachable through phone or email, he prefers face to face meetings; although not currently possible. The Chief let FMG know who he has appointed as a CLFN representative for this file and sitting in negotiations.

CLFN Chief and Council met with FMG on July 21, 2020, to facilitate introductions. FMG provided a Project update including discussions around TK/TLU studies, the Cat Lake Road Memorandum of Understanding, the ToR, and environmental monitor and community liaison positions being offered by FMG.

On February 22, 2021, FMG sent CLFN an overview of activities planned for 2021 leading up to the review of the EA in 2021 to help prepare for upcoming participation in the Project.

FMG held a site tour to the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with CLFN community representatives on October 27, 2021, which provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site. Further, the site tour

provided an opportunity to engage in discussions on the Project. Questions were asked about existing baseline monitoring programs as well as future monitoring programs. Positive comments were made about how the perception from site helps visualize the Project and its scale on the landscape.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to CLFN via email on December 3, 2021.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

FMG and CLFN engaged in substantial discussions throughout the ToR process, meeting a total of eight times from the Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process in August 2018 and the submission of the draft amended ToR in April 2021 that resulted in updates to the ToR. CLFN provided comments and FMG provided responses on the draft ToR and draft amended ToR.

As described above, FMG held multiple Community Information Sessions in CLFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the ToR process, on December 1, 2017, July 24, 2018, and February 4, 2020.

An in-person meeting with Chief and Council was held on February 19, 2020, to introduce FMG's CEO and provide a Project update, updates on baseline studies and the draft ToR, as well as to discuss access road options.

CLFN chief and council met with FMG on July 21, 2020, to facilitate introductions with the new CLFN Chief and Council. FMG provided a Project update including discussions around TK/TLU studies, the Cat Lake Road Memorandum of Understanding, the draft ToR, and environmental monitor and community liaison positions being offered by FMG.

On October 15, 2020, FMG met with Chief and Council to discuss the process for engagement and consultation on the Project, the potential environmental monitor committee and CLFN noted they have hired a consultant. CLFN noted they had reviewed the draft ToR and would be requesting an extension for the comment deadline.

CLFN submitted their comments on the draft ToR to FMG on November 20, 2020, which were considered in the draft amended ToR.

On December 18, 2020, FMG sent a Notice of Intent to submit the draft amended ToR to CLFN. On January 8, 2021, FMG provided the draft amended ToR to CLFN and provided a cover letter explaining how comments were reflected in the updated document as well as a copy of responses to previous comments. The draft amended ToR included the list of VCs, as well as the preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment. FMG requested that comments on the draft amended ToR be submitted by February 5, 2021.

In 2021, FMG also shared Project factsheets with CLFN describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs which were also available on the Project website.

CLFN and FMG had a phone call on January 18, 2021, to discuss questions related to the draft amended ToR review. It was noted that CLFN's consultant would confirm next steps for the Chief's review on behalf of CLFN.

On April 5, 2021, FMG thanked CLFN for their comments on the draft ToR the previous year and noted that FMG responded to the comments and updated the draft amended ToR to incorporate CLFN's feedback.

FMG also indicated that it would like to discuss the EA process and infrastructure and economic opportunities with CLFN.

Following FMG's request for comments on the draft amended ToR, CLFN noted that in previous conversations with FMG a detailed explanation of timelines for meetings to discuss the Project was provided to FMG and the MECP and that this timeline indicated the potential of a face-to-face meeting. On April 6, 2021, FMG emailed CLFN, SFN and the MECP requesting a joint discussion regarding the Project's timelines and amended ToR and indicated that FMG would contact the MECP about arranging this discussion. FMG suggested discussion regarding setting up the SEC in collaboration with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. On April 6, 2021, CLFN noted that they are not subject to FMG or the MECP's timeline and that discussions to date do not constitute consultation with CLFN. CLFN indicated their willingness to participate in cautious discussions. FMG requested the same day that CLFN, the MECP and FMG discuss the Project's timelines and amended ToR and indicated that FMG would contact the MECP about arranging this discussion. FMG suggested that discussion regarding setting up a committee in collaboration with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

On April 21, 2021, the Chief of CLFN and FMG had a phone call to discuss the draft amended ToR and how the establishment of the SEC could be advanced. FMG emailed Chief of CLFN summarizing the phone call held earlier that day. FMG provided a set of commitments to be made by FMG that would be inserted into the final amended ToR for the Chief's review. FMG noted that it would also be following up to restart the work on establishing the SEC. FMG noted that the Economic Development Officer of Sioux Lookout and another consultant could proceed to help coordinate the process of establishing the SEC between CLFN, LSFN, and SFN.

The Chief of CLFN and FMG had a phone call on April 29, 2021, to discuss the commitments identified in the draft amended ToR. FMG noted in an email that it was pleased to hear that CLFN is satisfied with the commitments in the amended ToR and that they have been included in the document that would be sent to the MECP on April 29, 2021. FMG noted that the MECP would send the amended ToR for final review in May.

Engagement and consultation on the ToR with CLFN were carried out through the STPN and therefore, the consultation activities and outcomes are described in Section 2.6.1.2.

On July 28, 2021, the STPN emailed FMG with proposed revisions to the amended ToR which were incorporated into the final approved ToR. STPN SEC responded to FMG's responses to their comments on the ToR inquiring what process will be implemented to track that FMG's responses to the SEC's comment are fulfilled during the EA. FMG replied stating that a concordance table will be included in the EA. STPN SEC responded stating this is satisfactory. The ToR was approved on November 8, 2021. On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with LSFN and the STPN Environment Committee Coordinator. On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with CLFN and the STPN.

Baseline Studies

CLFN has been engaged in the baseline studies for the Project since 2017, by reviewing and providing input on workplans and permits, invitations to participate in field studies, as well as completing technical reviews of reports documenting the method and results of the studies. FMG has welcomed members from CLFN at the Project site to participate and/or oversee field studies, as well as for site tours.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with CLFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the baseline studies.

An in-person meeting with Chief and Council was held on February 19, 2020, to introduce FMG's CEO and provide a Project update, including on baseline studies and the ToR, as well as to discuss access road options.

2.6.1.12.6.1.2FMG has provided ongoing updates to CLFN regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly Community Bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided CLFN the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. As described in Section 2.6.1.1, On June 18, 2021, FMG notified CLFN that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

On October 27, 2021, FMG held a site tour to the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with CLFN community representatives, which provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site. Further, the site tour provided an opportunity to engage in discussions on the Project. Questions were asked about existing baseline monitoring programs as well as future monitoring programs. Positive comments were made about how the perception from site helps visualize the Project and its scale on the landscape.

On November 3, 2021, FMG held a community meeting in CLFN, with attendees including CLFN representatives on the SEC and community Elders, to share information on the Project, baseline studies, and the alternative assessment. A series of poster boards and handouts were also setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and Project components and methods alternatives. Attendees were encouraged to view he information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. CLFN provided translation for this meeting and the members in attendance provided their questions and input. In general, the key discussion and comments were held around the EA process, protection of the environment including wildlife and fish, as well as TK of the area.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

Throughout the EA process, FMG encouraged and provided capacity support of CLFN to undertake TK/TLU studies during various meetings, email and phone calls. Since the submission of the draft EIS/EA, CLFN has provided their TK/TLU study, which is discussed further in the Post-Draft EIS/EA Submission Section below.

On May 25, 2018, FMG met with CLFN, SFN and the MNRF to discuss land use planning and implementation. There was discussion regarding the EA process for Springpole and that the CLFN Land Use Planning Committee would like to be kept up to date with the EA process. There was also discussion regarding the ability of the committee to provide TK and TLU information to FMG and to help FMG with information on heritage and cultural sites.

CLFN chief and council met with FMG on July 21, 2020, to facilitate introductions with the new CLFN Chief and Council. FMG provided a Project update and had discussion with CLFN around undertaking TK/TLU studies as part of the EA process

On May 12, 2021, CLFN emailed FMG to inquire about funding available for CLFN to compile their TK/TLU records and interviews. FMG responded to CLFN noting that as part of the EA, FMG is funding the TK/TLU work. FMG would like to understand what information is currently available and have CLFN develop a scope and workplan to support this work. FMG inquired if CLFN has a consultant that has previously done this

type of work for the community. FMG provided a list of important items that are being worked on with CLFN, SFN and LSFN where costs would be funded by FMG.

In July 2021, FMG and the SEC corresponded regarding the Cat Lake – Slate Falls Community Based Land Use Plan (July 2011) and FMG was able to obtain the files and appendices related to this for consideration in the Project planning.

On January 14, 2022, FMG emailed CLFN inquiring about CLFN's interest in working together to identify TK/TLU as part of the Project EA process. FMG indicated it was willing to fund supplemental TK/TLU work through a specialized consultant to better understand how the Project area is used by CLFN. FMG proposed discussing this opportunity at the convenience of CLFN. CLFN provided a TK/TLU study for consideration in the final EIS/EA as described below.

Assessment of Alternatives

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with CLFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the Assessment of Alternatives.

On January 8, 2021, FMG circulated a draft list of VCs as part of the draft amended ToR. The preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment were also included in the draft amended ToR for review. The consultation that occurred through the ToR process, including related to the VCs, criteria and indicators, is described in the ToR Section above.

In 2021, FMG also shared Project factsheets describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs which were available on the Project website and provided to CLFN.

On October 1, 2021, FMG provided STPN with the preliminary assessment of alternatives for their review and requested their feedback. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive direct feedback from CLFN on these prior to the draft EIS/EA.

FMG held a community meeting in CLFN on November 3, 2021, with attendees including CLFN representatives on the SEC and community Elders, to share information on the Project, baseline studies, and the alternative assessment. A series of poster boards and handouts were also setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and Project components and methods alternatives. Attendees were encouraged to view he information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. CLFN provided translation for this meeting and the members in attendance provided their input. In general, the key discussion and comments were held around the EA process, protection of the environment including wildlife and fish, as well as TK of the area.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to CLFN related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This section summarizes general consultation activities with the CLFN after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

FMG and CLFN emailed on August 31, 2022, and September 13, 2022, to discuss whether there were tentative dates scheduled for the Earth Rangers program that FMG had sponsored in the community school. CLFN noted potential conflicts that might arise during the moose hunt when they would not be available, and FMG noted that there were not set dates scheduled yet and identified a contact at Earth Rangers to arrange a meeting date. The Earth Rangers program was carried out at the Lawrence Wesley Education Centre and the Cat Lake Christian School in January 2023, with 22 and 31 students respectively.

On October 26, 2022, following up to an email on October 25, 2022, FMG confirmed with CLFN that a list of potential business opportunities (including those related to the winter ice road) had been shared with the Government Relations Coordinator for the STPN. FMG informed CLFN that it reached out to the STPN connecting them with the member of CLFN to provide an update on the winter ice road opportunity.

FMG emailed CLFN and the Government Relations Coordinator for the STPN on January 16, 2023, indicating that a media release is planned to be issued on January 17, 2023, providing an updated on FMG's regional exploration. FMG provided a paragraph for review by CLFN and STPN regarding FMG's intent to help address health and well-being to be included in the media release.

On April 11, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN Chiefs directly providing the sixth issue of the Springpole quarterly newsletter; acknowledging comments from SFN about the Nation not being aware of activities at Springpole and trying to distribute more information. FMG noted that the newsletter was being translated to Ojibway and it would follow up to start scheduling dates for a June site tour.

Members from CLFN visited the Project site on June 13, 2023, to discuss the Project, TK/TLU areas, and participated in the water quality sampling as described further in the baseline studies subsection below.

FMG emailed CLFN on May 4, 2023, providing a hyperlink to the Springpole Project video with subtitles translated to Ojibway. FMG provided a reminder to CLFN that draft EIS/EA documents are included in the same hyperlink. FMG once again invited questions or comments about the Project and offered to present the video at an in-person meeting.

Discussion between May 2023 and early June 2023 between FMG and CLFN largely was focused on coordination of a site tour and participation on June surface water sampling. Following this, throughout the remained of 2023, general information sharing was carried out through the STPN as described in Section 2.6.1.2.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 3, 2024, requesting a map showing First Nation locations. FMG provided a map on April 5, 2024, that is similar to one in the provincial ToR for the EIS/EA.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 4, 2024, noting the Lac Seul Career Fair on April 30. FMG replied advising that FMG would also be attending the Lac Seul Career Fair on April 30. On April 30, 2024, FMG had a booth at the Lac Seul Career Fair as described in the LSFN Section below.

On April 8, 2024, FMG offered June 5 as a tentative date to have a meeting at CLFN. FMG informed CLFN and LSFN that FMG can discuss the details for the community visit during the meeting scheduled for April 10, 2024.

On April 10, 2024, CLFN and LSFN asked for copies of bulletins sent out for the Project. CLFN and LSFN asked FMG to provide the dates that FMG would visit LSFN. FMG replied stating it would work on compiling the bulletins for CLFN and LSFN. FMG replied with a draft schedule of FMG's community visit to LSFN. FMG attached community bulletins and the Community Information Session poster for meetings planned in April at LSFN.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 15, 2024, requesting specific information regarding the Project that FMG should use at the Career Fair on April 29, 2024, to help CLFN and LSFN. CLFN and LSFN confirmed that they would be recommending attendees ask FMG questions on the Project. FMG replied by confirming that FMG would share information.

In response to an email from CLFN on April 19, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN on May 8, 2024, providing details for the Cat Lake community visit on June 5, 2024. FMG provided a tentative schedule, location details (Cat Lake Community Complex), and catering details (catered by CLFN community members). FMG informed CLFN that an information poster is forthcoming, and that Firelight Group would be in attendance for the scheduled meeting also. In follow-up to an email to CLFN on May 8, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN on May 21, 2024, to request a follow-up on catering, translation services, and availability of Chief and Council prior to the June 5 Community Information Session in Cat Lake. FMG attached a community information poster for distribution. On May 22, 2024, CLFN emailed FMG to discuss logistics for the upcoming community meetings. In response, FMG provided an update that FMG planned to meet with Chief and Council prior to lunch, and the Community Information Session presentation would occur after lunch. On June 3, 2024, CLFN emailed FMG requesting a copy of the Community Information Session presentation to allow them to prepare. FMG followed up providing a copy of the presentation.

On May 1, 2024, CLFN emailed FMG providing a link to the CLFN Springpole webpage that they had created for FMG to view community updates.

FMG emailed CLFN on May 12, 2024, providing feedback on information posted on the CLFN website. FMG informed CLFN that the website presented incorrect information on the Project and did not present positively or highlight benefits of the Project. FMG reiterated the importance of working together on information sharing on the Project to ensure accuracy. FMG offered availability to support website updates for the CLFN community to have access to accurate information on the Project.

On June 5, 2024, FMG held a Community Information Session in CLFN to present the advancements made since the draft EIS/EA and discuss the Project with community members.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

CLFN and FMG have been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to CLFN. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

FMG had a phone call with CLFN on June 1, 2022. CLFN requested a USB copy of draft EIS/EA documents and a hard copy of the draft EIS/EA. In June 2022, FMG mailed USBs and hard copies of draft EIS/EA to CLFN.

On November 14, 2022, FMG sent the STPN the Ojibway translated version of the draft EIS/EA summary to distribute to community members; this translated version of the draft EIS/EA summary was also made available on the Project's website.

FMG met with the STPN on January 6, 2023, to discuss the STPN's Community Consultation Process, the Cat Lake Road, and mental health and addictions concerns in the communities. FMG expressed openness and willingness to support community initiatives as well as their participation in the EA process. FMG considered the feedback shared during this meeting in development of the final EIS/EA by supporting the completion of a TK/TLU study and socioeconomic study for CLFN as well as the inclusion of a draft Health & Wellness Strategy in this final EIS/EA (Appendix Q-3).

In response to an email from FMG on January 23, 2024, CLFN and LSFN advised that they anticipate completing the draft EIS/EA review and providing comments to FMG by February 15, 2024.FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on February 6, 2024, inquiring about the timeline for receipt of the draft EIS/EA review. CLFN and LSFN advised they anticipate providing the review by February 16, 2024. The Firelight Group (on behalf CLFN and LSFN) emailed FMG on February 13, 2024, informing FMG that they intend to provide the completed draft EIS/EA review to FMG as soon as possible. FMG acknowledged and requested a progress update on the TK/TLU studies and Socioeconomic baseline studies.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on March 4, 2024, providing a cover letter and technical review comments on the draft EIS/EA. The cover letter outlined the Community Consultation Process and provided an overview of CLFN and LSFN's comments. The comment table attached included approximately 200 comments on the draft EIS/EA across various topics, including the Project description, TK/TLU, human and ecological health, fish and fish habitat, water quality, archaeology, cultural heritage, terrestrial environment, and geochemistry. A copy of the comments is provided in Appendix D and the key comments are summarized in Table 2.6-2. FMG acknowledged receipt on March 6, 2024, and noted that a timeline for review of the submitted report and comments, and to provide responses, is forthcoming. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on April 16, 2024, proposing a series of virtual meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA review and the comments received from the communities. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C. FMG proposed various dates in May for the series of meetings. FMG also offered to arrange an in-person meeting in Winnipeg or Thunder Bay in addition to the virtual meetings. On April 19, 2024, CLFN and LSFN responded and informed FMG that CLFN and LSFN would not be able to confirm any meeting times due to the workplan for the Community Consultation Process not being finalized. CLFN and LSFN noted a meeting was scheduled on April 25, 2024, to discuss the workplan for the Community Consultation Process with FMG. FMG replied requesting that CLFN and LSFN hold the times requested in anticipation of resolving the workplan and CLFN and LSFN replied confirming that a placeholder would be put in the calendar. On April 30, 2024, FMG noted to CLFN and LSFN that it they could accommodate the request to delay the first technical review session for another week until May 15, 2024.

On May 29, 2024, FMG followed up to again offer meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA and requested that CLFN and LSFN provide availability for the series of technical meetings that were planned to begin the week of June 10, 2024. On May 30, 2024, FMG provided additional capacity support for CLFN and LSFN to continue Project engagement covering the period April through September 2024. On May 31, 2024, FMG followed up again. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that they have conflicting commitments on June 12, 2024. FMG replied requesting that CLFN and LSFN provide availability for any day the week of June 10, offering four technical review meetings to initiate discussions on the comments and responses.

On June 5, 2024, FMG hosted a Community Information Session in CLFN to present updates on the Project to community members, Project information from the draft EIS/EA, and receive feedback. FMG gave a

presentation providing information and updates on the Project design, EIS/EA, and FMG's current understanding of CLFN priorities including the all-season community access road. A translator was present to translate the presentation for community members in real-time. There were also poster boards available throughout the room presenting the methods, mitigation measures and results from the draft EIS/EA. An important poster board that was specific to this meeting included a map showing the proposed alternative portage route that has been identified as a mitigation measure for the temporary loss of an existing portage from Springpole Lake to Birch Lake; to receive community input on proposed location. A 3D mine model was displayed replicating the proposed Project as well as a video describing and providing a visual representation of the Project, with Ojibway subtitles. Factsheets, recent community bulletins and newsletters, as well as job postings were also available. The slides for the meeting were also translated into Ojibway and provided as a hand-out, as well as provided to the community, along with the meeting notes in July 2024. Questions and comments were provided by community members, which were answered at the meeting, primarily related to the consultation process, Project benefits and jobs, water management and TK/TLU. A concern was raised over potential change in water quality on Birch Lake. FMG acknowledged the importance of the comments, and to work together to understand the Project effects and mitigation measures and that the Project will protect water quality. FMG emphasized that they want to be actively sharing plans to protect the environment, continue to work with CLFN. An invitation to visit the Project site and existing exploration camp was provided, which occurred later in the year.

On June 12, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN providing a meeting invitation for June 20, 2024, to discuss and review comments from CLFN and LSFN on the draft EIS/EA related to fish and fish habitat. FMG sent a follow-up email to CLFN and LSFN informing them that a series of invitations have also been sent out for the following weeks for the draft EIS/EA technical presentations and discussions. FMG requested for invitations to be circulated to the CLFN and LSFN members to be involved.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on June 13, 2024, informing them that the invitations for technical sessions cannot be accepted at this time and requested meeting invitations be cancelled. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that CLFN and LSFN are meeting with the technical committee on the week of June 17, 2024, and further communication is forthcoming. CLFN and LSFN requested that FMG provide further information on the technical sessions so CLFN and LSFN may respond on timing of meetings. FMG replied informing CLFN and LSFN that the technical sessions were previously discussed to occur throughout the months of June and July and that responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA are forthcoming. FMG requested that CLFN and LSFN provide alternative meeting dates and that FMG would make efforts to accommodate those times.

On June 18, 2024, FMG provided responses to the comments received on the draft EIS/EA related to the Project description, TK/TLU, human and ecological health, fish and fish habitat, water quality, and geochemistry. FMG informed LSFN and CLFN that the responses to the terrestrial environment, archaeology, and cultural heritage comments are forthcoming. The responses to terrestrial, archaeology and cultural heritage comments were subsequently provided on June 28, 2024. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG requesting technical session invitations and provided availability on June 27, June 28, July 3, and July 10, 2024, and provided an invitees list. CLFN and LSFN provided availability for a site tour between July 1 and July 12, 2024. CLFN and LSFN requested that meeting information be provided a minimum of one week in advance of each meeting so CLFN and LSFN can review and prepare. CLFN and LSFN requested sampling/monitoring sites regarding the water quality and hydrology session as soon as

possible. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that the analysis of the sampling/monitoring sites be followed up on in the forthcoming site visit.

In response to an email from CLFN and LSFN on June 20, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on June 21, 2024, providing the presentation for the fish and fish habitat virtual technical session. FMG informed CLFN and LSFN that FMG prefers to remain with June 27, 2024, as the date for the fish and fish habitat virtual technical session as FMG specialists can attend without scheduling constraints. FMG requested CLFN and LSFN provide confirmation of the fish and fish habitat virtual technical session on July 27. FMG informed CLFN and SFN that FMG would be awaiting on the week of June 23, 2024, for the proposed dates of the other virtual technical sessions.

On June 25, 2024, CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG requesting to reschedule the fish and fish habitat meeting to August 2024 as CLFN and LSFN are not prepared. This meeting was held in August as described in Section 2.7.

Following up on the responses to comments sent on June 18, FMG provided the remaining responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA on June 28, 2024. This included responses to comments related to archaeology, cultural heritage, and terrestrial. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

Baseline Studies (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

Since submission of the draft EIS/EA, CLFN has been engaged in the baseline studies for the Project by reviewing and providing input on workplans and permits, participating in field studies, as well as completing technical reviews of reports documenting the methods and results of the studies. FMG has welcomed members from CLFN at the Project site to participate and/or oversee field studies, as well as for site tours.

In June 2022, the MECP reached out to local Indigenous communities regarding the permit for the upcoming Caribou telemetry program. In July 2022, CLFN provided their input on their permit directly to the MECP. The MECP informed FMG on July 26, 2022, that the MECP has responded and invited CLFN to provide additional comments. The MECP requested FMG's attendance at an information session on August 11 with Indigenous communities to support discussions on the proposed Caribou program activities. FMG attended this information session; however, CLFN did not.

FMG emailed CLFN on January 11, 2023, informing them of the upcoming Caribou study in the Project area that would be carried out from January 25 to February 2, 2023. FMG provided CLFN with details on what the study would entail and attached a map of the Project location for reference.

On April 17, 2023, FMG emailed STPN communities regarding participating in the 2023 Stage 2 archaeology program and Lake Sturgeon eDNA Study. The communications related to this are described further in the STPN section (2.6.1.2) above.

Beginning on June 13, 2023, CLFN representatives attended a two-day site visit and participated in the water quality sampling program. The representatives toured areas where the open pit dikes were proposed in Springpole Lake and described the fish removal and dewatering process, while CLFN provided information regarding current TK/TLU activities on the lake. FMG and CLFN also discussed the potential positive benefits of the Cat Lake Road Project. FMG and CLFN discussed portage trails in the area and CLFN suggested an alternative route for use after construction begins. The portage trails in the area were discussed and the CLFN community member suggested a route for use after construction begins. Potential effects to their trapline were also discussed with the trapline licence holder SL197.

On September 12, 18 and October 16, 2023, FMG contacted CLFN to invite CLFN community members to participate in an upcoming archaeological assessment and requested to arrange the logistics for the participants as required. CLFN chose not to participate in this opportunity due to ongoing internal discussions between communities.

FMG emailed a letter to the Chief and the STPN on November 6, 2023, inviting community members to a workshop on the FHOCP. The purpose of the workshop was to present information on the options proposed in the draft FHOCP and discuss new potential offsetting options and answer questions on existing studies and plans. The communities were invited to share knowledge, comments and questions on the options and bring forward potential new ideas to be considered in developing the updated FHOCP. The workshop was proposed for December 6, 2023, in Thunder Bay and FMG offered support and funding for the logistics. FMG followed up to the invitation on November 15, 2023, and requested a response before November 17. FMG requested confirmation on November 20, 2023, and November 23, 2023, that CLFN would attend the workshop and on November 24, 2023, FMG cancelled the workshop due to the lack of response expressing interest in the opportunity and FMG stated it would aim to provide another opportunity in 2024. FMG followed-up with CLFN on April 16, 2024 to offer the workshop again, but did not receive a response.

On February 14, 2024, the Firelight Group (on behalf of CLFN and LSFN) emailed FMG noting that the analysis of interview data has been completed for the socioeconomic baseline study, and that the writing, compilation of findings and preparation for verification is in progress for both communities. Additionally, Firelight Group noted that the TK/TLU study is in the analysis, map creation, and report drafting phase for both communities.

As noted above, in response to FMG's inquiry on January 26, 2024, about the timeline for the TK/TLU and socioeconomic baseline studies, the Firelight Group (on behalf of CLFN and LSFN) emailed FMG on February 14, 2024, noting that the analysis of interview data has been completed for the socioeconomic baseline study, and that the writing, compilation of findings and preparation for verification is in progress for both communities. Additionally, Firelight Group noted that the TK/TLU study is in the analysis, map creation, and report drafting phase for both communities.

On April 19, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN requesting an update on the communities' TK/TLU studies and socioeconomic baseline studies. CLFN and LSFN replied informing FMG that the TK/TLU studies and socioeconomic baseline studies are forthcoming. On April 22, 2024, FMG asked for clarification as to when the TK and socioeconomic baseline studies would be ready for review as it was last told that April 15, 2024, was the date on which the studies would be ready. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that the studies were forthcoming with hopes of a final review by April 26, 2024.

CLFN and LSFN provided FMG, with the baseline Socioeconomic Reports and Indigenous Knowledge and Use Reports on April 24, 2024, including:

- CLFN - Socioeconomic Study;
- CLFN - Knowledge and Use Study (also referred to as the CLFN TK/TLU study);
- LSFN - Socioeconomic Study; and
- LSFN - Knowledge and Use Study (also referred to as the LSFN TK/TLU study).

FMG acknowledged receipt of the links on April 25, 2024. These studies provide detailed information from the communities and have been incorporated into the baseline information and effects assessment throughout the final EIS/EA.

FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on May 29, 2024, to note that FMG was still having technical issues and could not download the file attachments containing the CLFN Socioeconomic Study; CLFN TK/TLU Study; LSFN Socioeconomic Study; and the LSFN TK/TLU Study. CLFN and LSFN replied to FMG noting that a notification via email should have come through, providing access to the folders containing the final reports. CLFN and LSFN provided the links to FMG again, which FMG were able to access. CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on June 27, 2024, to request water monitoring sampling location site GIS files to prepare for the site visit. On June 28, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN providing the requested files for water monitoring locations.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

FMG held several discussions with the STPN throughout regarding the development and sharing of TK/TLU studies which is described in the STPN Section above. Most discussions related to TK/TLU are included within the baseline studies subsection as most of the communications held regarding this topic also involved the socioeconomic baseline studies.

Members from CLFN, including trapline licence holder SL197, visited the Project site on June 13, 2023, to discuss the Project, TK/TLU areas, and participated in the water quality sampling. The CLFN community member shared information about fishing and hunting areas on the lake and stated that the proposed all-weather road to CLFN is positive for the community. The portage trails in the area were discussed and the CLFN community member suggested a route for use after construction begins. FMG noted that CLFN members are always welcome to go through the camp to cross from Birch Lake to Springpole Lake.

On December 22, 2023, trapline licence holder SL197 in the Project area sent a letter to the MECP in support of the Project. The CLFN member indicated to the MECP that FMG had completed the necessary steps to accommodate and address their concerns about a portion of a trapline that will be occupied by the Project. The trapline licence holder informed the MECP that they believe the Project will bring economic opportunities to members of CLFN.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives	CLFN provided comments during consultation and engagement on the assessment of alternatives.	These comments resulted in the following alternatives that were considered in the EIS/EA: • Potential use of renewable power sources (considered under power supply); • Dike locations; • Treated effluent discharge locations; and • Additional routing alternatives for the mine access road.
Baseline studies Human and Ecological Health	CLFN requested additional information on the effect of historic mines in the region (McIntyre Gold Mine, Casummit Mine and Kostynuk Brothers Mine) on the environmental baseline.	The surface water quality monitoring program includes several sampling stations in Birch Lake, including upstream of the outlet from Casummit Lake, and downstream of the outlet. Baseline surface water quality monitoring results are presented and discussed in Appendix N-1. Further, several terrestrial baseline studies have been undertaken in the area of these historic mines, including vegetation communities and wetlands, disturbance data, bat surveys, migratory bird surveys and large mammal surveys. These extensive regional baseline studies across multiple disciplines generally show that the baseline environment is representative of a highly functional and productive ecosystem. The main disturbance noted in the baseline environment is due to the forestry industry and natural forest fires. Baseline terrestrial results are presented in Appendix P.
Baseline studies Air Quality	CLFN requested clarification on the baseline emission sources in the area, including emissions from communities if they are within the air quality study area.	The regional airshed being characterized is influenced by local, regional, and long-range (e.g., international) sources. While it is not practical to identify sources on a map because sources such as forestry activity are transient, many of the stationary sources are located in the communities as identified in the Baseline Air Quality Report (Appendix G-1; Figure 1-1). The combined expected air parameter concentrations from these sources are what was measured by the air quality baseline program. The purpose of the baseline air quality monitoring program was to measure the cumulative effects of existing sources (local, regional and long-range) on the concentrations of air contaminants of concern to understand the cumulative background air quality that results from these sources. Seasonal variability and the influence of local sources are both captured by the monitoring program. The Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2, Section 1.3) describes the existing local and regional conditions which includes consideration of roads, mining, wildfires, exploration, and forestry activities, power generators, recreational vehicles, and transboundary sources.
Baseline studies Air Quality	CLFN requested that additional baseline air quality sampling occur during wintertime.	The additional baseline data collected since submission of the draft EIS/EA, including sampling during the wintertime is included in the Baseline Air Quality Report (Appendix G-1, Section 4) and is sufficient to establish background concentrations.
Baseline studies Air Quality	CLFN requested information on the use of regional air quality data as baseline data for the air quality assessment, as well as a description of how local data are considered. In addition, CLFN requested clarification on representative data used to inform the assessment. CLFN also requested clarification on the relevant averaging periods for baseline parameters.	The assessment of air quality uses three to five years of data from the National Air Pollutant Surveillance (NAPS) program stations at Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Pickle Lake and Simcoe to ensure a robust, long-term monitoring dataset has been considered with onsite Project data used preferentially. Although the selected NAPS locations are influenced by local urban sources, they are broadly reflective of regional air quality, and from an EA perspective they are expected to overestimate parameters relative to the Project site. This lends itself to a conservative approach when assessing the effects on air quality from the Project. The collected onsite data will provide a comparison against the regional NAPS data and will be used preferentially to characterize the existing air quality at the remote Project site. A discussion of this comparison has been added to the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Section 6.2.2.2 of this final EIS/EA. Per standard practice, for air parameter criteria with averaging periods shorter than one year, the 90th percentile of the data are used to represent baseline conditions; for parameters with an annual averaging period, the average (mean) concentrations are used. Onsite data were supplemented by the regional data, and discussions include a comparison of onsite data to regional data. For parameters that were not measured on site and were not measured at the regional NAPS stations, such as silica, baseline concentrations have been established using appropriate methods, such as use of a particle size distribution, speciation of a measured parameter, or published values. This rationale has been described in the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1, Section 5). The Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2, Section 4) include a summary of the meteorological data relevant to discussions of air quality modelling, a summary table of baseline concentrations and the rationale for the selection of the baseline concentrations used for the assessment of effects.
Baseline studies Air Quality	CLFN suggested mercury be included in the baseline air concentrations.	With respect to mercury, the total particulate sampling using a high-volume sampler included the analysis of filters for particle-bound mercury; the highest baseline mercury concentration measured was less than 0.01% of the MECP's Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC).
Baseline studies Archaeology	CLFN requested clarification on the regulatory requirements for this Project's archaeological assessments, including whether the archaeological assessments for the Project have been prepared in accordance with federal requirements.	As noted in Section 6.22.1.1, the regulatory framework related to archaeology is outlined for both the federal and provincial processes. Further, requirements outlined in the federal EIS Guidelines have been met, as described in the concordance table (Appendix B-2).

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Archaeology	CLFN requested further archaeological assessment for parts of the Project that have not undergone archaeological study.	A Stage 1 archaeological assessment (Appendix S-7) has been completed to cover portions of the Project footprint that extended outside the lands assessed by two previous studies (Appendix S-1 and Appendix S-2). The additional areas were found to be of no to low archaeological potential, requiring no further archaeological assessment. Based on the results of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment report for the transmission line (Appendix S-3) alternatives, a Stage 2 assessment will be required for identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line route prior to construction. Work and planning for the Stage 2 archaeological assessment fieldwork will commence once additional engineering in support of permitting has been completed for the transmission line.
Baseline studies Archaeology	CLFN requested clarification of the study area for the Stage 1 archaeological assessment for the mine site area.	The Stage 1 study area is approximately 1,000 hectares (ha) and was focused on those parts of the Project that are centred on the north basin of Springpole Lake. Specifically, desktop study and property inspection were completed for the open pit, stockpiles, process plant and mine rock areas in 2020 (as shown in Map 4 of Appendix S-1). The open pit is proposed for the dewatered portion of Springpole Lake in the north basin of the lake, so shorelines within this basin and the island were reviewed during the property inspection.
Baseline studies Archaeology	CLFN requested clarification on the status of cabins in the Local Study Area (LSA) for archaeological resources.	The fieldwork for the Stage 2 archaeological assessment (Appendix S-2) examined the cabin sites noted on historical mapping and provides a description of the cabins. Additional information was gathered from existing and empty cabins and buildings within the mine site area and is included in Table 5-1 of the Cultural Heritage Research Report (Appendix S-4).
Baseline studies Archaeology	CLFN requested additional information on the potential for marine archaeological resources in the dewatered basin of Springpole Lake.	An assessment of the potential for marine archaeological resources is provided in Section 6.22.2.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	CLFN requested additional baseline data to support the assessment.	A full lake provincial standard broadscale monitoring (BsM) study was completed in 2022 (Appendix O). The BsM was used to calibrate a full lake hydroacoustic fish community study also completed in 2022. Lower trophic level (chlorophyll a, phytoplankton and zooplankton) studies (multi-year and multi-season) were completed throughout Springpole Lake and adjacent comparable locations in Birch Lake. Reviewers also requested additional habitat data for the nearshore areas of Birch Lake adjacent to the Project and therefore supplemental habitat characterization of nearshore areas of Birch Lake was completed in 2022. Further detail on this study is provided in Section 6.10.2.2.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	CLFN requested that additional spawning area analysis be extended to include other parts of the lake (outside of the north basin of Springpole Lake).	Additional analysis of potential spawning areas was completed) with additional field studies to extend the delineated areas of potential spawning areas for Northern Pike, Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish. Further detail on this analysis is provided in 2021 Aquatic Resources Baseline Report (Appendix O-3, Appendix 3.6.1.2).
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	CLFN requested clarification regarding statements that Lake Sturgeon are absent from Springpole Lake or are in extremely low abundance within the Birch River / Cat River system.	A full lake BsM and hydroacoustic survey was completed in Springpole Lake in 2022 (Appendix O). To gather more data on Lake Sturgeon, a targeted large mesh netting in Springpole Lake coupled with a two-season (spring and summer) eDNA metabarcoding sampling program in Springpole Lake, Birch Lake and regional stations (Cat River) was completed in 2022. Additional targeted eDNA quantitative polymerase chain reaction sampling of historical observations and spawning areas was completed within Springpole Lake, Cat River, Lake St. Joseph outflow, Birch Lake and Birch River in 2023. The studies confirmed that the deep basins within Springpole Lake and Birch Lake were similar in fish species composition and lower trophic conditions concluding that temporary isolation of one deep basing will not alter the ability of the remailing 94% of Springpole Lake to maintain all resident fish species. Further detail on these studies is provided in Section 6.10.2.
Baseline studies Groundwater	CLFN requested further information on the cross-sections for the geologic and structural and the associated groundwater levels.	The cross-sections are shown in Figure 6.5-6 have been produced and included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.1.1). Further, the 3-D hydrostratigraphic model has been updated with additional data collected since the draft EIS/EA and included in the Baseline Hydrogeology and Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 5.1.2). In addition, updated water level monitoring information, including time series datalogger data, has been provided.
Baseline studies Groundwater	CLFN requested additional information on groundwater baseline data.	Groundwater baseline data was supplemented, resulting in a higher degree of confidence for the environmental assessment predictions. Supplemental data collected included: • Water level monitoring and hydraulic test data from 15 additional screened monitoring well installations; • Vibrating wire installations at ten new locations, and water level monitoring from 26 monitoring ports equipped with dataloggers; • Automated pressure transducers monitoring groundwater level fluctuations in 25 monitoring wells; • Packer testing at new drillhole locations, including 71 new unique measurements; • Hydraulic testing in 29 pre-existing monitoring well installations; • Additional stratigraphic boreholes and test pits from 2021 and 2022 investigations; • Bedrock outcropping mapping information from historical surveys; and, • Additional quarterly groundwater quality data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The results of these studies are discussed below under Existing Conditions (Section 6.5.2) with additional details included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1).

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Groundwater	CLFN requested further information on the additional monitoring wells, including borehole logs and monitoring well details that have been installed since 2021.	The Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Appendix A) includes an updated compilation of borehole logs that contain geological descriptions, and borehole logs for installations since 2019. Numerous borings, hydraulic test locations, and groundwater monitoring installations have been located within or directly adjacent to the proposed CDF footprint, including shallow bedrock conductivity testing inside and around of the proposed footprint of the CDF.
Baseline studies Groundwater	CLFN requested further information on the long-term monitoring and additional monitoring wells for the deep groundwater system.	An investigation program was undertaken at site to provide additional hydrogeological characterization of the deep bedrock flow system. This investigation program included drilling and packer testing of additional deep bedrock boreholes; and multi-level vibrating wire piezometer installations (equipped with data loggers to allow for ongoing water level monitoring) in five deeper bedrock boreholes. The deep groundwater system is not a large contributor of either flow into the open pit or a pathway for seepage, as the fracture networks at depths have very limited connectivity and neither transport nor store significant quantities of groundwater. This is further discussed in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2.2) of the EIS/EA.
Baseline studies Groundwater	CLFN requested clarification on the method used to determine hydraulic conductivity for overburden and bedrock.	Hydraulic conductivity estimates obtained through falling head testing of the 12 piezometer installations provided in Appendix A (Table 2.3) to the baseline hydrogeology report of the draft EIS/EA, are reliable and are carried forward in the main baseline hydrogeology report (Appendix L-1 of the draft EIS/EA). The data is further discussed in detail in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2) and the Hydrogeological Modeling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 3.2).
Baseline studies Groundwater	CLFN requested hydraulic conductivity analysis graphs to present the results of curve matching.	Hydraulic conductivity estimates were obtained from falling head tests conducted in monitoring wells which were installed within boreholes. Hydraulic conductivity estimates were made using Bouwer Rice method however curve matching plots of the falling head test data are not available. However, the results from the hydraulic tests in site monitoring wells (and packer tests) are presented in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2).
Baseline studies Hydrology	CLFN requested a summary of data gaps, the rationale for the selection of monitoring sites and the adequacy of these sites to spatially characterize hydrology.	The hydrometric monitoring program was developed primarily on the understanding of the potential impacts from the Project, site reconnaissance and observations, and input received through engagement and consultation. An initial gap analyses and site reconnaissance informed the 2021 monitoring work. Although considerations were made to carry forward existing stations, the focus was on the need to establish a monitoring program that aligned with the Project and broad environmental assessment requirements. Stations were established at key locations, including smaller tributaries to Springpole Lake, and where quality data could be collected, in line with Water Survey of Canda (WSC) Guidelines. The monitoring program has further developed since 2021. A comprehensive list of historic and current monitoring locations has been provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Table 4-1) and includes the rationale for each of the monitoring locations, as well as the adequacy of the monitoring program to characterize the Project area.
Baseline studies Hydrology	CLFN requested flow monitoring data for the winter seasons.	Winter flow monitoring was collected in 2022 and 2023 (February) and is presented in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.4.2) which includes a description of results from the winter monitoring programs, and Section 4.5.2 includes a description of the incorporation of this data into the rating curve.
Baseline studies Hydrology	CLFN requested previous information from earlier monitoring programs be included in the main body of the baseline hydrology report.	A list of all historical and ongoing hydrometric monitoring stations, including those monitored during previous monitoring programs has been provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Table 4-1), and has been compared to the ongoing data set.
Baseline studies Hydrology	CLFN requested that updated Climate Normals be incorporated into the baseline hydrology dataset.	Climate Normals are typically issued at the completion of each decade, and the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1) includes the dataset from the 1981 to 2010 period for the Sioux Lookout, Red Lake A and Pickle Lake A Climate Stations.
Baseline studies Hydrology	CLFN noted discrepancies with the Casummit Lake weather station and requested that the baseline characterization of precipitation be revised once enough data are collected from the Springpole station.	The Project has continued to collect site specific data from the Springpole weather station to support the development of a climate database for the Project. The assessment is using a dependable, long-term data sets from ECCC, which is a standard approach for the purpose of environmental assessment as the onsite database continues to be developed. The findings have been compared to other data sets, such as the ECCC climate stations in the Section 3.3 of the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1).
Baseline studies Noise and vibration	CLFN requested further information on the baseline sound reports (Appendices H-1 and H-2), including a summary of the applicable regulations and criteria for the Project.	The baseline sound reports have been updated to include a summary of the applicable guidelines. Further, the applicable noise and vibration criteria are described in detail in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 2) and Blasting Assessment Report (Appendix H-4, Section 2).

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested a summary of any data gaps, the rationale for the selection of monitoring sites and the adequacy of these sites to spatially characterize surface water quality.	The baseline surface water quality monitoring program has been ongoing since 2011 and is designed to be extensive and appropriate to inform the EIS/EA, encompassing a comprehensive network of sites strategically selected to capture spatial and temporal variations in water quality. This monitoring program will continue through life of mine and be adjusted as needed over time. To address the comments received, water quality monitoring continued through the submission of the draft EIS/EA resulting in an extensive baseline dataset covering and additional 3 years of data since the draft EIS/EA. More than 40 water quality stations have been monitored as part of the baseline program, with over 900 water quality samples having been collected. The monitoring program includes an extensive number of sites distributed across various water body types, including smaller sensitive lakes and tributaries and regional stations, to ensure representative sampling. These sites are carefully chosen to cover different ecological zones, flow regimes, and potential sources of interaction with the Project. Furthermore, the program accounts for seasonal variations by conducting sampling throughout the year, often monthly, capturing fluctuations in water quality associated with different hydrological conditions and climatic patterns. This approach allows to obtain a comprehensive understanding of baseline conditions to help assess potential impacts associated with the Project. Overall, the monitoring sites to characterize water quality spatially and temporally within the area is extensive. The updated baseline water quality samples have been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) and described in Section 6.6, Section 6.6.7, Section 6.8 and Section 6.9.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested additional water quality monitoring stations downstream of Project, and to address traditional land and resource activities.	The baseline surface water quality monitoring programs undertaken for the Project is comprehensive, spanning multiple years and covering all surface water bodies potentially affected by the Project, including those that may be utilized for traditional land and resource activities as described by TK/TLU studies. The surface water sampling program has been extended approximately 35 km downstream of the mine site, as previously requested by SFN in 2021 during the review of the initial baseline surface water monitoring reports. The 2022 Surface Water Quality Technical Workplans incorporated feedback received from these Indigenous communities, and the results of this additional monitoring have been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3). FMG continues to be interested in establishing a monitoring committee with the community for all phases of the mine.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested additional monitoring sites for the small tributaries and lakes/ponds draining into the larger lakes.	Small inland lakes and tributaries have been characterized as part of the Baseline Aquatic Resources Reports (Appendix O). Additional surface water quality monitoring for small body lakes (including L-1, L-16, L-18, and L-19) were collected in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and the results are included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3).
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further information on mercury and a description of the associated monitoring program.	As shown in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), the baseline water quality monitoring in the Project waterbodies from 2012 though 2022 indicate that mercury levels are generally below analytical detection limits (<0.005 µg/L). and are less than the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life for mercury (0.026 µg/L). Further, ultra-low mercury and methylmercury from specialized analyses has occurred at key monitoring locations across the baseline study since 2021, with detection limits of approximately 0.0001 µg/L and 0.00002 µg/L respectively. It was clarified that mercury is not proposed to be used in the process for gold mining at the Springpole Gold Project, and the Project will not be a source of mercury. A description of key metals in host rock and ore is presented in Section 4.3 of Appendix K-1 (Static Geochemical Testing Baseline Report). Solid phase mercury concentrations in the Project rock are low. Specifically, mercury concentrations were below qualitative threshold values (10 times crustal abundance) in 98% of the mine rock samples and 94% of the ore-grade samples. The potential for mercury leaching from the rock is also low for materials based on the results of leaching tests (Appendix K-1) and humidity cell tests (Appendix K-2). A description of inorganic contaminants of potential concern in soil can be found in the Human and Ecological Health Risk Assessment (HEHRA) Model Report (Appendix R, Section 3.4.3). The maximum concentration of mercury in the collected soil samples did not exceed federal or provincial guideline values. The predictive models developed to support the EIS/EA which use the baseline data described above indicate that mercury levels remain below threshold criteria for surface water quality and human health and the Project is not a source of mercury. A surface water sampling program has been included in Section 12 and will be further developed during the permitting phase. FMG will continue to engage and consult with local Indigenous communities through the permitting phase as further details are developed. The permitting phase program is expected to include further details on methods, locations and duration, along with monitoring and reporting requirements based on discussions with regulatory agencies. The purpose of the surface water program will be to monitor compliance against regulatory permits, and validate the predictions in the EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested additional detail on the conclusion that surface water quality parameters that exceeded guideline values was related to natural variation associated with total suspended solids. CLFN also requested explanation for observed concentrations of copper and phosphorus.	It was clarified that natural baseline exceedances occurred in less than 2% of observations, are associated with elevated total suspended solids (TSS) levels (total phosphorus, total iron) and are considered representative of the natural heterogeneity of these lake systems, and the natural heterogenicity of waters in the baseline study area have been well characterized by the baseline program. Over with over 1,120 samples have been collected between as part of baseline surface water monitoring program for the Project. Overall, the results indicate that surface water quality of monitored waterbodies are typical of oligotrophic lakes in northwestern Ontario, including low concentrations of nutrients and anions, low turbidity, and saturated to near- saturated dissolved oxygen concentrations. The pH levels of Birch Lake, Springpole Lake, Seagrave Lake, small area lakes and regional monitoring stations are circumneutral; low frequency slightly alkaline to alkaline pH values are associated with summer sampling of surface (epilimnion) waters, wherein elevated pH values are likely driven by photosynthesis and generally warmer water quality conditions. There are no other consistent seasonal trends or inter-annual trends for other monitored parameters. The levels of TSS and total dissolved solids (TDS) are generally low for all the sampled waterbodies. Similarly, concentrations of most total and dissolved metals are low, consistently below Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life (WQG PAL). There were a few occasions where measured baseline concentrations are outside the range established by WQG PAL. Parameters outside the range established by WQG PAL included pH, total phosphorus; total iron, and total copper. As noted, these exceedances occur less than 2% of observations, are associated with elevated TSS levels (total phosphorus, total iron) and are considered representative of the natural heterogeneity of these lake systems. This information has been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), and described in Section 6.6.2, Section 6.7.2 and Section 6.8.2.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further information on the concentrations of total and dissolved metals relative to drinking water guidelines.	Surface water quality (concentrations of metals, nutrients and ions) monitored in the area are less than drinking water quality standards for all parameters with drinking water quality guidelines. Water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life are more stringent than drinking water quality guidelines for most parameters. This explanation has been included in Section 6.6.2.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further information on the seasonal variability of the surface water quality monitoring program for the Project, and the results of the 2021 field program.	The Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) documents the spatial and temporal variability of surface water quality of the waterbodies that have the potential to be affected by Project and additional unaffected waterbodies. The dataset is extensive when compared to other projects at the environmental assessment stage. The characterization of existing conditions within the local area habitat type is well documented and exceeds requirements to support the environmental assessment. Water quality sampling has continued throughout the EA process, and the data that has been collected through to the end of 2023 is included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3).
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested a discussion of the surface water quality trends over the period monitored.	Trends in surface water quality are discussed in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), and the effects to surface waters are quantitively assessed by predictive modelling (Appendix N-2, Section 4).
Baseline studies Geology, Groundwater	CLFN requested further information concerning foundation conditions and stability of the CDF.	Additional information was added to Section 9.7 providing further details on geotechnical investigations that were carried out (numbers and locations of test pits and boreholes), and the general nature of foundation conditions.
Baseline studies Archaeology, Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes	CLFN observed that the archaeological status of known cabins is incomplete, and the inventory of built heritage resources needs to be included for the LSA.	Archaeology studies have been completed for the mine site and mine access road areas and no archaeological resources have been found. Sites along the transmission line corridor that have archaeological potential will be investigated after completion of the detailed engineering of the transmission line and based on the precise location on the poles. The identified pictographs are outside the Project Development Area (PDA) and will not be affected by the Project. FMG will continue to share Project plans and schedules with Indigenous communities coordinate construction activities related to the transmission line to minimize overlap with the timing of traditional land use activities and other sensitive periods.
Baseline studies Birds	CLFN inquired whether Eastern Whip-poor will (EWPW) surveys were completed at locations where Common Nighthawk were found.	Autonomous recording units (ARUs) were used in the survey and would have detected both EWPW and Common Nighthawk, if both occurred at the crepuscular bird survey station. This information was added to Appendix P-1 (Baseline Terrestrial Report), which also includes the results the baseline surveys completed.
Baseline studies Hydrology	CLFN requested clarification on whether a new rating curve would be developed for the Springpole Lake inlet and other level logger stations using more recent data and winter data.	Winter flow monitoring was collected in 2022 and 2023 (February) and presented in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.4.2) of the EIS/EA includes a description of results from the winter monitoring programs, and Section 4.5.2 includes a description of the incorporation of this data into the rating curve.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	CLFN requested further information on the methods used to identify plant species, vegetation sample locations including power analysis, and the methodology for conducting wetland evaluations in 2022.	The number of sample plots for plants, vegetation communities and wetlands were increased in 2021. The methodology for vegetation community sampling is provided in the baseline terrestrial report (Appendix P-1), along the results of the studies carried out in 2021 and 2022. In addition, the methodology used to conduct wetland evaluations is described in Appendix P-1.
Consultation processes and capacity Traditional land and resource use, Archaeology	CLFN requested information on participation in future fieldwork opportunities and clarification on how Indigenous Knowledge will be incorporated into future archaeological work.	FMG has continued ongoing engagement with CLFN, including extending invitations to participate in environmental fieldwork. FMG acknowledges that archaeological sites and resources are important to Indigenous communities. Avoidance of impacts / effects on archaeological resources is preferred over a mitigation measure and FMG encourages a continued involvement from Indigenous communities regarding the identification archaeological resources or sites of importance during life of mine to help mitigate potential effects on archaeological resources. Indigenous communities will also be provided with an opportunity to participate in supplemental archaeological work that may occur through life of mine.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air quality	CLFN requested that the 2025 Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for 1-hour and annual NO_2 be included in the assessment.	The CAAQS have been updated, as requested, to 79 µg/m³ and 23 µg/m³, respectively in the Air Quality Effects Assessment (Table 6.2-3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	CLFN requested more information about potential effects on Springpole Lake and Birch Lake from blasting effects.	A revised blasting assessment (Appendix H-4) was completed using more conservative (larger) charges and the more stringent blasting criteria for fish to conservatively identify additional areas of potential impacts as discussed in Section 6.10.3 and the FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	CLFN requested clarification on potential effects to the food web / primary productivity.	Detailed investigations and studies have been completed for the Project and provide comparison of lower trophic data and fish community data for Springpole lake and adjacent Birch Lake sufficient to assess the potential effects of the isolated open pit basin. Results show comparable primary resources in the six deep water sample stations in Springpole Lake and two stations in Birch Lake, and a high degree of similarity between the three most northern stations in the north basin of Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	CLFN requested an analysis of the pump test responses for monitoring wells, including the determination of transmissivity and the average hydraulic conductivity, and updates to the hydrogeology model.	Distance-drawdown plots for data provide insight into which wells are likely best connected to the pumping well (and therefore whose hydraulic conductivity estimates are most representative for that pathway). Monitoring wells with unexpectedly low drawdown are indicative of limited hydraulic connection to the pumping well; therefore, hydraulic conductivity / transmissivity value estimates in these cases are not representative. An assessment of distance-drawdown has been conducted for monitoring wells for the long-term aquifer test and is described in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2.2) along with expanded discussion and interpretations of the pumping test.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	CLFN requested clarification on the applicable water quality guideline applicable to groundwater. CLFN also requested that groundwater quality be compared to conservative surface water quality standards such as Provincial Water Quality Guideline (PWQO/iPWQO), supported where appropriate by Canadian Water Quality Guidelines (CWQG).	The aquatic protection values (APV) were selected as a basis of comparison for groundwater quality predictions in the draft EIS/EA as they are designed specifically for groundwater to provide a scientifically defensible and reasonably conservative level of protection for most aquatic organisms from the migration and discharge of groundwater to surface water. The APVs were applied to the assessment of potential effects on groundwater that ultimately discharges to surface water. However, considering the MECP feedback and traditional land use information provided, the APVs have been replaced in the EIS/EA with surface water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life that are used as a conservative benchmark for the assessment of groundwater quality, as described in the groundwater assessment (Section 6.5.1.1).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	CLFN requested additional clarification on whether aggregate sources will be tested prior to use in Project infrastructure.	The proposed aggregate sources will be tested prior to use for the construction of the mine access road. The sources identified in draft EIS/EA are sand and gravel type material similar to that used in forestry road operations in the area and not anticipated to have material acid rock drainage (ARD) potential.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	CLFN requested a description of how the groundwater changes to waterbodies L-1, L-2, L-16 and L-19 may impact the animals, plants, and ecosystems of these smaller lakes, and the incidental impacts to Indigenous rights and interests.	Section 6.5 provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Project on groundwater quantity and quality, and Section 6.6 to 6.9 provide an assessment of the effects on surface water quality and quantity. These assessments are supported by the Hydrogeology Modelling Report (Appendix L-2), the Mine Site Water Balance (Appendix M-2), the Receiver Water Balance (Appendix M-3), the Mine Site Water Quality Model (Appendix K-4) and the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2). The results of the modelling reports and effects assessment supports the assessment of aquatic and terrestrial resources including fish (Section 6.10), vegetation communities and wetlands (Section 6.11) and wildlife species (Section 6.12, 6.13, 6.14, 6.15 and 6.16). For those waterbodies not included for offsetting, the predictive models developed to support the final EIS/EA determined that water quality parameters remain below applicable guidelines for surface water quality (Appendix N-2) in the receiving waterbodies. The results of the assessment on water, plants and wildlife are considered in the assessment of potential effects on human and ecological health in Section 6.24. These sections and modelling reports inform potential effects on traditional land use as described in Section 6.21.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	CLFN requested further information on the inflow volumes to the open pit.	The determination of groundwater inflows to the open pit was conducted utilizing a calibrated 3D numerical model that has been developed for the mine site of the Project. Groundwater inflow rates to the open pit are included in the Hydrogeology Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 6). This Report includes an analysis of the sensitivity (Appendix L-2, Section 7) of inflows with changes in parameters for the bedrock layers, including the shallow bedrock.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	CLFN requested further study on the effects of the removal of catchment areas on aquatic systems.	The potential effects of temporary removal of the catchment area are included in Section 6.6.3, and the assessment included in Section 6.6.4. The effects of these changes are included in Section 5.2 of the FHOCP (Appendix F, Section 5.2).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and vibration	CLFN noted that sensory disturbances such as noise, particularly from the use of helicopters and the airstrip, may affect Indigenous land users in carrying out TLU activities.	There are currently helicopters and other aircraft being used to support the existing exploration camp, however the potential effect of noise from the Project has been acknowledged in the introduction to Section 6.3. The description of Traditional Land Use activities has factored into the selection of PORs, as described in Section 6.3.5 and the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 4). The potential effect of helicopters and the airstrip has also been included in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 6.1). The effect on the experience associated with Traditional Land Use activities is further assessed in Section 6.21.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested clarification on the water quality guidelines utilized for the EIS/EA.	The final EIS/EA uses a consistent set of WQG PAL as per the latest guidance from MECP. Recent MECP guidance necessitates the utilization of the most current WQG PAL sourced from either the PWQO/iPWQO, CWQG, or Federal Water Quality Guidelines (FWQG). This has been clarified in Section 6.6.5.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further study on the effects of sulphate, arsenic, cobalt, copper, that may exceed guidelines values may impact aquatic specifies, ecosystems, and human or animal consumption of surface water.	The potential for mine activities to affect human or ecological health (including aquatic species and ecosystems) has been assessed through a rigorous HEHRA as described in Section 6.24, with the detailed HEHRA modelling report (Appendix R) appended to the EIS/EA. The assessment includes the results of the surface water model for changes in water quality parameters and concludes that with the proposed design and mitigation measures, residual effects on human and ecological health are not predicted. The HEHRA modelling report is included as Appendix R and used to update Section 6.24, to reflect Project optimization since the draft EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further information on the assessment of the effect of fugitive dust on surface water systems.	The potential water quality effects from dust deposition have been quantitatively assessed and results are included in both the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 4) as well as the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R). Results of these models informed the assessment of potential effects from fugitive dust on surface water systems and included in Sections 6.6 through 6.9. For Birch Lake, the assessment of dust effects has also been considered and included in Section 6.6.3. The potential effect of dust will be mitigated with a dust management plan, and erosion and sediment control plan that will be developed during the permitting phase.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested a surface water/groundwater interaction monitoring and mitigation plan that is designed to identify areas of potential groundwater/surface water interaction.	Seepage quality and quantity estimates are provided in Section 6 of the Hydrogeology Modelling Report (Appendix L-2), including schematizations to illustrate mitigated potential seepage pathways (Figure 4.2-1). Groundwater mitigation measures as described in Section 6.5.4, have been designed for the CDF and include the siting of the CDF on highly preferred foundation conditions composed of andesite bedrock, the appropriate management of tailings and mine rock within the facility, and an engineered perimeter seepage collection system. Section 12 includes follow-up surface water and groundwater monitoring programs for the Project which will be refined as part of the provincial permitting process, as is standard practice. However, note that the existing surface water quality and groundwater monitoring programs undertaken for the Project are comprehensive, spanning multiple years and form the basis for the follow up monitoring.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	CLFN requested that additional details be provided on how the site would be closed and that FMG develop closure objectives that meet cultural and socioeconomic objectives of CLFN. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives as listed by CLFN include: • Ensuring the conservation and continued use of sites near the mine site; • Supporting CLFN members' ability to practice their way of life and to transfer knowledge and teachings specific to the area; • Ensuring long-term benefits while minimizing post-closure socioeconomic impacts, including job loss and gender-, addiction-, and mental health-related issues; • Mitigating impacts to harvesting practices, as well as to water, fish and non-human relatives within the reclaimed open pit and the mine waste CDF areas; and • Mitigating long-term risks of erosion, accidents, spills, or structural failures of the mine waste facility, including due to flooding or extreme meteorological events (e.g., 100-year floods).	Section 5.19 has been expanded with additional detail and more specific information, including feasibility of and alternatives considered for closure elements. Closure planning is a progressive and iterative process of mine development, and as such, detailed closure plans that build on the final EIS/EA will be submitted to regulators during the permitting process with periodic updates during the life of mine. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives of CLFN will be integral to the closure strategy have been added to Section 5.19, including details, where available at this stage of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	CLFN requested additional evaluation of the isolated basin compared to the rest of Springpole Lake and how the remaining area will support the fish community during the life of the mine.	Additional fisheries and aquatic data were collected for the entire Springpole Lake and the open pit basin during 2022. The 2022 program included a full lake BsM program, ongoing lower trophic level studies, a lake-wide hydroacoustic fish community survey, and multiple eDNA metabarcoding surveys. The additional data, in combination with previously collected aquatic data, increase the confidence that the majority of the Springpole Lake area will remain capable of sustaining all species and all life functions present in the lake and that Lake Trout and the resources they depend on are well distributed in the north basin and not reliant only on the portion that will be isolated.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	CLFN asked for more details about Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measures and additional documentation and data to describe species absence and the likely cause of Lake Sturgeon absence.	The Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measure has been revised to a two-step measure: 1) collect additional data and information and 2) implement reintroduction / enhancement measures. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Noise and vibration	CLFN requested further detail on the noise complaint response protocol identified in the draft EIS/EA.	Section 6.3.4 outlines the mitigation measures, which include the development of a weekly blast schedule posted on the Project's website, a mechanism for recording complaints, and a mechanism for timely monitoring of and follow-up for complaints during the construction and operations phases. It is expected that the protocol will include a complaint submission function available through the Project's website.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Noise and vibration	CLFN requested that sound monitoring also include monitoring of vibration from blasting.	A monitoring program for sound and vibration resulting from the Project will be implemented during the construction and operation phases (see Section 12.3 for details).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further explanation of the conclusion related to increased TSS loading to surface waters due to sedimentation will not have any residual impact due to mitigation efforts.	Monitoring of the effectiveness of erosion and sedimentation control measures will be a required component of the Project's permits and approvals; and protective limits for TSS will be included in the site-specific effluent criteria. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be prepared for the site prior to construction based on the detailed designs, construction plans and schedules, as described in Section 6.6.4. A combination of site controls and effluent criteria will ensure that TSS mitigation is effective and complies with provincial and federal expectation to protect the aquatic receiving environments and biota. Further details of the monitoring plan are provided in Section 12.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN requested clarification on how the TK/TLU information was used to inform the EIS/EA.	TK/TLU information received from CLFN has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the VCs selected for assessment as shown in Section 6.21 (Table 6.21-12). In some cases, the assessment of a VC has been modified to include areas of interest expressed by CLFN such as the inclusion of mental health and well-being in Section 6.19 and Section 6.20. In addition, the description of the existing conditions for each VC, includes a description of TK/TLU that is relevant to the VC, and is considered in the assessment and selection of mitigation and monitoring.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	CLFN requested climatic hazards, including heavy rainfall, snow accumulation, blowing snow, freeze-thaw, winter rain on snow, heat wave, and drought, to be considered in the Project design.	Hazards identified to potentially interact with the Project include high winds, extreme temperatures (i.e., extreme heat, extreme cold, and freeze-thaw cycles), snowstorms, major precipitation events, flooding from increasing water levels in Springpole Lake, seismic event and forest fires. Future climate projections were developed and are described in Section 8.4. Potential effects of climate change on the Project have been considered in accordance with Ontario government guidance *Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process* (MECP 2021) and incorporated in the planning and design of Project infrastructure. Section 8.4 also includes a table (Table 8-2) showing the climate hazards that would have a potential impact on the safety and performance of key Project components. Engineering design and mitigation included in the Project to withstand climatic hazards are discussed in Section 8.5 to 8.9. In addition, a summary table of climate hazards, their impact on the Project, and associated mitigation measures has been included as Table 8-2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	CLFN requested clarification on the dam (i.e., dike) design and safety factors.	The dikes are designed to meet the factors of safety required by guidelines and regulations such as the *Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines* (CDA 2013, 2019) and supporting technical bulletins, MNR (MNR 2011a) guidelines and the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* (RSO 1990, c. L.3). Additional design information on dike stability and safety is included in Section 9.5.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	CLFN requested that additional details be provided on how the site would be closed and that FMG develop closure objectives that meet cultural and socioeconomic objectives of CLFN. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives as listed by CLFN include: 1. Ensuring the conservation and continued use of sites near the mine site; 2. Supporting CLFN members' ability to practice their way of life and to transfer knowledge and teachings specific to the area; 3. Ensuring long-term benefits while minimizing post-closure socioeconomic impacts, including job loss and gender-, addiction-, and mental health-related issues; 4. Mitigating impacts to harvesting practices, as well as to water, fish and non-human relatives within the reclaimed open pit and the mine waste CDF areas; and 5. Mitigating long-term risks of erosion, accidents, spills, or structural failures of the mine waste facility, including due to flooding or extreme meteorological events (e.g., 100-year floods).	Section 5.19 has been expanded with additional detail and more specific information, including feasibility of and alternatives considered for closure elements. Closure planning is a progressive and iterative process of mine development, and as such, detailed closure plans that build on the final EIS/EA will be submitted to regulators during the permitting process with periodic updates during the life of mine. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives of CLFN will be integral to the closure strategy have been added to Section 5.19, including details, where available at this stage of the Project.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested clarification on the dam (i.e., dike) design and safety factors for the CDF, and if they consider climate change, severe extreme or severe weather, events involving rain, ice, snow, thunderstorms, microbursts, wind, and increased temperatures.	The dikes are designed to meet the factors of safety required by guidelines and regulations such as the *Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines* (CDA 2013, 2019) and supporting technical bulletins, MNR (MNR 2011a) guidelines and the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* (RSO 1990, c. L.3) for long term, static loading conditions, as well as pseudo-static loading conditions. Additional design information on dike stability and safety is included in Section 8.6.2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further information concerning the effectiveness of water treatment technologies and the effects of treatment system malfunction.	Additional analysis was completed in 2024 for the design of seepage and runoff collection systems. As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified. Section 9.9 has been updated to clarify that although the short-term construction phase water management will use more frequent design events (i.e., 1:10-year), the operations phase water management facilities will be designed to accommodate and contain a 1:100-year, 24-hour storm event. A summary of the additional analyses to support the design criteria has been added to Section 9.10. The assessment of the effects of the environment on the Project (Section 8.6) has also been updated to include additional information that describe the resiliency of the overall water management system to extreme rainfall events, including the ability to use the open pit for additional storage in the event of an extreme precipitation event.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN requested that FMG assess how accidental events or spills could affect the conservation and continued use of traditional sites near the mine site, harvesting practices, members' ability to practice their way of life and to transfer knowledge and teachings specific to the area; and community socioeconomics.	FMG recognizes that an accident or malfunction could result in an environmental effect that subsequently could impact traditional land and resource use. Engineering design features and mitigation measures will be implemented for the Project to eliminate or reduce the risk a potential accident or malfunction from occurring, and its potential for effects on the environment. Although not explicitly stated in the following sections, these engineering design features, and mitigation measures are intended to be protective of the environment and traditional land and resource use in the area can continue.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	CLFN requested further information on the anticipated change in groundwater levels due to the Project and the assessment of potential effects on wetlands.	An assessment of potential effects on wetlands due to changes in groundwater from the Project is included in Section 6.11.6.2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN requested that the assessment of potential effects of the Project be informed by TK, and that the TK/TLU information be disaggregated by Indigenous community.	During the EA process, Indigenous communities have collected and shared TK/TLU information, and non-confidential information has been incorporated into the final EIS/EA. This information sharing is appreciated and important for Project planning. Additional opportunities for TK/TLU information sharing will occur throughout all phases of the Project. A list of the information sources is included in Section 6.21.2. The information was used to inform or validate baseline studies, validate the selection of VCs, assessment criteria and indicators, supplement the information used to understand the existing conditions of various valued components, consider alternatives for various project components, support the assessment of potential effects on VCs, identify mitigation measures and areas for follow up monitoring. Non-confidential information has been included in the description of the existing environment (Section 3) and the description of existing conditions in each VC (Section 6) and use to support the assessment of alternatives (Section 4) and the assessment of potential effects on biophysical VCs (Section 6.2 to Section 6.16), and human environment VCs (Section 6.18 to Section 6.24). Non-confidential TK/TLU information has been disaggregated by Indigenous community, where possible. Feedback received from Indigenous communities during engagement activities for the EA, and in particular, the review of the draft EIS/EA has informed the final EIS/EA. Examples of how TK has been included in this final EIS/EA are shown in Table 6.21-1. Further details on the engagement activities are included in Section 2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	CLFN requested consideration of the potential effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat due to the operation of the mine access road, airstrip and other transportation activities and the subsequent effect on hunting and other land-based activities.	Section 9 includes an assessment of the potential effects on wildlife and SAR birds as a result of a potential spill, accident or malfunction from Project activities. Specifically, Section 9.12 considers vehicular accidents that could release materials, Section 9.13 considers the potential spill of cyanide, and Section 9.14 considers the potential release of products from containment and dispensing facilities. Key measures to mitigate the potential effects of a spill on the environment, including SAR birds, are outlined in Section 9 of the final EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	CLFN requested further information on the potential effects of flooding on adjacent land/water basins as a result of the construction of the dams to facilitate dewatering be considered.	Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin is expected to take approximately six months to complete, based on continuous (24-hour, 7-day per week) pumping at a rate that is able to maintain Springpole Lake water levels within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions. The volume of the proposed open pit basin within Springpole Lake ranges is approximately 18 Mm^3, consistent with the bathymetric survey. Water flows and levels have been monitored over a period of 2.5 years, and have shown an average monthly inflow to Springpole Lake ranging from 21.3 cubic metres per second (m^3/s) in June to 5.0 m^3/s in March, with an observed annual natural variation in flow of 16.3 m^3/s. Further, the average water level of Springpole Lake ranges from 391.78 metres above mean sea level (m amsl) in June to 390.79 m amsl in March, showing a maximum natural variation of 2.1 metres ([m] Appendix M-1). Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin will be completed in a manner to mitigate potential environmental effects by managing and monitoring flow rates. The six-month timeframe has been determined based on the receiving capacity of Springpole Lake to accept an increase in flow, limited to 10% of the instantaneous natural flow through Springpole Lake. The 10% threshold has been applied as a mitigation measure and is consistent with the DFO guidance document *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* (DFO 2013). Within the framework, DFO provides a national technical guidance that cumulative flow alterations of less than 10% in amplitude of the actual (instantaneous) flow relative to a "natural flow regime" have a low probability of detectable impacts to ecosystems. During the dewatering activities, a continuous flow monitoring station at the inlet and outlet of Springpole Lake will be used to provide a running average flow that will be used to inform the actual dewatering rate consistent with anticipated permit conditions. This has been described in Section 5.7.1.2. The potential effects of dewatering are described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further information on the time to fill the open pit with water, where the water will come from and how will affect water levels in Springpole Lake and downstream be mitigated.	Springpole Lake is part of a large system with a drainage area of approximately 1,289 km^2 at its inflow. Once mining concludes in approximately Year 10, the open pit basin will start to fill with water by direct precipitation and groundwater infiltration from the surrounding bedrock. Without enhancement, it would take decades (approximately 30 to 40 years) for the open pit basin to refill to the same level as Springpole Lake. To significantly reduce the filling time, supplemental water from Springpole Lake is planned to be transferred to the pit in a controlled manner while maintaining lake water levels within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions. To assess the pit filling time under various climate conditions, wet and dry sequences were developed based on pro-rated historical flow records from the Sturgeon River at McDougall Mills WSC Station (05QA004). The dry year sequence was developed based on data from 1975 to 1981 and represents a 1st percentile flow sequence over the period. The wet year sequence was developed based on data from 2007 to 2010 and represents a 99th percentile flow sequence over the period. The results indicate that during a 99th percentile wet flow sequence, the pit filling time would be reduced to 3.3 years. During a 1st percentile dry flow sequence, the pit filling time would be increased to 6.3 years. Water taking from Springpole Lake accounts for 95% of the inflows to the open pit basin during the pit filling period (direct runoff and groundwater inflows are quite low in relation to the Springpole Lake water takings. At this proposed active filling rate, the combined open pit basin and fish habitat development area would require three to five years to fill to the average natural elevation of Springpole Lake (elevation 391 m amsl), assuming average flow conditions during those years. Table 5.19-2 provides a range of years to fill for the open pit basin, allowing for average conditions as well as the very dry and very wet flow years. The proposed active filling rate would be adjustable to reflect up to 10% of the inflows to Springpole Lake. Based on guidance provided by the DFO's (2013) *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* and Locke and Paul's (2011) *A Desk-top Method for Establishing Environmental Flows in Alberta Rivers and Streams*, a 10% to 15% reduction in instantaneous flows is unlikely to have detectable ecological effects on downstream habitat. Using the more conservative DFO guidance and a proposed active filling rate of up to 10%, the combined dewatered open pit / fish habitat area basin would require three to five years to fill using the current average elevation of Springpole Lake (elevation 391 m above mean sea level) under average flow conditions during those years. With isolation of the basin occurring in the first year of construction (Year -2) and filling beginning in Year 10, the basin can be filled and ready for reconnection to Springpole Lake in approximately Year 13 to Year 15 of the Project. The description of the final reclamation of the open pit has been updated in Section 5.19.3.1 and further described in Section 6.10.6.1. The assessment of potential effects on water quantity in Springpole Lake are described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	CLFN requested further information concerning the potential effects of undue residual seepage release from the CDF on Birch and Springpole Lake water quality.	Additional discussion is presented in Section 9.6 demonstrating that the effectiveness of CDF seepage capture such that Birch and Springpole Lakes will not see increased concentrations of contaminants of concern beyond PAL (or background) concentrations.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Archaeology	CLFN stated that there are pictographs, graves, and sacred sites in the Springpole Lake general area that may be impacted by the Project and there are place names that exist within the Project footprint.	The identified pictographs are outside the PDA and will not be affected by the Project. Access will be restricted only in the mine site area for safety reasons; however, the mine site area contains no known archaeological resources (Appendix S-1 and Appendix S-2). An access management strategy will provide for improved access for traditional activities in the area of the mine site road and will be developed in consultation with Indigenous communities and MNR.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	CLFN requested further information on the potential and perceived risk of contamination of surface water and ground water that is consumed by humans, and the potential effects to the health of plants and animals due to water contamination. They also requested information on the change in groundwater flow or levels.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site to limit the areal extent of disturbance, and to limit the overall areas of site contact water that requires management. A 120 metre (m) setback will be maintained around the mine site, where practical. The CDF has been located on the most favourable geologic conditions at the Project site to support long term stability and effective seepage management. Further, a geosynthetic clay liner will be installed on the upstream side of the perimeter dam of the CDF south cell (specifically the south, west, and east sides) to mitigate seepage potential. During construction, an erosion and sediment control plan will be implemented to manage runoff water around disturbed areas. During all phases, an integrated water management system will be designed to collect and control contact water from the mine site area. Water collection ditches will be constructed and operated around the perimeter of infrastructure to collect overland flow and seepage and direct it to the integrated water management system. Collected contact water that is not recycled in ore processing will be treated at the effluent treatment plant (ETP) and the treat effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. Non-contact water will be diverted away from Project components using ditches, diversion berms and other suitable measures. The changes in surface water quality have been predicted in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2), with the Project meeting stringent Canadian Water Quality guidelines during all phases as discussed in Section 6.6 to Section 6.9. Further, the changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the Human and Ecological Health Risk Assessment (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	CLFN requested that the HEHRA reevaluate the potential risk to Indigenous consumers of country foods and fish, recognizing that the HC definition of "high consumer" may not be indicative of existing or desired consumption rates of Indigenous harvester.	For the purposes of the HEHRA, preferred country foods and ingestion rates by members of Indigenous communities in the region were selected based on a comparative analysis from several sources including Traditional Land and Resource Use studies and land use plans available at the time of writing. Based on the comparative analyses, adult "heavy consumer" and "average consumer" consumption rates selected for the purposes of the HEHRA are the consumption rates included in Chan et al 2014, reported by Indigenous communities in the Boreal Shield Ecozone 1 region, which align with information provided in the TLRU studies for the Project. The rationale for selection of country foods species and ingestion rates considered in the HEHRA is summarized in Section 4.3.2.1 of Appendix R.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	Through the draft EIS/EA consultation process, FMG was informed of the challenges that many communities and individuals face with mental health and addictions, and the various barriers to treatment and employment opportunities.	The draft Employee Health & Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3) looks at employee health and well-being through a proactive lens by embracing education, prevention and early intervention measures. From design to implementation, FMG provides a collaborative framework with opportunities for continual improvement input and guidance so that services and support offered will remain relevant throughout the life of mine.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional economy	CLFN requested further information on where money from the Project would go.	The Project will give preference to local and Indigenous workers and businesses and participation will provide skills and experience for future opportunities. This will increase labour and business income directly and through spending of income at local and regional businesses. The skills and experience gained by participating in the Project will assist in gaining future employment and contracts.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional economy	CLFN stated that the socio-economic effects on their communities had not been adequately addressed, including potential effects on safety. They also inquired about benefits to the communities and how Nation members would benefit from Project employment.	The Project will give preference to local and Indigenous workers and businesses and participation will provide additional labour and business income. FMG will support retraining programs to establish transferable skills for employees during the latter part of the operations phase and will provide job search assistance at the closure phase. The skills and experience acquired through the Project are anticipated to be highly transferable to other employment opportunities in the region at closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN requested further information about mercury and recommended mercury levels for baseline and operating conditions be established.	Baseline water quality monitoring from the Project water bodies indicate mercury levels are generally below analytical detection limits and are less than the CWQG for mercury. Further, mercury is not proposed to be used in the process for gold mining at the Project, and the Project will not be a source of mercury.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	CLFN asked whether the mine effluent discharged into Springpole Lake would raise the level of contaminants in fish.	During construction, operations and active closure, water collection ditches will be constructed to collect and control all contact water from the stockpiles, CDF, and plant site areas. Collected water that is not recycled, in ore processing will be treated at the effluent treatment plant and the treated effluent be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with final permitting requirements. The minor changes in surface water quality have been included in the Human and Ecological Health Risk Assessment (Appendix R), and the Project will not result in a change to ecological health.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN identified that the LSA includes harvesting sites for moose, fish, and food plants, as well as trapping sites. They also use areas adjacent to the Project footprint for subsistence moose harvesting. CLFN observed that impacts to animal populations, including dispersal from the Project area due to auditory stressors from initial Project activities could affect wildlife harvesting. CLFN expressed that fish distribution, populations, health and habitat and critical fishing areas could be impacted, impeding their members' ability to harvest fish for subsistence. CLFN identified that the loss of plants and plant habitats would deter harvesters from using their preferred areas.	The change in wildlife distribution and the experience of harvesters due to sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. Fishing will be able to continue at both Birch Lake and Springpole Lake throughout all phases of the Project. Fish habitat features will be incorporated in to the design of the dikes supporting fishing opportunities, and the Closure Plan will enhance fish habitat in the restore open pit basin increasing Springpole Lake by 3.5% in surface area.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN commented that changes in water levels impacts travel routes and the accessibility of areas and can expose hazards that interfere with safe passage and interrupt navigation.	An assessment of the potential effects on water quantity due to the Project is provided in Section 6.8. The assessment determined that the expediting filling of the open pit basin at closure can be achieved while maintaining water levels with Springpole Lake well within the observed range of natural baseline conditions and is not anticipated to have an effect on navigation. Monitoring will be undertaken, and pumping will be adjusted as needed in real time to ensure there is no effect. An alternate navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be established and maintained by FMG through all Project phases. The existing portage route located at the exploration camp will be relocated during prior to construction of the Project to a historical portage route on the west side of the north basin of Springpole Lake that will be reestablished and maintained by FMG. The original portage route will be reestablished at post closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN described the decline in commercial fishing. CLFN noted that the Project may impact on fishing areas and access to fishing areas, impacts to animal populations due to sensory stressors, changes in access to preferred hunting and trapping areas, and impacts to the long-term health of the environment upon which animals depend.	With the exception of the mine site footprint, all other areas will remain available for TLRU activities. The change in wildlife distribution and the experience of harvesters due to sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. The access management strategy aims to address Indigenous concerns regarding public access to TLRU areas. The strategy will describe appropriate signage to advise the public of the road's intended use, safety communication protocol for traditional land users, and the establishment of a gatehouse/checkpoint towards the end of the Wenasaga Road to ensure unauthorized use does not occur. Further, the transmission line corridor portion of the Project footprint will be allowed to naturally regrow following construction to an extent that limits accessibility and therefore new access along the transmission line is not anticipated. The change in fish habitat supporting fisheries will be mitigated with measures outlined in the FHOCP (Appendix F) and described in Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat) which includes fish habitat enhancements to the lake-facing embankments of the dikes, enhancements and reclamation of the open pit basin, the creation of new fish habitat adjacent to the open pit basin, and the proposed reclamation of fish habitat at the abandoned South Bay mine. In addition, fishing and hunting will be prohibited within the controlled access portion of the Project Development Area by Project personnel while working or residing on site, during all phases of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN noted that commercial outfitters had been purchased by FMG, which may affect CLFN's ability to access preferred harvesting areas.	Several commercial outfitting operations surrounding the Project have been purchased by FMG, and operations at these locations will or has been discontinued. As a result, there will be reduced pressure on the resources harvested by the outfitters, which provides opportunities for local Indigenous communities to harvest these resources or explore potential business opportunities associated with the reduced pressure. There will be no change in access to preferred harvesting areas with the exception of directly within the mine site footprint for safety purposes. Under existing conditions, the proposed mine site area is an active exploration site with infrastructure and heavy equipment and has certain activity restrictions in place for safety, which will be similar for the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN pointed out that within the Project footprint there are boat mooring sites, river trails to camping and hunting areas, and seasonal snowmobile trails.	With the exception of the mine site footprint, all other areas will remain available for TLRU activities. As described above, there will be an access management strategy developed and implemented to allow for continued traditional land use activities in the area of the mine access road. Further, no new access will be created on Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN identified that the Project may impact harvested plants, fish, birds and animals due to displacement by the Project or by contamination which could affect harvesting and food security.	The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road, locating noise producing stationary equipment inside of buildings, the implementation of a revegetation plan that preferentially uses local vegetation sources and incorporates plant species of interest to Indigenous communities and wildlife habitat features, and uses mechanical vegetation removal practices. Further, a Human and Ecological Health Risk Assessment (Appendix R) has been prepared for the proposed Project and concluded that there will be no change to human and ecological health from the Project.

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN noted that harvesters may be deterred from their preferred areas due to water contamination from the tailings ponds and the associated loss of abundant, healthy plants and medicines in the study area.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site and site contact water will be managed with an integrated water management system that will collect, control and treat contact water with an effluent treatment plant that is not recycled in ore processing. The treated effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. The changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the HEHRA (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health. Country foods monitoring will take place periodically during operations. The navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be maintained and the portage route at the exploration camp will be re-established at closure. As noted earlier, an access management strategy will be developed and implemented to provide for improved access for traditional activities in the area of the mine site road.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN stated that changes in water levels impact travel routes and accessibility of areas, with low water levels exposing hazards that interfere with safe unhindered passage.	The Project will not affect the water levels of adjacent lakes, upstream or downstream. An access management strategy will allow for new access along the mine road area for traditional purposes. FMG will support the development and delivery of Indigenous led ceremonies on site to pay respect to the land, air and water prior to construction and at other key Project milestones. FMG will also support community land-based cultural activities during all Project phases and facilitate land use for local area Indigenous trappers.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN requested that traditional land use information be presented and incorporated into the effects assessment and disaggregated by Indigenous community within relevant sections of the final EIS/EA.	Non-confidential traditional land use information provided by Indigenous communities during the preparation of the final EIS/EA has been included and disaggregated by Indigenous group (Section 6.21.2). For the purposes of the HEHRA, this information informs: the selection of parameters of potential concern (POPC); representative Points of Reception (PORs) associated with traditional land use activities for use in the air quality modelling; identification of fish, vegetation and wildlife species important to Indigenous communities; identification of important traditional country foods; and informs the selection of representative country foods ingestion rates. Within supporting Attachment A of the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R), the traditional land use information pertaining to important country foods species and country foods ingestion is disaggregated by Indigenous community in the rationale for the selection of representative country foods species and ingestion rates. A description of the TK related to HEHRA is provided in Section 6.24.2.1.
Draft EIS/EA Hydrology	CLFN expressed concern regarding the use of a lesser flooding resistance standard (1 in 10-year rainfall events) for the design of the seepage collection system (ditches) and for general stormwater drainage facilities.	The Project components are designed and constructed to withstand weather and major precipitation events expected to occur within the region and consider climate change. The risks associated with major precipitation events will be managed through design criteria, guidelines and regulations, and management practices. Additional analysis and design was completed in 2024 for the seepage and runoff collection systems and has been incorporated into the Water Management section of the Project Description (Section 5.11). As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified (i.e., 1:100-year storm event). A description of the design criteria has been added to 8.6.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Human and ecological health	CLFN requested additional information on the potential for spills of hazardous materials at the mine site and along the transportation routes, and the associated mitigation measures and emergency response plans.	Additional information on the spill mitigation and emergency response has been included in Section 9.12 and Section 9.13.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Bats	CLFN requested clarification on the timing of construction works relative to the maternity roosting habitat.	Mitigation will include avoiding Project construction activities during the bat active season to the extent feasible and minimizing habitat loss as well as indirect effects on bat habitat, as described in the mitigation measures section (6.15.4) below.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Traditional land and resource use	CLFN noted that poplar wood, used to smoke moose meat, is becoming harder to find with habitat loss and disturbance. The CLFN and SFN land use plan proposes the establishment of a sustainable forestry license. Further, CLFN is planning to advance a northern bioeconomy using forest biomass.	The removal of timber will be limited through the development of a compact mine site, the co-location of the transmission line, airstrip, and mine access road, and through the optimization of the transmission line route during detailed engineering. FMG will work with local forestry companies to salvage merchantable timber and will work with communities to explore opportunities to set aside harvested poplar for potential use by local communities.
TK and TLU Information	CLFN requested that TK/TLU information be incorporated into relevant sections of the EIS/EA to inform the assessment, including the assessment of archaeological resources.	A description of information relevant to the assessment of potential effects on archaeological resources is provided in Section 6.22.2.3. The TK/TLU information is further described in Section 6.21.2 (Traditional Land and Resource Use VC).
TK and TLU Information Traditional Land and Resource Use	CLFN requested clarification on how the TK/TLU information was used to inform the EIS/EA.	TK/TLU information received from Indigenous communities has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the VCs selected for assessment as shown in Section 6.21 (Table 6.21-12). In some cases, the assessment of a VC has been modified to include areas of interest expressed by Indigenous communities such as the inclusion of mental health and well-being in Section 6.19 and Section 6.20. In addition, the description of the existing conditions for each VC, includes a description of TK/TLU that is relevant to the VC, and is considered in the assessment and selection of mitigation and monitoring.
TK and TLU information	CLFN undertook two studies, namely an Indigenous Knowledge and Use Study and Socioeconomic Study and requested these be considered in the EIS/EA to inform the understanding of potential effects of Project.	A description of how TK was incorporated into the EIS/EA is provided in each VC section and in Section 6.21.1.2 of the final EIS/EA, including how the information is disaggregated by Indigenous community. Further, an assessment of the effects on Indigenous People is provided in Section 6.26 that includes the effects on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, socioeconomics, archaeology and cultural heritage.
TK and TLU information	CLFN prepared Traditional Knowledge and Land Use and Socio-economic Baseline reports for the Project and inquired how the information would be integrated into the EIS/EA.	The reports have been reviewed, and TK information has been integrated into the assessment of biophysical VCs and used to complete the assessment of effects on traditional land and resource use in Section 6.21. The information from the socio-economic baseline was integrated into Section 6.21 as well as in the assessments of socio-economic VCs (Sections 6.17, 6.18, 6.19, and 6.20).

Table 2.6-2: Comments, Questions and Responses from Cat Lake First Nation

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
TK and TLU information Archaeology	CLFN stated that in the Springpole Lake general area there are pictographs, graves, and sacred sites.	Archaeology studies have been completed for the mine site and mine access road areas and no archaeological resources have been found. Sites along the transmission line corridor that have archaeological potential will be investigated after completion of the detailed engineering of the transmission line and based on the precise location on the poles. The identified pictographs are outside the PDA and will not be affected by the Project. FMG will continue to share Project plans and schedules with Indigenous communities coordinate construction activities related to the transmission line to minimize overlap with the timing of traditional land use activities and other sensitive periods.
TK and TLU information Caribou	CLFN emphasized the cultural and spiritual significance of Caribou, and their priority for Caribou conservation, especially protecting calving areas.	FMG acknowledges this and has integrated these values into the final EIS/EA. The draft EIS/EA was updated to include details from the community studies and other Indigenous Knowledge and Use and Socio-Economic Studies.
TK and TLU information Human and ecological health	During engagement with Indigenous communities, the concerns about existing conditions of mental health and well-being in the communities was frequently raised.	In response to this feedback, FMG has developed a draft Health and Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3), elements of which are included in mitigation measures for potential social and economic effects including Section 6.20.4. The Strategy responds to what FMG has heard, including that northern-focused health & wellness support is crucial to improving employment participation, creating a mental health-conscious workplace; and enabling the Project, local people, and communities to thrive. The approach necessitates more than standard corporate occupational health and wellness policies and programs. It requires tailored health and wellness approaches, services and programs, in coordination with health service providers, that address the holistic needs of northern people and communities participating in the mining industry.

2.6.1.4 Lac Seul First Nation

FMG initiated Project discussions with LSFN in January 2017 and LSFN and FMG have been engaging regarding the Project since. FMG has shared information with LSFN on the EA milestones as described below, as well as received valuable input by LSFN though various forms of engagement. FMG has considered comments shared and where appropriate, incorporated into the final EIS/EA, as described in Table 2.6-4. FMG has received a TK/TLU Study as well as a Socioeconomic Baseline Study from LSFN for consideration in Project planning. FMG and LSFN have developed a workplan for engagement on the Project and EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to LSFN organized by key EA milestones. Additional engagement relevant to LSFN, but undertaken via the STPN, is presented above in the STPN Section (2.6.1.2). Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and LSFN up to June 30, 2024.

The key topics of interest identified by LSFN to date include water quality and quantity, social aspects, TLU, employment and training, fish habitat, wildlife, and air quality and noise. Comments from LSFN and FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-4 and Appendix C.

Table 2.6-3: Summary of Key Engagement with Lac Seul First Nation

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
September 17, 2018	Community Information Session	FMG held three Community Information Sessions in Whitefish Bay, Kejick Bay, and Frenchman's Head, to provide an overview of the Project, including the environmental baseline studies proposed as well as the environmental assessment process, including the Terms of Reference.
November 13, 2019	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session to present information and receive feedback on the draft Terms of Reference and consultation plans, as well as present the environmental baseline study methods and results to date. The meeting included a presentation, animation video of the proposed Project, and an open forum for discussion on the materials and to answer any questions from the community.
June – December 2021	Document Review: Baseline Studies	FMG provided LSFN with the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input on June 18, 2021. FMG also provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming baseline studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. LSFN provided FMG with their technical comments on the baseline studies on October 12, 2021. FMG and LSFN held multiple technical meetings to discuss and resolve comments. FMG provided written responses to the technical comments on November 29, 2021. FMG and LSFN held additional technical meetings to discuss and resolve comments in December 2021.
October 27, 2021	Site Tour	FMG hosted a site tour of the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with LSFN community representatives. This provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site.
November 2, 2021	Community Information Session	FMG held two Community Information Sessions in Kejick Bay and Frenchmen's Head, to provide an opportunity for FMG to present Project information and gather community feedback on the Project, specifically on the existing environmental baseline data and the alternative assessments for the Project.
August – December 2021	Technical Review Meetings: Baseline Studies	FMG met with LSFN to discuss comments on the baseline studies, workplans for future years, and how they have been adjusted to address LSFN comments.
December 3, 2021	Notice: Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
May – June 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to LSFN.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, Co-disposal facility Optimization, Environmental Assessment Progress, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
March – June 2024	Document Review: Draft EIS/EA	LSFN emailed FMG on March 4, 2024, providing a cover letter and technical review comments on the draft EIS/EA. The comment table attached included approximately 200 comments on the draft EIS/EA across various topics, including the Project description, TK/TLU, human and ecological health, fish and fish habitat, water quality, archaeology, cultural heritage, terrestrial environment, and geochemistry. On June 18, 2024, FMG provided responses to the comments received on the draft EIS/EA related to the Project description, TK/TLU, human and ecological health, fish and fish habitat, water quality, and geochemistry. On June 28, FMG provided responses related to the terrestrial environment, archaeology, and cultural heritage comments.
April 18, 2024	Community Information Session	FMG hosted a Community Information Session in LSFN to present updates on the Project to community members and receive feedback. FMG gave a presentation providing information and updates on the Project design, Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment.
April 24, 2024	LSFN Socioeconomic Report	LSFN provided FMG with the community's baseline Socioeconomic Report.
April 24, 2024	LSFN Indigenous Knowledge and Use Report	LSFN provided FMG with the community's Indigenous Knowledge and Use Report.
August 15, 2024	Technical Review Meeting: Fish & Fish Habitat	FMG met with LSFN to discuss their comments on the draft EIS/EA related to Fish and Fish Habitat, and FMGs responses.
September 4, 2024	Site tour	FMG hosted a site tour of the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with representatives and community members from LSFN.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities related to LSFN. This includes discussions related to potential preferred consultation approach; communications related to open calls for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions or other in-person engagement such as site tours.

Since 2017, FMG has been working with LSFN leadership to develop and implement community consultation processes and provide capacity support for substantial and influential participation in the Project.

On January 11, 2017, FMG and LSFN representatives met in Sioux Lookout to discuss a press release, the consultation processes and protocols, and exploration agreement. LSFN expressed an interest in business and employment opportunities. Planning for the upcoming meeting also took place.

On April 5, 2018, FMG emailed LSFN to follow up on a date for a Community Information Session in LSFN on the Project. FMG suggested between April 15 to 18, 2019. Throughout 2018 and 2019, FMG continued to follow up to offer various opportunities to schedule meetings and community consultation events with LSFN. LSFN and FMG met on May 10, 2018, to discuss identifying Community Information Session dates in each of LSFN's three communities. Throughout August and September, FMG continued to follow up with LSFN regarding scheduling of the Community Information Sessions and completed advertising for the meetings.

FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with LSFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones.

- September 17, 2018 - in Whitefish Bay, Kejick Bay, and Frenchman's Head, to provide an overview of the Project, including the environmental baseline studies proposed as well as the EA process, including the ToR. The meeting included a presentation, animation video, and an open forum for discussion on the materials and to answer any questions from the community.
- November 13, 2019 - to present information and receive feedback on the draft ToR and consultation plans, as well as present the environmental baseline study methods and results to date. The meeting included a presentation, animation video of the proposed Project, and an open forum for discussion on the materials and to answer any questions from the community. Community members asked about the benefits for LSFN and how the Project will impact future generations. FMG answered the questions at the meeting or committed to addressing them in the EA.
- November 2, 2021 – Kejick Bay and Frenchmen's Head, to provide an opportunity for FMG to present Project information and gather community feedback on the Project, specifically on the existing environmental baseline data and the alternative assessments for the Project. A series of poster boards and handouts were also setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and Project components and methods alternatives. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. In general, comments and questions were regarding the Project components design, environmental protection and future opportunities.

On September 18, 2018 FMG met with the Chief of LSFN in-person. The Chief informed FMG that LSFN supports SFN and CLFN in the Project and noted LSFN is its own large community with a large traditional territory. There was interest discussed in the benefits from employment from the Project.

FMG held a meeting with Councillors of LSFN on December 14, 2018, to discuss the Project. FMG presented an overview of the proposed Project. The environmental concerns raised by the leadership included water quality and watershed and they also expressed interest in the positive economic benefits of the Project. Topics discussed were water quality and flow, water monitoring, traplines, mine rock and tailings management and facility, economic benefits, training and employment. The meeting concluded noting that FMG would follow up with LSFN representative to schedule a presentation to Chief and Council at their regular Council meeting on January 22 or 23, 2019. FMG presented on January 22, 2024, as described in the baseline studies section below.

On February 12, 2019, FMG provided an invitation to give an introductory meeting to LSFN Chief and Council. Between February and September 2019, discussions between FMG and LSFN occurred largely through the community and the STPN regarding establishing consultation protocols/agreements. FMG reached out several times to set up potential meeting dates including on April 5, April 15, July 16, July 17 and August 14, 2019, until September 4, 2019, when STPN communities, including CLFN, SFN and LSFN, discussed moving forward with consultation protocols and agreements and resuming consultation meetings with FMG.

Between September 9 and 18, 2019, FMG and LSFN discussed community members who were interested in potential capacity building opportunities advertised by FMG, including environmental monitor and community coordinator/liaison positions.

FMG also met with LSFN and other STPN communities on October 29 and November 21, 2019, to discuss consultation planning and expectations moving forward.

LSFN and FMG met on March 10, 2020, to discuss planning a larger meeting with CLFN and SFN as well. FMG proposed a date of March 27, 2020; however, the meeting was cancelled because of a travel ban by LSFN due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Correspondence regarding consultation processes and capacity between the end of March 2020 and the end of April 2020 largely occurred through STPN and focused on ongoing consultation planning and expectations. Further detail is in the STPN section (2.6.1.2) above.

On May 27, 2020, FMG and LSFN met to discuss Project updates, opportunities for ongoing community engagement and planning for potential meetings going forward. FMG followed up on June 8, 2020, about agenda items related to this meeting. FMG suggested setting up a Community Information Session to present the draft ToR. An additional engagement meeting was held on July 23, 2020, with LSFN, SFN, MON and FMG; following this, on July 27, 2020, FMG sent another request to set up a Community Information Session to present the ToR.

On August 26, 2020, FMG and LSFN met to provide Project updates and discuss opportunities to continue working together during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On November 20, 2020, FMG proposed a meeting with LSFN to discuss environment and community relations staffing changes at FMG. FMG proposed meeting on December 9, 2020. The December 9, 2020, meeting was cancelled on December 3, 2020; however, FMG provided LSFN with the contact details for FMG's new environment and community relations coordinator amid staffing changes.

FMG reached out to LSFN on January 5, 2021, to propose setting up a meeting in the future with LSFN Chief and Council. LSFN confirmed on January 12, 2021, that a meeting was scheduled for January 21, 2021.

On June 4, 2021, LSFN and FMG met to introduce new FMG team members and to provide a Project update. The Chief requested a background on the company and Project with FMG provided. FMG also provided an overview of the ToR process and what has occurred to date. FMG informed LSFN of the website with baseline reports, and that FMG would be looking for feedback on the alternatives in the coming weeks. No follow-up actions were identified, and the group was scheduled to meet with the STPN the following week.

On August 26, 2021, FMG met with the CLFN and LSFN as an opportunity for the communities and FMG to meet in-person. FMG provided an updated on the EA process and plans for the coming month.

On April 13, 2022, FMG reached out to the Chiefs of LSFN, CLFN, and SFN, regarding holding a virtual meeting towards the end of April 2022 to discuss comments and concerns on the Project. LSFN and their representatives and FMG met on July 26, 2022, to discuss general information regarding mining development and the Project. LSFN had comments regarding capacity support for the community to review the draft EIS/EA and hiring consultants for this purpose. LSFN informed FMG that they would meet with CLFN and SFN that week to discuss.

The environmental monitor from LSFN started participating in the baseline field studies in late 2021 and carried on working full time in 2022. FMG and the environmental monitor from LSFN had a phone call on August 8, 2022, about the training program, which FMG confirmed was upcoming, and would confirm the location in Red Lake. The environmental monitor from LSFN earned a certificate from Blue Heron and Northern College's environmental monitor training program in 2022.

FMG met with the STPN on January 6, 2023 to discuss the Community Consultation Process, Cat Lake Road, and mental health and addictions concerns in the communities. FMG expressed openness and willingness to support community initiatives as well as their participation in the EA process. FMG has considered the feedback shared during this meeting in development of the final EIS/EA by supporting the completion of a TK/TLU study and socioeconomic study for LSFN as well as the inclusion of a draft Health & Wellness Strategy in this final EIS/EA (Appendix Q-3).

On February 8, 2024, FMG met with CLFN and LSFN to discuss advancing the consultation process and associated workplans for their consultants.

CLFN and LSFN met with FMG on March 19, 2024, to discuss the workplan for the Communities Consultation Process, FMG's exploration activities, the Cat Lake Road, and working towards a process agreement for consultation on the Project and related activities. CLFN and LSFN were to draft a process agreement and send it to FMG.

In early April 2024, FMG corresponded with LSFN about the logistics for the Community Information Session on April 18, including related to community catering and availability of a translator for the presentation to ensure attendees at LSFN can understand the information.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 4, 2024, requesting availability for a meeting in Cat Lake. On April 5, 2024, FMG offered June 5, 2024, for a Community Information Session in Cat Lake. On April 9, 2024, CLFN and LSFN confirmed the June 5, 2024, Community Information Session in Cat Lake. CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 10, 2024, regarding topics for the upcoming meeting and attached a draft workplan for the Community Consultation Process and a job description for a technical team lead for the Process. FMG replied, acknowledging receipt of documents from the previous meeting and advised it would review the documents and respond.

FMG emailed LSFN on April 10, 2024, providing the Community Information Session poster for the session scheduled for April 18, 2024, located in Kejick Bay and Frenchmen's Head. FMG requested that the poster be posted online and anywhere else LSFN finds suitable. FMG confirmed it would be in Kejick Bay and Frenchmen's head on April 11, 2024, to put up posters. FMG requested that LSFN provide any further suggestions of where to place posters. On April 11, 2024, FMG emailed LSFN to provide an updated schedule for the LSFN Community Information Session on April 18, 2024. FMG noted that translation for both sessions is outstanding; however, FMG is working on it. FMG provided the poster for reference in the email. On April 18, 2024, FMG hosted two Community Information Sessions in LSFN to present updates on the Project to community members and receive feedback. The first meeting was held in the community of Kejick Bay, and the second in the community of Frenchman's Head. A poster was provided in advance to advertise within the community. At each meeting, FMG gave a presentation providing information and updates on the Project design, EIS/EA, and how LSFN's comments on the draft EIS/EA are shaping the Project and final EIS/EA. A translator was present to translate the presentation for community members in real-time. There were also poster boards available throughout the room presenting the methods, mitigation measures and results from the draft EIS/EA. A 3D mine model was displayed replicating the proposed Project as well as a video describing and providing a visual representation of the Project, with Ojibway subtitles. Comment forms, factsheets, recent community bulletins and newsletters, as well as job postings were also available. The slides for the Community Information Session and the meeting notes were provided to LSFN in July 2024. Questions and comments were provided by community members, which were answered at the meetings, primarily related to the Project description, power, the effects assessment, fish and fish habitat, TK/TLU, social concerns and Project benefits and jobs. FMG received a question from a local trapper about open pit closure and communications about traplines and FMG committed to following up with further information.

Following the Community Information Session on April 22, 2024, FMG emailed LSFN expressing appreciation for the warm welcome, knowledge, and experiences had at the Community Information Session. FMG requested a confirmation of dates that LSFN is in Vancouver the week of April 29, 2024, to meet.

FMG emailed the trapline licence holder who is a member of LSFN on April 23, 2024, re-providing a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map. FMG provided information regarding the open pit closure as a follow-up to the trapline holders question raised during the April 2024 LSFN Community Information Session. On April 23, 2024, FMG emailed LSFN providing details about the opportunity for a potential site tour to the Project site for LSFN members. FMG requested that LSFN indicate their interest in this site tour and to provide potential availability. On May 3, 2024, FMG texted and emailed LSFN following up on their request about on availability for a tour of the Project site as FMG would plan logistics around those dates.

On April 30, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN providing comments on the workplan for the Community Consultation Process. FMG noted that they felt a meeting should be scheduled between FMG, CLFN and LSFN. FMG offered to provide interim capacity support for May 2024 to support continued work and scheduled meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on May 11, 2024, providing the workplan for CLFN and LSFN from April to September 2024 and provided a recommendation for the disbursement of funds. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that Chief Wesley had been re-elected. Throughout May, FMG and the Government Relations Coordinator for CLFN and LSFN corresponded several times on the workplan for the Community Consultation Process.

On June 18, 2024, CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG requesting technical session invitations and provided availability on June 27, June 28, July 3, and July 10, 2024, and provided an invitees list. CLFN and LSFN requested that the technical meeting information be provided a minimum of one week in advance of each meeting so CLFN and LSFN can review and prepare.

On June 20, 2024, CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG informing FMG of the proposed Project site tour date of July 11, 2024. FMG and CLFN and LSFN continued to correspond regarding the site tour after the end of June 2024.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to LSFN related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with LSFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On April 25, 2018, FMG attended a career fair at LSFN. FMG had a booth set up to answer any questions related to the Project.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with LSFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones.

Between September 9, 2019, and September 18, 2019, FMG and LSFN discussed community members who were interested in potential employment opportunities advertised by FMG including for general labour, environmental monitor, and community coordinator positions. Additionally, on September 12, 2019, FMG also sponsored LSFN's Elders and Youth Gathering Event, where FMG had a booth set up for two days.

In October 2019, FMG and LSFN emailed back and forth regarding planning, scheduling, and information sharing for a Community Information Session, which was planned to be held on November 13, 2019. On October 17, 2019, FMG sent a poster for the Community Information Session scheduled for November 13, 2019.

On March 10, 2020, FMG met with LSFN representative to discuss a Project update and next steps for engagement. There was a discussion of LSFN gathering of TK/TLU information to be considered in the Project with FMG's support, and the next steps for the draft ToR.

On November 17, 2020, FMG emailed LSFN to note that there has been changes on the FMG's Project team.

Correspondence between FMG and LSFN between December 2020 and April 2020 consisted of working out potential opportunities to meet in the future, and potential sponsorship opportunities available through FMG for various community initiatives. Communication during this time was slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and on April 6, 2021, LSFN noted that they were coming out of lockdown due to recent cases of COVID-19. FMG attempted to reach out again on April 16, 2021; however, the LSFN inbox was full.

On June 4, 2021, LSFN and FMG met to introduce new FMG team members and to provide a Project update. The Chief requested a background on the company and Project with FMG provided. FMG also provided an overview of the ToR process and what has occurred to date. FMG informed LSFN of the website with baseline reports, and that FMG would be looking for feedback on the alternatives in the coming weeks. No follow-up actions were identified, and the group was scheduled to meet with the STPN the following week.

FMG met with CLFN and LSFN on August 26, 2021, as an opportunity for the communities and FMG to meet in-person. FMG provided an updated on the EA process and plans for the coming month.

On October 27, 2021, FMG held a site tour of the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with LSFN community representatives. This provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site. Further, the site tour provided an opportunity to engage in discussions on the Project. Questions were asked about existing baseline monitoring programs as well as future monitoring programs. Positive comments were made about how the perception from site helps visualize the Project on the landscape.

FMG held two Community Information Session in LSFN communities of Kejick Bay and Frenchmen's Head, on November 2, 2021. These meetings provided an opportunity for FMG to present Project information and gather community feedback on the Project, specifically on the existing environmental baseline data and the alternative assessments for the Project. A series of poster boards and handouts were also setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and Project components and methods alternatives. Attendees were encouraged to view the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. In general, comments and questions were regarding the Project components design, environmental protection and future opportunities

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to LSFN via email on December 3, 2021.

On December 21, 2021, a member of LSFN messaged FMG via Facebook to ask that they be added to the FMG mailing list. The LSFN member stated they were interested in Lands and Resources and wished to review the draft EA. FMG responded that it would add the LSFN member to the mailing list and directed them where to find information about the EA on the FMG website.

Between May 24 and May 31, 2022, FMG shared information with LSFN and other communities regarding their upcoming attendance at the PDAC convention and invited community members attending the convention in Toronto to events being held by FMG, including an event on June 13 and a luncheon on June 14.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

FMG and LSFN engaged in substantial discussions throughout the ToR process, meeting a total of seven times from the Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process in August 2018 and the submission of the draft amended ToR in April 2021 that resulted in updates to the ToR. LSFN, as part of the STPN, provided comments and FMG provided responses on the draft amended ToR.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with LSFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the ToR process.

On February 26, 2020, FMG provided the draft ToR to LSFN for review and comment.

LSFN and FMG emailed on June 9, 2020, following up on the meeting, proposing to arrange an online Community Information Session to present the ToR. FMG continued to follow up and request virtual meetings for the community and with Chief and Council in July 2020.

On August 19, 2020, FMG provided the draft ToR to LSFN. A hard copy was mailed for comment and review and FMG also provided LSFN with an Acknowledgement of Receipt form to fill out and send back to the MECP. On August 26, 2020, FMG met with Chief and Council to introduce FMG's CEO, provide updates, discuss the submission of the ToR and confirm that LSFN had been shared a copy, as well as discuss how

FMG and LSFN can continue working together (e.g., Community Information Sessions) during the Global Pandemic. FMG gave LSFN an extra hardcopy of the ToR at this meeting. On October 5, 2020, FMG followed up with LSFN via an email to inquire if LSFN had any comments, or would be providing comments, on the ToR.

On December 18, 2020, FMG provided LSFN with the Notice of Intent to submit the draft amended ToR.

On January 8, 2021, FMG provided the draft amended ToR to LSFN for review. The review of the draft amended ToR by LSFN was undertaken as part of the STPN, and therefore more information is available in the STPN section (2.6.1.2) above.

In 2021, FMG also shared Project factsheets with LSFN describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs which were also available on the Project website.

LSFN and FMG met on June 4, 2021, to introduce new FMG team members and to provide a Project update. The Chief requested a background on the company and Project with FMG provided. FMG also provided an overview of the ToR process and what has occurred to date. FMG informed LSFN of the website with baseline reports, and that FMG would be looking for feedback on the alternatives in the coming weeks. No follow-up actions were identified, and the group was scheduled to meet with the STPN the following week.

Engagement and consultation on the ToR with LSFN were carried out through the STPN and therefore, the consultation activities and outcomes are described in Section 2.6.1.2.

As noted above, on July 28, 2021, the STPN emailed FMG with proposed revisions to the amended ToR which were incorporated into the final approved ToR. STPN SEC responded to FMG's responses to their comments on the ToR inquiring what process will be implemented to track that FMG's responses to the SEC's comment are fulfilled during the EA. FMG replied stating that a concordance table will be included in the EA. STPN SEC responded stating this is satisfactory. The ToR was approved on November 8, 2021. On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with LSFN and the STPN Environment Committee Coordinator.

Baseline Studies

LSFN has been engaged in the baseline studies for the Project since 2017, by reviewing and providing input on workplans and permits, invitations to participate in field studies, as well as completing technical reviews of reports documenting the method and results of the studies. FMG has welcomed members from LSFN at the Project site to participate and/or oversee field studies, as well as for site tours.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with LSFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the Baseline Studies.

On October 30, 2018, a trapline holder from LSFN met with FMG to discuss trapline maps and on December 13, 2018, FMG met briefly with the LSFN Chief to discuss traplines.

FMG present the baseline environmental work planned for 2019 to the LSFN council on January 22, 2019. LSFN did not raise concerns.

On November 25, 2019, FMG sent the current baseline Fish and Fish Habitat Report to a LSFN community member via email as requested at the Community Information Session in November.

LSFN and FMG met on June 4, 2021, to introduce new FMG team members and to provide a Project update. The Chief requested a background on the company and Project with FMG provided. FMG also provided an overview of the ToR process and what has occurred to date. FMG informed LSFN of the website with baseline

reports, and that FMG would be looking for feedback on the alternatives in the coming weeks. No follow-up actions were identified, and the group was scheduled to meet with the STPN the following week.

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly community bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. As described in Section 2.6.1.1, On June 18, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

On October 27, 2021, FMG held a site tour of the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with LSFN community representatives, which provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site. Further, the site tour provided an opportunity to engage in discussions on the Project. Questions were asked about existing baseline monitoring programs as well as future monitoring programs. Positive comments were made about how the perception from site helps visualize the Project on the landscape.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

Throughout the EA process, FMG and LSFN held conversations during which FMG encouraged the community to undertake TK/TLU studies, with capacity support from FMG, and FMG reached out through email and phone calls with LSFN inquiring about their interest in conducting TK/TLU studies. Since the submission of the draft EIS/EA, LSFN has provided their TK/TLU study, which is discussed further in the Post-Draft EIS/EA Submission Section below.

On March 10, 2020, FMG met with a LSFN representative to discuss a Project update and next steps for engagement. There was a discussion of LSFN gathering of TK/TLU information to be considered in the Project with FMG's support, and the next steps for the draft ToR.

LSFN and FMG had a phone call on January 5, 2021, to follow up on the TK/TLU proposal from the community. A meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 14, 2021; however, this was not held as council was not available.

On May 19, 2021, and January 14, 2022, FMG followed up to inquire about the undertaking of TK/TLU studies. FMG indicated it was willing to fund supplemental TK/TLU work through a specialized consultant to better understand how the Project area is used by LSFN. LSFN provided FMG with the individuals leading TK/TLU studies, and suggested they discuss capacity support. A meeting was scheduled for January 26, 2022, to discuss further with the LSFN TK/TLU study lead. On February 1, FMG cancelled the meeting out of respect for LSFN's wishes at the time. FMG noted they look forward to having the discussion once community leadership feels it is appropriate. Following this, the engagement related to TK/TLU studies for LSFN prior to the draft EIS/EA occurred as part of the communication with the STPN and is described more in section 2.6.1.2.

Assessment of Alternatives

On June 4, 2021, LSFN and FMG met to introduce new FMG team members and to provide a Project update. The Chief requested a background on the company and Project with FMG provided. FMG also provided an overview of the ToR process and what has occurred to date. FMG informed LSFN of the website with baseline reports, and that FMG would be looking for feedback on the alternatives in the coming weeks. No follow-up actions were identified, and the group was scheduled to meet with the STPN the following week.

In 2021, FMG shared Project factsheets with LSFN describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment and VCs. These were also accessible on the Project website.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with LSFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the Assessment of Alternatives.

As noted above, on January 8, 2021, FMG circulated a draft list of VCs with the draft amended ToR, available on the Project website. The preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment were also included in the draft amended ToR for review. Also, FMG shared Project factsheets describing VCs, available on the Project website and on October 1, 2021, FMG provided the STPN with the preliminary assessment of alternatives for their review and requested their feedback. For LSFN, this review was undertaken as part of the STPN and therefore more information can be found in the STPN Section above.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to LSFN related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This section summarizes general consultation activities with the LSFN after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

For LSFN, a vast amount of general Project information sharing in in 2021 through 2023 occurred through the STPN and therefore is described in the STPN Section above.

On June 20, 2022, FMG emailed LSFN providing them with the 2021 ESG Report in advance of its public release. FMG welcomed LSFN's feedback on the report.

FMG held an impromptu site tour with the LSFN Commercial Operations Manager on July 12, 2022. Following the visit, via email the LSFN Commercial Operations Manager thanked FMG for the visit and provided some photos taken. FMG thanked LSFN for the visit and noted that any further site tour interests from the community are welcomed.

On October 12, 2022, FMG held a site tour of the proposed mine site and existing Springpole exploration camp with LSFN Chief Operating Officer and Mineral Development which provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site. FMG and LSFN discussed potentially next meeting at LSFN's Red Lake office.

On January 26, 2023, LSFN emailed FMG inviting them to a Career Fair, which FMG attended on May 10, 2023, as described below.

On April 11, 2023, FMG emailed the STPN Chiefs directly providing the sixth issue of the Springpole quarterly newsletter; acknowledging comments from SFN about the Nation not being aware of activities at Springpole and trying to distribute more information. FMG noted that the newsletter was being translated to Ojibwe and they would follow up to start scheduling dates for another site tour. The next official site tour with members of LSFN was held in 2024, as described below.

FMG emailed LSFN on May 4, 2023, providing a hyperlink to the Project video with subtitles translated to Ojibway. FMG provided a reminder to LSFN that draft EIS/EA documents are included in the same hyperlink.

FMG once again invited questions or comments about the Project and offered to present the video at an in-person meeting.

FMG attended the Career Fair on May 10, 2023, where it had a booth to share information about the Project and a job opportunity. Over 70 companies and businesses had a booth set up and over 1,000 people attended the Career Fair. Eight people signed up to join the Springpole email list.

FMG had dinner with the Chief of LSFN in Sioux Lookout on February 2, 2024, where they had an informal discussion on the Project. FMG thanked LSFN via email on February 5 and offered to visit LSFN communities and/or to arrange a meeting with LSFN chief and council to provide an update on the Project. LSFN proposed a community visit the first week of April 2024.

On February 13, 2024, FMG emailed a LSFN community member who attended the Red Lake Community Information Session providing meeting notes from the November 29, 2023, Red Lake Community Information Session, as requested. FMG did not receive any follow-up.

On March 19, 2024, CLFN and LSFN met with FMG to discuss funding for ongoing consultation process, FMG's exploration activities, Cat Lake Road and working towards a process agreement for consultation on the Project and related activities. CLFN and LSFN were to draft a process agreement and send it to FMG.

LSFN emailed FMG on April 3, 2024, requesting a map showing First Nation locations. LSFN inquired about FMG's attendance at LSFN Career Fair. In response, FMG, on April 5, 2024, FMG provided a map that is similar to the provincial ToR for the EIS/EA.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 4, 2024, noting the Lac Seul Career Fair on April 30. FMG replied advising that FMG would also be attending the Lac Seul Career Fair on April 30. On April 30, 2024, FMG had a booth at the Lac Seul Career Fair as described below.

On April 5, 2024, in response to an email from Mining Matters on March 28, 2024, FMG offered to sponsor and attend the Mining Matters school program in LSFN on April 17, 2024.

FMG emailed LSFN on April 10, 2024, providing the Community Information Session poster for the session scheduled for April 18, 2024, located in Kejick Bay and Frenchmen's Head. FMG requested that the poster be posted online and anywhere else LSFN finds suitable. FMG confirmed that their representative would be in Kejick Bay and Frenchmen's head on April 11, 2024, to put up posters. FMG requested that LSFN provide any further suggestions of where to place posters. On April 11, 2024, FMG emailed LSFN to provide an updated schedule for the LSFN Community Information Session on April 18, 2024. FMG noted that translation for both sessions is outstanding, however FMG is working on finding a translator.

On April 10, 2024, CLFN and LSFN asked for copies of bulletins sent out for the Project and asked FMG to provide the dates that FMG would visit LSFN. FMG replied stating it would work on compiling the bulletins for CLFN and LSFN and provided a draft schedule of FMG's community visit to LSFN. FMG attached community bulletins and the Community Information Session poster for CLFN and LSFN.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on April 15, 2024, requesting information that FMG would use at the Career Fair on April 30, 2024, regarding the Project to help CLFN and LSFN. CLFN and LSFN confirmed that they would be recommending attendees ask FMG questions about the Project. FMG replied by confirming that FMG would share information. FMG requested that CLFN and LSFN provide the TK and Socioeconomic Community Study and has planned to review the studies on April 16, 2024.

On April 17, 2024, FMG collaborated with LSFN in the Mining Matters community initiative discussing career opportunities within the mining industry with 98 student participants from three secondary schools, receiving positive feedback. On April 21, 2024, FMG shared a post on FMG's Facebook page about FMG's participation in the Mining Matters school program, held at Kejick Bay School in LSFN. On May 21, 2024, FMG emailed LSFN providing the Mining Matters Report about the Mining Rocks Earth Science Program that FMG sponsored and participated in, in LSFN. FMG included a quote that highlighted the FMG Environmental Technician, (who is an LSFN member) fostering a meaningful community connection for the students.

On April 30, 2024, FMG had a booth at the LSFN Career Fair and was able to interact and discuss the Project with community members. This resulted in FMG being able to hire a student from LSFN for the summer.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

LSFN and FMG have been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to LSFN. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

On November 14, 2022, FMG sent STPN the Ojibway translated version of the draft EIS/EA summary to distribute to community members; this translated version of the draft EIS/EA summary was also made available on the Project's website.

FMG met with the STPN on January 6, 2023, to discuss the Community Consultation Process, the Cat Lake Road, and mental health and addictions concerns in the communities. FMG expressed openness and willingness to support community initiatives as well as their participation in the EA process. FMG has considered the feedback shared during this meeting in development of the final EIS/EA by supporting the completion of a TK/TLU study and socioeconomic study for LSFN as well as the inclusion of a draft Health & Wellness Strategy in this final EIS/EA (Appendix Q-3).

In response to an email from FMG on January 23, 2024, CLFN and LSFN advised that they anticipate completing the draft EIS/EA review and providing comments to FMG by February 15, 2024

FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on February 6, 2024, inquiring about the timeline for receipt of the draft EIS/EA review. CLFN and LSFN advised they anticipate providing the review by February 16, 2024. FMG acknowledged. The Firelight Group (on behalf of CLFN and LSFN) emailed FMG on February 13, 2024, informing FMG that they intend to provide the completed draft EIS/EA review to FMG as soon as possible. FMG acknowledged and requested a progress update on the TK/TLU studies and Socioeconomic studies.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on March 4, 2024, providing a cover letter and technical review comments on the draft EIS/EA. The cover letter outlined the Community Consultation Process and provided an overview of CLFN and LSFN's comments. The comment table attached included approximately 200 comments on the draft EIS/EA across various topics, including the Project description, traditional use, human and ecological health, fish and fish habitat, water quality, archaeology, cultural heritage, terrestrial environment, and geochemistry. A copy of the comments is provided in Appendix D and the key comments are summarized

in Table 2.6-4. FMG acknowledged receipt on March 6, 2024, and noted that a timeline for review of the submitted report and comments, and to provide responses, is forthcoming. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on April 16, 2024, proposing a series of virtual meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA review and comments. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix FMG various dates in May for the series of meetings. FMG also offered to arrange an in-person meeting in Winnipeg or Thunder Bay in addition to the virtual meetings. In response on April 19, 2024, CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that CLFN and LSFN would not be able to confirm any meeting times due to the workplan for the Community Consultation Process not being finalized. CLFN and LSFN noted a meeting is scheduled on April 25 to discuss the workplan for the Community Consultation Process with FMG. FMG replied requesting that CLFN and LSFN hold the times requested in anticipation of resolving the workplan. CLFN and LSFN replied confirming that a hold would be put in the calendar. On April 30, 2024, FMG noted to CLFN and LSFN that it they could accommodate the request to delay the first technical review session for another week until May 15, 2024.

On April 18, 2024, FMG hosted two Community Information Sessions in LSFN to present updates on the Project to community members and receive feedback. The first meeting was held in the community of Kejick Bay, and the second in the community of Frenchman's Head. A poster was provided in advance to advertise within the community. At each meeting, FMG gave a presentation providing information and updates on the Project design, EIS/EA, and how LSFN's comments on the draft EIS/EA are shaping the Project and final EIS/EA. A translator was present to translate the presentation for community members in real-time. There were also poster boards available throughout the room presenting the methods, mitigation measures and results from the draft EIS/EA. A 3D mine model was displayed replicating the proposed Project as well as a video describing and providing a visual representation of the Project, with Ojibway subtitles. Comment forms, factsheets, recent community bulletins and newsletters, as well as job postings were also available. The slides for the Community Information Session and the meeting notes were provided to LSFN in July 2024. Questions and comments were provided by community members, which were answered at the meetings, primarily related to the Project description, power, the effects assessment, fish and fish habitat, TK/TLU, social concerns and Project benefits and jobs. FMG received a question from a local trapper about the consultation process and FMG committed to following up with further information. FMG emailed the trapline licence holder who is a member of LSFN on April 23, 2024, re-providing a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map. FMG provided information regarding the open pit closure as a follow-up to the trapline holders question raised during the April 2024 LSFN Community Information Session.

On May 29, 2024, FMG followed up to again offer meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA and requested that CLFN and LSFN provide availability for the series of technical meetings that were planned to begin the week of June 10, 2024. On May 30, 2024, FMG provided additional capacity support for CLFN and LSFN to continue Project engagement covering the period April through September 2024. On May 31, 2024, FMG followed up again. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that they had conflicting commitments on June 12, 2024. FMG replied requesting that CLFN and LSFN provide availability for any day the week of June 10, offering four technical meetings to initiate discussions on the comments and responses.

On June 12, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN providing a meeting invitation for June 20, 2024, to discuss and review comments from CLFN and LSFN on the draft EIS/EA related to fish and fish habitat. FMG sent a follow-up email to CLFN and LSFN informing them that a series of invitations had also been sent out for

the following weeks for the draft EIS/EA technical presentations and discussions. FMG requested that invitations be circulated to the CLFN and LSFN members to be involved.

CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG on June 13, 2024, informing them that the invitations for technical sessions could not be accepted at that time and requested meeting invitations be cancelled. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that CLFN and LSFN would be meeting with the technical committee during the week of June 17, 2024, and that further communication was forthcoming. CLFN and LSFN requested that FMG provide further information about the technical sessions so CLFN and LSFN could respond on the timing of meetings. FMG replied informing CLFN and LSFN that the technical sessions were previously discussed to occur throughout the months of June and July and that responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA were forthcoming. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA, is provided as Appendix C. FMG requested that CLFN and LSFN provide alternative meeting dates and that FMG would make efforts to accommodate those times.

On June 18, 2024, CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG requesting technical session invitations and stating their availability on June 27, June 28, July 3 and July 10, 2024, also providing an invitees list. CLFN and LSFN requested that the technical meeting information be provided a minimum of one week in advance of each meeting so CLFN and LSFN could review and prepare. On June 18, 2024, FMG provided CLFN and LSFN with finalized comments on the draft EIS/EA. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA, is provided as Appendix C.

FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on June 21, 2024, providing the presentation for the fish and fish habitat virtual technical session. FMG informed CLFN and LSFN that FMG preferred to keep June 27, 2024, as the date for the fish and fish habitat virtual technical session, as FMG specialists were able to attend without scheduling constraints. FMG requested CLFN and LSFN provide confirmation of the fish and fish habitat virtual technical session on July 27. FMG informed CLFN and SFN that FMG would be awaiting their confirmation for the proposed dates of the other virtual technical sessions set to take place during the week of June 23, 2024.

On June 25, 2024, CLFN and LSFN emailed FMG requesting to reschedule the fish and fish habitat meeting to August 2024, as CLFN and LSFN were not prepared. This meeting was held in August 2024, as described in Section 2.7.

Following up on the responses to comments sent on June 18, FMG provided the remaining responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA on June 28, 2024. FMG also provided the presentations for the planned technical meetings later in 2024 as described in Section 2.7. This included responses to comments related to archaeology, cultural heritage and terrestrial. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA, is provided as Appendix C.

Baseline Studies (Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission)

Since submission of the draft EIS/EA, LSFN has been engaged in the baseline studies for the Project by reviewing and providing input on workplans and permits, participating in field studies as well as completing technical reviews of reports documenting the method and results of the studies. FMG has welcomed members from LSFN at the Project site to participate and/or oversee field studies, as well as for tours.

On August 8, 2022, FMG and the environmental monitor from LSFN had a phone call, which included a discussion about the departure of FMG's community relations manager from the company. LSFN inquired about the upcoming training program, which FMG confirmed. The environmental monitor from LSFN

earned a certificate from Blue Heron and Northern College's environmental monitor training program in 2022.

FMG emailed the environmental monitor from LSFN on November 29, 2022, providing the baseline reports so they could gain understanding of how fieldwork is documented and what the results mean. The LSFN environmental monitor transitioned to be hired full-time by FMG as an environmental technician as of January 2023.

On January 11, 2023, FMG emailed LSFN informing them of the upcoming Caribou study in the Project area that would be conducted from January 25 to February 10, 2023. FMG provided LSFN with what the study work would entail and attached a map of the Project location for reference. An SEC member from LSFN responded inquiring if they could participate in one of the trips or studies. FMG responded noting that the Environmental Technician from LSFN is already participating in the environmental programs and the Caribou telemetry studies does not allow for an extra passenger due to safety. FMG noted that it would keep LSFN's request in mind for future opportunities to join one of the field programs.

FMG emailed STPN communities on April 17, 2023, regarding participating in the 2023 Stage 2 archaeology program and Lake Sturgeon eDNA Study. The communications related to this are described in the STPN section (2.6.1.2) above.

On September 12, 2023, FMG contacted LSFN to invite community members to participate in an upcoming archaeological assessment requested to arrange the logistics for the participants as required. Ultimately, LSFN chose not to participate in this opportunity due to ongoing internal discussions between communities.

FMG emailed a letter to the Chief and the STPN Government Relations Coordinator on November 6, 2023, inviting community members to a workshop on the FHOCP. The purpose of the workshop was to present information on the options proposed in the draft FHOCP and discuss new potential offsetting options and answer questions on existing studies and plans. The communities were invited to share knowledge, comments and questions on the options and bring forward potential new ideas to be considered in developing the updated FHOCP. The workshop was proposed for December 6, 2023, in Thunder Bay and FMG offered support and funding for the logistics. FMG followed up to the invitation on November 15, 2023, and requested a response before November 17. FMG requested confirmation on November 20, 2023, and November 23, 2023, that LSFN would attend the workshop and on November 24, 2023, FMG cancelled the workshop due to the lack of response expressing interest in the opportunity and FMG stated it would aim to provide another opportunity in 2024. FMG followed-up with LSFN on April 16, 2024 to offer the workshop again, but did not receive a response.

As noted above, in response to FMG's inquiry on January 26, 2024, about the timeline for the TK/TLU and Socioeconomic baseline studies, the Firelight Group (on behalf of CLFN and LSFN) emailed FMG on February 14, 2024, noting that the analysis of interview data has been completed for the socioeconomic baseline study, and that the writing, compilation of findings and preparation for verification is in progress for both communities. Additionally, Firelight Group noted that the TK/TLU study is in the analysis, map creation, and report drafting phase for both communities.

On April 19, 2024, FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN requesting an update on the communities TK/TLU studies and socioeconomic baseline studies. CLFN and LSFN replied informing FMG that the TK/TLU studies and socioeconomic baseline studies are forthcoming. On April 22, 2024, FMG asked for clarification as to when the TK and socioeconomic baseline studies would be ready for review as it was last told that April 15, 2024, was the date on which the studies would be ready. CLFN and LSFN informed FMG that the studies were forthcoming with hopes of a final review by April 26, 2024.

CLFN and LSFN provided FMG, with the baseline Socioeconomic Reports and Indigenous Knowledge and Use Reports on April 24, 2024, including:

- CLFN - Socioeconomic Study;
- CLFN - Knowledge and Use Study (also referred to as the CLFN TK/TLU study);
- LSFN - Socioeconomic Study; and
- LSFN - Knowledge and Use Study (also referred to as the LSFN TK/TLU study).

FMG acknowledged receipt of the links on April 25, 2024. These studies provide detailed information from the communities and have been incorporated into the baseline information and effects assessment throughout this final EIS/EA.

FMG emailed CLFN and LSFN on May 29, 2024, to note that FMG was still having technical issues and could not download the file attachments containing the CLFN Socioeconomic Study; CLFN TK/TLU Study; LSFN Socioeconomic Study; and the LSFN TK/TLU Study. CLFN and LSFN replied to FMG noting that a notification via email should have come through, providing access to the folders containing the final reports. CLFN and LSFN provided the links to FMG again, which FMG were able to access.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

FMG held several discussions with the STPN throughout regarding the development and sharing of TK/TLU studies which is described in Section 2.6.1.2. Most discussions related to TK/TLU are included within the baseline studies subsection as most of the communications held regarding this topic also involved the socioeconomic baseline studies.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives	LSFN provided comments during consultation and engagement on the assessment of alternatives.	These comments resulted in the following alternatives that were considered in the EIS/EA: • Potential use of renewable power sources (considered under power supply); • Dike locations; • Treated effluent discharge locations; and • Additional routing alternatives for the mine access road.
Baseline studies Human and Ecological Health	LSFN requested additional information on the effect of historic mines in the region (McIntyre Gold Mine, Casummit Mine and Kostynuk Brothers Mine) on the environmental baseline.	The surface water quality monitoring program includes several sampling stations in Birch Lake, including upstream of the outlet from Casummit Lake, and downstream of the outlet. Baseline surface water quality monitoring results are presented and discussed in Appendix N-1. Further, several terrestrial baseline studies have been undertaken in the area of these historic mines, including vegetation communities and wetlands, disturbance data, bat surveys, migratory bird surveys and large mammal surveys. These extensive regional baseline studies across multiple disciplines generally show that the baseline environment is representative of a highly functional and productive ecosystem. The main disturbance noted in the baseline environment is due to the forestry industry and natural forest fires. Baseline terrestrial results are presented in Appendix P.
Baseline studies Geology, Groundwater	LSFN requested further information concerning foundation conditions and stability of the CDF.	Additional information was added to Section 9.7 providing further details on geotechnical investigations that were carried out (numbers and locations of test pits and boreholes), and the general nature of foundation conditions.
Baseline studies Air Quality	LSFN requested information on the use of regional air quality data as baseline data for the air quality assessment, as well as a description of how local data are considered. In addition, LSFN requested clarification on representative data used to inform the assessment. LSFN also requested clarification on the relevant averaging periods for baseline parameters.	The assessment of air quality uses three to five years of data from the NAPS program stations at Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Pickle Lake and Simcoe to ensure a robust, long-term monitoring dataset has been considered with onsite Project data used preferentially. Although the selected NAPS locations are influenced by local urban sources, they are broadly reflective of regional air quality, and from an EA perspective they are expected to overestimate parameters relative to the Project site. This lends itself to a conservative approach when assessing the effects on air quality from the Project. The collected onsite data will provide a comparison against the regional NAPS data and will be used preferentially to characterize the existing air quality at the remote Project site. A discussion of this comparison has been added to the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Section 6.2.2.2 of the final EIS/EA. Per standard practice, for air parameter criteria with averaging periods shorter than one year, the 90th percentile of the data are used to represent baseline conditions; for parameters with an annual averaging period, the average (mean) concentrations are used. Onsite data were supplemented by the regional data, and discussions include a comparison of onsite data to regional data. For parameters that were not measured on site and were not measured at the regional NAPS stations, such as silica, baseline concentrations have been established using appropriate methods, such as use of a particle size distribution, speciation of a measured parameter, or published values. This rationale has been described in the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1, Section 5). The Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2, Section 4) of the EIS/EA include a summary of the meteorological data relevant to discussions of air quality modelling, a summary table of baseline concentrations and the rationale for the selection of the baseline concentrations used for the assessment of effects.
Baseline studies Air Quality	LSFN requested clarification on the baseline emission sources in the area, including emissions from communities if they are within the air quality study area.	The regional airshed being characterized is influenced by local, regional, and long-range (e.g., international) sources. While it is not practical to identify sources on a map because sources such as forestry activity are transient, many of the stationary sources are located in the communities as identified in the Baseline Air Quality Report (Appendix G-1; Figure 1-1) of the EIS/EA. The combined expected air parameter concentrations from these sources are what was measured by the air quality baseline program. The purpose of the baseline air quality monitoring program was to measure the cumulative effects of existing sources (local, regional and long-range) on the concentrations of air contaminants of concern to understand the cumulative background air quality that results from these sources. Seasonal variability and the influence of local sources are both captured by the monitoring program. The Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2, Section 1.3) describes the existing local and regional conditions which includes consideration of roads, mining, wildfires, exploration, and forestry activities, power generators, recreational vehicles, and transboundary sources.
Baseline studies Air Quality	LSFN requested that additional baseline air quality sampling occur during wintertime.	The additional baseline data collected since submission of the draft EIS/EA, including sampling during the wintertime is included in the Baseline Air Quality Report (Appendix G-1, Section 4) of and is sufficient to establish background concentrations.
Baseline studies Air Quality	LSFN suggested mercury be included in the baseline air concentrations.	With respect to mercury, the total particulate sampling using a high-volume sampler included the analysis of filters for particle-bound mercury; the highest baseline mercury concentration measured was less than 0.01% of the MECP's AAQC.
Baseline studies Archaeology	LSFN requested clarification on the regulatory requirements for this Project's archaeological assessments, including whether the archaeological assessments for the Project have been prepared in accordance with federal requirements.	As noted in Section 6.22.1.1, the regulatory framework related to archaeology is outlined for both the federal and provincial processes. Further, requirements outlined in the federal EIS Guidelines have been met, as described in the concordance table (Appendix B-2).

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Archaeology	LSFN requested further archaeological assessment for parts of the Project that have not undergone archaeological study.	A Stage 1 archaeological assessment (Appendix S-7) has been completed to cover portions of the Project footprint that extended outside the lands assessed by two previous studies (Appendix S-1 and Appendix S-2). The additional areas were found to be of no to low archaeological potential, requiring no further archaeological assessment. Based on the results of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment report for the transmission line (Appendix S-3) alternatives, a Stage 2 assessment will be required for identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line route prior to construction. Work and planning for the Stage 2 archaeological assessment fieldwork will commence once additional engineering in support of permitting has been completed for the transmission line.
Baseline studies Archaeology	LSFN requested clarification of the study area for the Stage 1 archaeological assessment for the mine site area.	The Stage 1 study area is approximately 1,000 ha and was focused on those parts of the Project that are centred on the north basin of Springpole Lake. Specifically, desktop study and property inspection were completed for the open pit, stockpiles, process plant and mine rock areas in 2020 (as shown in Map 4 of Appendix S-1). The open pit is proposed for the dewatered portion of Springpole Lake in the north basin of the lake, so shorelines within this basin and the island were reviewed during the property inspection.
Baseline studies Archaeology	LSFN requested clarification on the status of cabins in the LSA for archaeological resources.	The fieldwork for the Stage 2 archaeological assessment (Appendix S-2) examined the cabin sites noted on historical mapping and provides a description of the cabins. Additional information was gathered from existing and empty cabins and buildings within the mine site area and is included in Table 5-1 of the Cultural Heritage Research Report (Appendix S-4).
Baseline studies Archaeology	LSFN requested additional information on the potential for marine archaeological resources in the dewatered basin of Springpole Lake.	An assessment of the potential for marine archaeological resources is provided in Section 6.22.2.
Baseline studies Fish and Fish habitat	LSFN requested additional baseline data to support the assessment.	A full lake provincial standard BsM study was completed in 2022 (Appendix O). The BsM was used to calibrate a full lake hydroacoustic fish community study also completed in 2022. Lower trophic level (chlorophyll a, phytoplankton and zooplankton) studies (multi-year and multi-season) were completed throughout Springpole Lake and adjacent comparable locations in Birch Lake. Reviewers also requested additional habitat data for the nearshore areas of Birch Lake adjacent to the Project and therefore supplemental habitat characterization of nearshore areas of Birch Lake was completed in 2022. Further detail on this study is provided in the fish and fish habitat VC (Section 6.10.2.2).
Baseline studies Fish and Fish habitat	LSFN requested that additional spawning area analysis be extended to include other parts of the lake (outside of the north basin of Springpole Lake).	Additional analysis of potential spawning areas was completed) with additional field studies to extend the delineated areas of potential spawning areas for Northern Pike, Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish. Further detail on this analysis is provided in 2021 Aquatic Resources Baseline Report (Appendix O-3, Appendix 3.6.1.2).
Baseline studies Groundwater	LSFN requested further information on the cross-sections for the geologic and structural and the associated groundwater levels.	The cross-sections are shown in Figure 6.5-6 have been produced and included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.1.1). Further, the 3-D hydrostratigraphic model has been updated with additional data collected since the draft EIS/EA and included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1) and Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 5.1.2). In addition, updated water level monitoring information, including time series datalogger data, has been provided.
Baseline studies Groundwater	LSFN requested further information on groundwater baseline data.	Groundwater baseline data was supplemented, resulting in a higher degree of confidence for the environmental assessment predictions. Supplemental data collected included: • Water level monitoring and hydraulic test data from 15 additional screened monitoring well installations; • Vibrating wire installations at ten new locations, and water level monitoring from 26 monitoring ports equipped with dataloggers; • Automated pressure transducers monitoring groundwater level fluctuations in 25 monitoring wells; • Packer testing at new drillhole locations, including 71 new unique measurements; • Hydraulic testing in 29 pre-existing monitoring well installations; • Additional stratigraphic boreholes and test pits from 2021 and 2022 investigations; • Bedrock outcropping mapping information from historical surveys; and, • Additional quarterly groundwater quality data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The results of these studies are discussed below under Existing Conditions (Section 6.5.2) with additional details included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1).
Baseline studies Groundwater	LSFN requested further information on the additional monitoring wells, including borehole logs and monitoring well details that have been installed since 2021.	The Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Appendix A) includes an updated compilation of borehole logs that contain geological descriptions, and borehole logs for installations since 2019. Numerous borings, hydraulic test locations, and groundwater monitoring installations have been located within or directly adjacent to the proposed CDF footprint, including shallow bedrock conductivity testing inside and around of the proposed footprint of the CDF.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Groundwater	LSFN requested further information on the long-term monitoring and additional monitoring wells for the deep groundwater system.	An investigation program was undertaken at site to provide additional hydrogeological characterization of the deep bedrock flow system. This investigation program included drilling and packer testing of additional deep bedrock boreholes; and multi-level vibrating wire piezometer installations (equipped with data loggers to allow for ongoing water level monitoring) in five deeper bedrock boreholes. The deep groundwater system is not a large contributor of either flow into the open pit or a pathway for seepage, as the fracture networks at depths have very limited connectivity and neither transport nor store significant quantities of groundwater. This is further discussed in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2.2).
Baseline studies Groundwater	LSFN requested clarification on the method used to determine hydraulic conductivity for overburden and bedrock.	Hydraulic conductivity estimates obtained through falling head testing of the 12 piezometer installations provided in Appendix A (Table 2.3) to the baseline hydrogeology report of the draft EIS/EA, are reliable and are carried forward in the main baseline hydrogeology report (Appendix L-1 of the draft EIS/EA). The data is further discussed in detail in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2) and the Hydrogeological Modeling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 3.2).
Baseline studies Groundwater	LSFN requested hydraulic conductivity analysis graphs to present the results of curve matching.	Hydraulic conductivity estimates were obtained from falling head tests conducted in monitoring wells which were installed within boreholes. Hydraulic conductivity estimates were made using Bouwer Rice method however curve matching plots of the falling head test data are not available. However, the results from the hydraulic tests in site monitoring wells (and packer tests) are presented in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2).
Baseline studies Hydrology	LSFN requested a summary of data gaps, the rationale for the selection of monitoring sites and the adequacy of these sites to spatially characterize hydrology.	The hydrometric monitoring program was developed primarily on the understanding of the potential impacts from the Project, site reconnaissance and observations, and input received through engagement and consultation. An initial gap analyses and site reconnaissance informed the 2021 monitoring work. Although considerations were made to carry forward existing stations, the focus was on the need to establish a monitoring program that aligned with the Project and broad environmental assessment requirements. Stations were established at key locations, including smaller tributaries to Springpole Lake, and where quality data could be collected, in line with WSC Guidelines. The monitoring program has further developed since 2021. A comprehensive list of historic and current monitoring locations has been provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Table 4-1) and includes the rationale for each of the monitoring locations, as well as the adequacy of the monitoring program to characterize the Project area.
Baseline studies Hydrology	LSFN requested flow monitoring data for the winter seasons.	Winter flow monitoring was collected in 2022 and 2023 (February) and presented in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.4.2) of the EIS/EA includes a description of results from the winter monitoring programs, and Section 4.5.2 includes a description of the incorporation of this data into the rating curve.
Baseline studies Hydrology	LSFN requested previous information from earlier monitoring programs be included in the main body of the baseline hydrology report.	A list of all historical and ongoing hydrometric monitoring stations, including those monitored during previous monitoring programs has been provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Table 4-1), and has been compared to the ongoing data set.
Baseline studies Hydrology	LSFN requested that updated Climate Normals be incorporated into the baseline hydrology dataset.	Climate Normals are typically issued at the completion of each decade, and the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1) includes the dataset from the 1981 to 2010 period for the Sioux Lookout, Red Lake A and Pickle Lake A Climate Stations.
Baseline studies Hydrology	LSFN noted discrepancies with the Casummit Lake weather station and requested that the baseline characterization of precipitation be revised once enough data are collected from the Springpole station.	The Project has continued to collect site specific data from the Springpole weather station to support the development of a climate database for the Project. The assessment is using a dependable, long-term data sets from ECCC, which is a standard approach for the purpose of environmental assessment as the onsite database continues to be developed. The findings have been compared to other data sets, such as the ECCC climate stations in the Section 3.3 of the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1).
Baseline studies Noise and Vibration	LSFN requested further information on the baseline sound reports (Appendices H-1 and H-2), including a summary of the applicable regulations and criteria for the Project.	The baseline sound reports have been updated to include a summary of the applicable guidelines. Further, the applicable noise and vibration criteria are described in detail in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 2) and Blasting Assessment Report (Appendix H-4, Section 2).

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested a summary of any data gaps, the rationale for the selection of monitoring sites and the adequacy of these sites to spatially characterize surface water quality.	The baseline surface water quality monitoring program has been ongoing since 2011 and is designed to be extensive and appropriate to inform the EIS/EA, encompassing a comprehensive network of sites strategically selected to capture spatial and temporal variations in water quality. This monitoring program will continue through life of mine and be adjusted as needed over time. To address the comments received, water quality monitoring continued through the submission of the draft EIS/EA resulting in an extensive baseline dataset covering and additional 3 years of data since the draft EIS/EA submission. More than 40 water quality stations have been monitored as part of the baseline program, with over 900 water quality samples having been collected. The monitoring program includes an extensive number of sites distributed across various water body types, including smaller sensitive lakes and tributaries and regional stations, to ensure representative sampling. These sites are carefully chosen to cover different ecological zones, flow regimes, and potential sources of interaction with the Project. Furthermore, the program accounts for seasonal variations by conducting sampling throughout the year, often monthly, capturing fluctuations in water quality associated with different hydrological conditions and climatic patterns. This approach allows to obtain a comprehensive understanding of baseline conditions to help assess potential impacts associated with the Project. Overall, the monitoring sites to characterize water quality spatially and temporally within the area is extensive. The updated baseline water quality samples have been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) and described in Section 6.6, Section 6.7, Section 6.8 and Section 6.9.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested additional water quality monitoring stations downstream of Project, and to address traditional land and resource activities.	The baseline surface water quality monitoring programs undertaken for the Project is comprehensive, spanning multiple years and covering all surface water bodies potentially affected by the Project, including those that may be utilized for traditional land and resource activities as described by TK/TLU studies. The surface water sampling program has been extended approximately 35 km downstream of the mine site, as previously requested by SFN in 2021 during the review of the initial baseline surface water monitoring reports. The 2022 Surface Water Quality Technical Workplans (Appendix W of the draft EIS/EA) incorporated feedback received from these Indigenous communities, and the results of this additional monitoring have been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3). FMG continues to be interested in establishing a monitoring committee with these communities for all phases of the mine.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested additional monitoring sites for the small tributaries and lakes/ponds draining into the larger lakes.	Small inland lakes and tributaries have been characterized as part of the Baseline Aquatic Resources Reports (Appendix O-2, Section 3; Appendix O-3, Section 3; and Appendix O-4, Section 3). Additional surface water quality monitoring for small body lakes (including L-1, L-16, L-18, and L-19) were collected in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and the results are included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3).
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested further information on mercury and a description of the associated monitoring program.	As shown in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), the baseline water quality monitoring in the Project waterbodies from 2012 through 2022 indicate that mercury levels are generally below analytical detection limits (<0.005 µg/L). and are less than the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life for mercury (0.026 µg/L). Further, ultra-low mercury and methylmercury from specialized analyses has occurred at key monitoring locations across the baseline study since 2021, with detection limits of approximately 0.0001 µg/L and 0.00002 µg/L respectively. Mercury is not proposed to be used in the process for gold mining at the Springpole Gold Project, and the Project will not be a source of mercury. A description of key metals in host rock and ore is presented in Section 4.3 of Appendix K-1 (Static Geochemical Testing Baseline Report). Solid phase mercury concentrations in the Project rock are low. Specifically, mercury concentrations were below qualitative threshold values (10 times crustal abundance) in 98% of the mine rock samples and 94% of the ore-grade samples. The potential for mercury leaching from the rock is also low for materials based on the results of leaching tests (Appendix K-1) and humidity cell tests (Appendix K-2). A description of inorganic contaminants of potential concern in soil can be found in HEHRA Report (Appendix R, Section 3.4.3). The maximum concentration of mercury in the collected soil samples did not exceed federal or provincial guideline values. The predictive models developed to support the EIS/EA which use the baseline data described above indicate that mercury levels remain below threshold criteria for surface water quality and human health and the Project is not a source of mercury. A surface water sampling program has been included in this final EIS/EA and will be further developed during the permitting phase. FMG will continue to engage and consult with local Indigenous communities through the permitting phase as further details are developed. The permitting phase program is expected to include further details on methods, locations and duration, along with monitoring and reporting requirements based on discussions with regulatory agencies. The purpose of the surface water program will be to monitor compliance against regulatory permits, and validate the predictions in the EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested additional detail on the conclusion that surface water quality parameters that exceeded guideline values was related to natural variation associated with total suspended solids.	Natural baseline exceedances occurred in less than 2% of observations, are associated with elevated TSS levels (total phosphorus, total iron) and are considered representative of the natural heterogeneity of these lake systems, and the natural heterogenicity of waters in the baseline study area have been well characterized by the baseline program. Over with over 1,120 samples have been collected between as part of baseline surface water monitoring program for the Project. Overall, the results indicate that surface water quality of monitored waterbodies are typical of oligotrophic lakes in northwestern Ontario, including low concentrations of nutrients and anions, low turbidity, and saturated to near- saturated dissolved oxygen concentrations. The pH levels of Birch Lake, Springpole Lake, Seagrave Lake, small area lakes and regional monitoring stations are circumneutral; low frequency slightly alkaline to alkaline pH values are associated with summer sampling of surface (epilimnion) waters, wherein elevated pH values are likely driven by photosynthesis and generally warmer water quality conditions. There are no other consistent seasonal trends or inter-annual trends for other monitored parameters. The levels of TSS and TDS are generally low for all the sampled waterbodies. Similarly, concentrations of most total and dissolved metals are low, consistently below WQG PAL. There were a few occasions where measured baseline concentrations are outside the range established by WQG PAL. Parameters outside the range established by WQG PAL included pH, total phosphorus; total iron, and total copper. As noted, these exceedances occur less than 2% of observations, are associated with elevated TSS levels (total phosphorus, total iron) and are considered representative of the natural heterogeneity of these lake systems. This information has been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), and described in Section 6.6.2, Section 6.7.2 and Section 6.8.2.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested further information on the seasonal variability of the surface water quality monitoring program for the Project, and the results of the 2021 field program.	The Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) documents the spatial and temporal variability of surface water quality of the waterbodies that have the potential to be affected by Project and additional unaffected waterbodies. The dataset is extensive when compared to other projects at the environmental assessment stage. The characterization of existing conditions within the local area habitat type is well documented and exceeds requirements to support the environmental assessment. Water quality sampling has continued throughout the EA process, and the data that has been collected through to the end of 2023 is included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3).
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested a discussion of the surface water quality trends over the period monitored.	Trends in surface water quality are discussed in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), and the effects to surface waters are quantitively assessed by predictive modelling (Appendix N-2, Section 4).
Baseline studies Fish and Fish habitat	LSFN requested clarification regarding statements that Lake Sturgeon are absent from Springpole Lake or are in extremely low abundance within the Birch River / Cat River system.	A full lake BsM and hydroacoustic survey was completed in Springpole Lake in 2022 (Appendix O). To gather more data on Lake Sturgeon, a targeted large mesh netting in Springpole Lake coupled with a two-season (spring and summer) eDNA metabarcoding sampling program in Springpole Lake, Birch Lake and regional stations (Cat River) was completed in 2022. Additional targeted eDNA quantitative polymerase chain reaction sampling of historical observations and spawning areas was completed within Springpole Lake, Cat River, Lake St. Joseph outflow, Birch Lake and Birch River in 2023. The studies confirmed that the deep basins within Springpole Lake and Birch Lake were similar in fish species composition and lower trophic conditions concluding that temporary isolation of one deep basing will not alter the ability of the remailing 94 % of Springpole Lake to maintain all resident fish species. Further detail on these studies is provided in Section 6.10.2.
Baseline studies Archaeology, Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes	LSFN observed that the archaeological status of known cabins is incomplete, and the inventory of built heritage resources needs to be included for the LSA.	Archaeology studies have been completed for the mine site and mine access road areas and no archaeological resources have been found. Sites along the transmission line corridor that have archaeological potential will be investigated after completion of the detailed engineering of the transmission line and based on the precise location on the poles. The identified pictographs are outside the PDA and will not be affected by the Project. FMG will continue to share Project plans and schedules with Indigenous communities coordinate construction activities related to the transmission line to minimize overlap with the timing of traditional land use activities and other sensitive periods.
Baseline studies Birds	LSFN inquired whether EWPW surveys were completed at locations where Common Nighthawk were found.	ARUs were used in the survey and would have detected both EWPW and Common Nighthawk, if both occurred at the crepuscular bird survey station. This information was added to Appendix P-1 (Baseline Terrestrial Report), which also includes the results the baseline surveys completed.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	LSFN requested further information on the methods used to identify plant species, vegetation sample locations including power analysis, and the methodology for conducting wetland evaluations in 2022.	Therefore, the number of sample plots for plants, vegetation communities and wetlands were increased in 2021. The methodology for vegetation community sampling is provided in the baseline terrestrial report (Appendix P-1), along the results of the studies carried out in 2021 and 2022. In addition, the methodology used to conduct wetland evaluations is described in Appendix P.
Consultation processes and capacity Traditional Land and Resource Use, Archaeology	LSFN requested information on participation in future fieldwork opportunities and clarification on how Indigenous Knowledge will be incorporated into future archaeological work.	FMG has continued ongoing engagement with LSFN, including extending invitations to participate in environmental fieldwork. FMG acknowledges that archaeological sites and resources are important to Indigenous communities. Avoidance of impacts / effects on archaeological resources is preferred over a mitigation measure and FMG encourages a continued involvement from Indigenous communities regarding the identification archaeological resources or sites of importance during life of mine to help mitigate potential effects on archaeological resources. Indigenous communities will also be provided with an opportunity to participate in supplemental archaeological work that may occur through life of mine.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	LSFN requested more information about potential effects on Springpole Lake and Birch Lake from blasting effects.	A revised blasting assessment (Appendix H-4) was completed using more conservative (larger) charges and the more stringent blasting criteria for fish to conservatively identify additional areas of potential impacts as discussed in Section 6.10.3 and the FHOCP (Appendix F).

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	LSFN requested clarification on potential effects to the food web / primary productivity.	Detailed investigations and studies have been completed for the Project and provide comparison of lower trophic data and fish community data for Springpole lake and adjacent Birch Lake sufficient to assess the potential effects of the isolated open pit basin. Results show comparable primary resources in the six deep water sample stations in Springpole Lake and two stations in Birch Lake, and a high degree of similarity between the three most northern stations in the north basin of Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	LSFN requested clarification on the applicable water quality guideline applicable to groundwater. LSFN also requested that groundwater quality be compared to conservative surface water quality standards such as PWQOs, supported where appropriate by CWQG.	The APVs were selected as a basis of comparison for groundwater quality predictions in the draft EIS/EA as they are designed specifically for groundwater to provide a scientifically defensible and reasonably conservative level of protection for most aquatic organisms from the migration and discharge of groundwater to surface water. The APVs were applied to the assessment of potential effects on groundwater that ultimately discharges to surface water. However, considering the MECP feedback and traditional land use information provided, the APVs have been replaced in the EIS/EA with surface water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life that are used as a conservative benchmark for the assessment of groundwater quality, as described in Section 6.5.1.1 of the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	LSFN requested additional clarification on whether aggregate sources will be tested prior to use in Project infrastructure.	The proposed aggregate sources will be tested prior to use for the construction of the mine access road. The sources identified in draft EIS/EA are sand and gravel type material similar to that used in forestry road operations in the area and not anticipated to have material ARD potential.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	LSFN requested further information on the inflow volumes to the open pit.	The determination of groundwater inflows to the open pit was conducted utilizing a calibrated 3D numerical model that has been developed for the mine site of the Project. Groundwater inflow rates to the open pit are included in the Hydrogeology Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 6). This Report includes an analysis of the sensitivity (Appendix L-2, Section 7) of inflows with changes in parameters for the bedrock layers, including the shallow bedrock.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested clarification on the water quality guidelines utilized for the EIS/EA.	The final EIS/EA uses a consistent set of WQG PAL as per the latest guidance from MECP. Recent MECP guidance necessitates the utilization of the most current WQG PAL sourced from either the PWQO/iPWQO, CWQG, or FWQG. This has been clarified in Section 6.6.5.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested a surface water/groundwater interaction monitoring and mitigation plan that is designed to identify areas of potential groundwater/surface water interaction.	Seepage quality and quantity estimates are provided in Section 6 of the Hydrogeology Modelling Report (Appendix L-2) of the final EIS, including a schematization to illustrate mitigated potential seepage pathways (Figure 4.2-1). Groundwater mitigation measures as described in Section 6.5.4, have been designed for the CDF and include the siting of the CDF on highly preferred foundation conditions composed of andesite bedrock, the appropriate management of tailings and mine rock within the facility, and an engineered perimeter seepage collection system. Section 12 includes follow-up surface water and groundwater monitoring programs for the Project which will be refined as part of the provincial permitting process, as is standard practice. However, note that the existing surface water quality and groundwater monitoring programs undertaken for the Project are comprehensive, spanning multiple years and form the basis for the follow up monitoring.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	LSFN requested additional evaluation of the isolated basin compared to the rest of Springpole Lake and how the remaining area will support the fish community during the life of the mine.	Additional fisheries and aquatic data were collected for the entire Springpole Lake and the open pit basin during 2022. The 2022 program included a full lake BsM program, ongoing lower trophic level studies, a lake-wide hydroacoustic fish community survey, and multiple eDNA metabarcoding surveys. The additional data, in combination with previously collected aquatic data, increase the confidence that the majority of the Springpole Lake area will remain capable of sustaining all species and all life functions present in the lake and that Lake Trout and the resources they depend on are well distributed in the north basin and not reliant only on the portion that will be isolated.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	LSFN asked for more details about Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measures and additional documentation and data to describe species absence and the likely cause of Lake Sturgeon absence.	The Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measure has been revised to a two-step measure: 1. collect additional data and information and 2. implement reintroduction / enhancement measures. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	LSFN requested that additional details be provided on how the site would be closed and that FMG develop closure objectives that meet cultural and socioeconomic objectives of LSFN. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives as listed by LSFN include: 1. Ensuring the conservation and continued use of sites near the mine site; 2. Supporting LSFN members' ability to practice their way of life and to transfer knowledge and teachings specific to the area; 3. Ensuring long-term benefits while minimizing post-closure socioeconomic impacts, including job loss and gender-, addiction-, and mental health-related issues; 4. Mitigating impacts to harvesting practices, as well as to water, fish and non-human relatives within the reclaimed open pit and the mine waste CDF areas; and 5. Mitigating long-term risks of erosion, accidents, spills, or structural failures of the mine waste facility, including due to flooding or extreme meteorological events (e.g., 100-year floods).	Section 5.19 has been expanded with additional detail and more specific information, including feasibility of and alternatives considered for closure elements. Closure planning is a progressive and iterative process of mine development, and as such, detailed closure plans that build on the final EIS/EA will be submitted to regulators during the permitting process with periodic updates during the life of mine. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives of LSFN will be integral to the closure strategy have been added to Section 5.19, including details, where available at this stage of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Noise and vibration	LSFN requested further detail on the noise complaint response protocol identified in the draft EIS/EA.	Section 6.3.4 outlines the mitigation measures, which include the development of a weekly blast schedule posted on the Project's website, a mechanism for recording complaints, and a mechanism for timely monitoring of and follow-up for complaints during the construction and operations phases. It is expected that the protocol will include a complaint submission function available through the Project's website.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Noise and vibration	LSFN requested that sound monitoring also include monitoring of vibration from blasting.	A monitoring program for sound and vibration resulting from the Project will be implemented during the construction and operation phases (see Section 12.3 for details).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air Quality	LSFN requested that the 2025 CAAQS for 1-hour and annual NO_2 be included in the assessment.	The CAAQS have been updated, as requested, to 79 µg/m³ and 23 µg/m³, respectively in the assessment of effects on air quality (Table 6.2-3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	LSFN requested an analysis of the pump test responses for monitoring wells, including the determination of transmissivity and the average hydraulic conductivity, and updates to the hydrogeology model.	Distance-drawdown plots for data provide insight into which wells are likely best connected to the pumping well (and therefore whose hydraulic conductivity estimates are most representative for that pathway). Monitoring wells with unexpectedly low drawdown are indicative of limited hydraulic connection to the pumping well; therefore, hydraulic conductivity / transmissivity value estimates in these cases are not representative. An assessment of distance-drawdown has been conducted for monitoring wells for the long-term aquifer test and is described in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report along with expanded discussion and interpretations of the pumping test (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2.2).
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN requested clarification on how the TK/TLU information was used to inform the EIS/EA.	TK/TLU information received from Indigenous communities has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the VCs selected for assessment as shown in Section 6.21 (Table 6.21-12). In some cases, the assessment of a VC has been modified to include areas of interest expressed by Indigenous communities such as the inclusion of mental health and well-being in Section 6.19 and Section 6.20. In addition, the description of the existing conditions for each VC, includes a description of TK/TLU that is relevant to the VC, and is considered in the assessment and selection of mitigation and monitoring.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	LSFN requested climatic hazards, including heavy rainfall, snow accumulation, blowing snow, freeze-thaw, winter rain on snow, heat wave, and drought, to be considered in the Project design.	Hazards identified to potentially interact with the Project include high winds, extreme temperatures (i.e., extreme heat, extreme cold, and freeze-thaw cycles), snowstorms, major precipitation events, flooding from increasing water levels in Springpole Lake, seismic event and forest fires. Future climate projections were developed and are described in Section 8.4. Potential effects of climate change on the Project have been considered in accordance with Ontario government guidance *Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process* (MECP 2021) and incorporated in the planning and design of Project infrastructure. Section 8.4 also includes a table (Table 8-2) showing the climate hazards that would have a potential impact on the safety and performance of key Project components. Engineering design and mitigation included in the Project to withstand climatic hazards are discussed in Section 8.5 to 8.9. In addition, a summary table of climate hazards, their impact on the Project, and associated mitigation measures has been included as Table 8-2.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	LSFN requested clarification on the dam (i.e., dike) design and safety factors.	The dikes are designed to meet the factors of safety required by guidelines and regulations such as the *Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines* (CDA 2013, 2019) and supporting technical bulletins, MNR (MNR 2011a) guidelines and the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* (RSO 1990, c. L.3). Additional design information on dike stability and safety is included in Section 9.5.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	LSFN requested that additional details be provided on how the site would be closed and that FMG develop closure objectives that meet cultural and socioeconomic objectives of LSFN. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives as listed by LSFN include: 1. Ensuring the conservation and continued use of sites near the mine site; 2. Supporting LSFN members' ability to practice their way of life and to transfer knowledge and teachings specific to the area; 3. Ensuring long-term benefits while minimizing post-closure socioeconomic impacts, including job loss and gender-, addiction-, and mental health-related issues; 4. Mitigating impacts to harvesting practices, as well as to water, fish and non-human relatives within the reclaimed open pit and the mine waste CDF areas; and 5. Mitigating long-term risks of erosion, accidents, spills, or structural failures of the mine waste facility, including due to flooding or extreme meteorological events (e.g., 100-year floods).	Section 5.19 has been expanded with additional detail and more specific information, including feasibility of and alternatives considered for closure elements. Closure planning is a progressive and iterative process of mine development, and as such, detailed closure plans that build on the final EIS/EA will be submitted to regulators during the permitting process with periodic updates during the life of mine. The cultural and socioeconomic objectives of LSFN will be integral to the closure strategy have been added to Section 5.19, including details, where available at this stage of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	LSFN requested further information concerning the potential effects of undue residual seepage release from the CDF on Birch and Springpole Lake water quality.	Additional discussion is presented in Section 9.6 demonstrating that the effectiveness of CDF seepage capture such that Birch and Springpole Lakes will not see increased concentrations of contaminants of concern beyond PAL (or background) concentrations.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	LSFN requested further information on the anticipated change in groundwater levels due to the Project and the assessment of potential effects on wetlands.	An assessment of potential effects on wetlands due to changes in groundwater from the Project is included in Section 6.11.6.2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	LSFN requested further information on the potential and perceived risk of contamination of surface water and ground water that is consumed by humans, and the potential effects to the health of plants and animals due to water contamination. They also requested information on the change in groundwater flow or levels.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site to limit the areal extent of disturbance, and to limit the overall areas of site contact water that requires management. A 120 m setback will be maintained around the mine site, where practical. The CDF has been located on the most favourable geologic conditions at the Project site to support long term stability and effective seepage management. Further, a geosynthetic clay liner will be installed on the upstream side of the perimeter dam of the CDF south cell (specifically the south, west, and east sides) to mitigate seepage potential. During construction, an erosion and sediment control plan will be implemented to manage runoff water around disturbed areas. During all phases, an integrated water management system will be designed to collect and control contact water from the mine site area. Water collection ditches will be constructed and operated around the perimeter of infrastructure to collect overland flow and seepage and direct it to the integrated water management system. Collected contact water that is not recycled in ore processing will be treated at the ETP and the treat effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. Non-contact water will be diverted away from Project components using ditches, diversion berms and other suitable measures. The changes in surface water quality have been predicted in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2), with the Project meeting stringent CWQG during all phases as discussed in Section 6.6 to Section 6.9. Further, the changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the HEHRA (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	LSFN requested that the HEHRA reevaluate the potential risk to Indigenous consumers of country foods and fish, recognizing that the HC definition of "high consumer" may not be indicative of existing or desired consumption rates of Indigenous harvester.	For the purposes of the HEHRA, preferred country foods and ingestion rates by members of Indigenous communities in the region were selected based on a comparative analysis from several sources including Traditional Land and Resource Use studies and land use plans available at the time of writing. Based on the comparative analyses, adult "heavy consumer" and "average consumer" consumption rates selected for the purposes of the HEHRA are the consumption rates included in Chan et al 2014, reported by Indigenous communities in the Boreal Sheild Ecozone 1 region, which align with information provided in the Traditional Land Use and Resource studies for the Project. The rationale for selection of country foods species and ingestion rates considered in the HEHRA is summarized in Section 4.3.2.1 of Appendix R.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	LSFN requested further information on the potential effects of flooding on adjacent land/water basins as a result of the construction of the dams to facilitate dewatering be considered.	Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin is expected to take approximately six months to complete, based on continuous (24-hour, 7-day per week) pumping at a rate that is able to maintain Springpole Lake water levels within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions. The volume of the proposed open pit basin within Springpole Lake ranges is approximately 18 Mm^3, consistent with the bathymetric survey. Water flows and levels have been monitored over a period of 2.5 years, and have shown an average monthly inflow to Springpole Lake ranging from 21.3 cubic metres per second (m^3/s) in June to 5.0 m^3/s in March, with an observed annual natural variation in flow of 16.3 m^3/s. Further, the average water level of Springpole Lake ranges from 391.78 m amsl in June to 390.79 m amsl in March, showing a maximum natural variation of 2.1 m (Appendix M-1). Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin will be completed in a manner to mitigate potential environmental effects by managing and monitoring flow rates. The six-month timeframe has been determined based on the receiving capacity of Springpole Lake to accept an increase in flow, limited to 10% of the instantaneous natural flow through Springpole Lake. The 10% threshold has been applied as a mitigation measure and is consistent with the DFO guidance document *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* (DFO 2013). Within the framework, DFO provides a national technical guidance that cumulative flow alterations of less than 10% in amplitude of the actual (instantaneous) flow relative to a "natural flow regime" have a low probability of detectable impacts to ecosystems. During the dewatering activities, a continuous flow monitoring station at the inlet and outlet of Springpole Lake will be used to provide a running average flow that will be used to inform the actual dewatering rate consistent with anticipated permit conditions. This has been described in Section 5.7.1.2. The potential effects of dewatering are described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	Through the draft EIS/EA consultation process, FMG was informed of the challenges that many communities and individuals face with mental health and addictions, and the various barriers to treatment and employment opportunities.	The draft Employee Health & Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3) looks at employee health and well-being through a proactive lens by embracing education, prevention and early intervention measures. From design to implementation, FMG provides a collaborative framework with opportunities for continual improvement input and guidance so that services and support offered will remain relevant throughout the life of mine.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional economy	LSFN requested further information on where money from the Project would go. LSFN observed that uncertainty about impacts from existing mines, habitat loss from logging, and increased regulations on trapping have the cumulative impact that some members place more reliance on welfare.	The Project will give preference to local and Indigenous workers and businesses and participation will provide skills and experience for future opportunities. This will increase labour and business income directly and through spending of income at local and regional businesses. The skills and experience gained by participating in the Project will assist in gaining future employment and contracts.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional economy	LSFN stated that the socio-economic effects on their communities had not been adequately addressed, including potential effects on safety. They also inquired about benefits to the communities and how Nation members would benefit from Project employment.	The Project will give preference to local and Indigenous workers and businesses and participation will provide additional labour and business income. FMG will support retraining programs to establish transferable skills for employees during the latter part of the operations phase and will provide job search assistance at the closure phase. The skills and experience acquired through the Project are anticipated to be highly transferable to other employment opportunities in the region at closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested clarification on the dam (i.e., dike) design and safety factors for the CDF, and if they consider climate change, severe extreme or severe weather, events involving rain, ice, snow, thunderstorms, microbursts, wind, and increased temperatures.	The dikes are designed to meet the factors of safety required by guidelines and regulations such as the *Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines* (CDA 2013, 2019) and supporting technical bulletins, MNR (MNR 2011a) guidelines and the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* (RSO 1990, c. L.3) for long term, static loading conditions, as well as pseudo-static loading conditions. Additional design information on dike stability and safety is included in Section 8.6.2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested further information concerning the effectiveness of water treatment technologies and the effects of treatment system malfunction.	Additional analysis was completed in 2024 for the design of seepage and runoff collection systems. As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified. Section 9.9 has been updated to clarify that although the short-term construction phase water management will use more frequent design events (i.e., 1:10-year), the operations phase water management facilities will be designed to accommodate and contain a 1:100-year, 24-hour storm event. A summary of the additional analyses to support the design criteria has been added to Section 9.10. The assessment of the effects of the environment on the Project (Section 8.6) has also been updated to include additional information that describe the resiliency of the overall water management system to extreme rainfall events, including the ability to use the open pit for additional storage in the event of an extreme precipitation event.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested further information on the time to fill the open pit with water, where the water will come from and how will affect water levels in Springpole Lake and downstream be mitigated.	Springpole Lake is part of a large system with a drainage area of approximately 1,289 km^2 at its inflow. Once mining concludes in approximately Year 10, the open pit basin will start to fill with water by direct precipitation and groundwater infiltration from the surrounding bedrock. Without enhancement, it would take decades (approximately 30 to 40 years) for the open pit basin to refill to the same level as Springpole Lake. To significantly reduce the filling time, supplemental water from Springpole Lake is planned to be transferred to the pit in a controlled manner while maintaining lake water levels within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions. To assess the pit filling time under various climate conditions, wet and dry sequences were developed based on pro-rated historical flow records from the Sturgeon River at McDougall Mills WSC Station (05QA004). The dry year sequence was developed based on data from 1975 to 1981 and represents a 1st percentile flow sequence over the period. The wet year sequence was developed based on data from 2007 to 2010 and represents a 99th percentile flow sequence over the period. The results indicate that during a 99th percentile wet flow sequence, the pit filling time would be reduced to 3.3 years. During a 1st percentile dry flow sequence, the pit filling time would be increased to 6.3 years. Water taking from Springpole Lake accounts for 95% of the inflows to the open pit basin during the pit filling period (direct runoff and groundwater inflows are quite low in relation to the Springpole Lake water takings. At this proposed active filling rate, the combined open pit basin and fish habitat development area would require three to five years to fill to the average natural elevation of Springpole Lake (elevation 391 m amsl), assuming average flow conditions during those years. Table 5.19-2 provides a range of years to fill for the open pit basin, allowing for average conditions as well as the very dry and very wet flow years. The proposed active filling rate would be adjustable to reflect up to 10% of the inflows to Springpole Lake. Based on guidance provided by the DFO's (2013) *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* and Locke and Paul's (2011) *A Desk-top Method for Establishing Environmental Flows in Alberta Rivers and Streams*, a 10% to 15% reduction in instantaneous flows is unlikely to have detectable ecological effects on downstream habitat. Using the more conservative DFO guidance and a proposed active filling rate of up to 10%, the combined dewatered open pit / fish habitat area basin would require three to five years to fill using the current average elevation of Springpole Lake (elevation 391 m above mean sea level) under average flow conditions during those years. With isolation of the basin occurring in the first year of construction (Year -2) and filling beginning in Year 10, the basin can be filled and ready for reconnection to Springpole Lake in approximately Year 13 to Year 15 of the Project. The description of the final reclamation of the open pit has been updated in Section 5.19.3.1 and further described in Section 6.10.6.1. The assessment of potential effects on water quantity in Springpole Lake are described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	LSFN requested further information about mercury and recommended mercury levels for baseline and operating conditions be established.	Baseline water quality monitoring from the Project water bodies indicate mercury levels are generally below analytical detection limits and are less than the CWQG for mercury. Further, mercury is not proposed to be used in the process for gold mining at the Project, and the Project will not be a source of mercury.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN requested that FMG assess how accidental events or spills could affect the conservation and continued use of traditional sites near the mine site, harvesting practices, members' ability to practice their way of life and to transfer knowledge and teachings specific to the area; and community socioeconomics.	FMG recognizes that an accident or malfunction could result in an environmental effect that subsequently could impact TLU. Engineering design features and mitigation measures will be implemented for the Project to eliminate or reduce the risk a potential accident or malfunction from occurring, and its potential for effects on the environment. Although not explicitly stated in the following sections, these engineering design features, and mitigation measures are intended to be protective of the environment and traditional land and resource use in the area can continue.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN requested that the assessment of potential effects of the Project be informed by TK, and that the TK/TLU information be disaggregated by Indigenous community.	During the EA process, Indigenous communities have collected and shared TK/TLU information, and non-confidential information has been incorporated into the final EIS/EA. This information sharing is appreciated and important for Project planning. Additional opportunities for TK/TLU information sharing will occur throughout all phases of the Project. A list of the information sources is included in Section 6.21.2. The information was used to inform or validate baseline studies, validate the selection of VCs, assessment criteria and indicators, supplement the information used to understand the existing conditions of various valued components, consider alternatives for various project components, support the assessment of potential effects on VCs, identify mitigation measures and areas for follow up monitoring. Non-confidential information has been included in the description of the existing environment (Section 3) and the description of existing conditions in each VC (Section 6) and use to support the assessment of alternatives (Section 4) and the assessment of potential effects on biophysical VCs (Section 6.2 to Section 6.16), and human environment VCs (Section 6.18 to Section 6.24). Non-confidential TK/TLU information has been disaggregated by Indigenous community, where possible. Feedback received from Indigenous communities during engagement activities for the EA, and in particularly, the review of the draft EIS/EA has informed the final EIS/EA. Examples of how TK/TLU has been included in this final EIS/EA are shown in Table 6.21-1. Further details on the engagement activities are included in Section 2.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN identified that the LSA includes harvesting sites for moose, fish, and food plants, as well as trapping sites. They also use areas adjacent to the Project footprint for subsistence moose harvesting. LSFN observed that impacts to animal populations, including dispersal from the Project area due to auditory stressors from initial Project activities could affect wildlife harvesting. LSFN expressed that fish distribution, populations, health and habitat and critical fishing areas could be impacted, impeding their members' ability to harvest fish for subsistence. LSFN identified that the loss of plants and plant habitats would deter harvesters from using their preferred areas.	The change in wildlife distribution and the experience of harvesters due to sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. Fishing will be able to continue at both Birch Lake and Springpole Lake throughout all phases of the Project. Fish habitat features will be incorporated in to the design of the dikes supporting fishing opportunities, and the Closure Plan will enhance fish habitat in the restore open pit basin increasing Springpole Lake by 3.5% in surface area.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN commented that changes in water levels impacts travel routes and the accessibility of areas and can expose hazards that interfere with safe passage and interrupt navigation.	An assessment of the potential effects on water quantity due to the Project is provided in Section 6.8. The assessment determined that the expediting filling of the open pit basin at closure can be achieved while maintaining water levels with Springpole Lake well within the observed range of natural baseline conditions and is not anticipated to have an effect on navigation. Monitoring will be undertaken, and pumping will be adjusted as needed in real time to ensure there is no effect. An alternate navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be established and maintained by FMG through all Project phases. The existing portage route located at the exploration camp will be relocated during prior to construction of the Project to a historical portage route on the west side of the north basin of Springpole Lake that will be reestablished and maintained by FMG. The original portage route will be reestablished at post closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN identified that the Project may impact the ability to hunt and trap on its traditional territory, the impact on the abundance of animals in the area, and to the quality of hunted and trapped game.	With the exception of the mine site footprint, all other areas will remain available for TLRU activities. The change in wildlife distribution and the experience of harvesters due to sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. The access management strategy aims to address Indigenous concerns regarding public access to TLRU areas. The strategy will describe appropriate signage to advise the public of the road's intended use, safety communication protocol for traditional land users, and the establishment of a gatehouse/checkpoint towards the end of the Wenasaga Road to ensure unauthorized use does not occur. Further, the transmission line corridor portion of the Project footprint will be allowed to naturally regrow following construction to an extent that limits accessibility and therefore new access along the transmission line is not anticipated. The change in fish habitat supporting fisheries will be mitigated with measures outlined in the FHOCP (Appendix F) and described in Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat) which includes fish habitat enhancements to the lake-facing embankments of the dikes, enhancements and reclamation of the open pit basin, the creation of new fish habitat adjacent to the open pit basin, and the proposed reclamation of fish habitat at the abandoned South Bay mine. In addition, fishing and hunting will be prohibited within the controlled access portion of the PDA by Project personnel while working or residing on site, during all phases of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN identified a potential cabin within the Project footprint that is used for fishing however a cabin has not been found in the proposed footprint.	With the exception of the mine site footprint, all other areas will remain available for TLRU activities. As described above, there will be an access management strategy developed and implemented to allow for continued traditional land use activities in the area of the mine access road. Further, no new access will be created on Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN noted that areas generally north of Lac Seul have a reliable environment where the quality and quantity of resources are not affected by anthropogenic stressors and impacts to harvested resources could impact LSFN's use of and reliance on clean water, fish, and animals. LSFN also identified that the Project may impact harvested plants, fish, birds and animals due to displacement by the Project or by contamination which could affect harvesting and food security.	The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road, locating noise producing stationary equipment inside of buildings, the implementation of a revegetation plan that preferentially uses local vegetation sources and incorporates plant species of interest to Indigenous communities and wildlife habitat features, and uses mechanical vegetation removal practices. Further, an HEHRA (Appendix R) has been prepared for the proposed Project and concluded that there will be no change to human and ecological health from the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN requested information on the potential loss of access to important areas and changes in water levels that may affect culturally sensitive areas such as gravesites.	Access will be restricted only in the mine site area for safety and an access management strategy will provide for improved access for traditional activities in the area of the mine access road. As described in Section 6.7.6.1, model results indicate that the Springpole Lake water level will be maintained within natural variation and verified by real time monitoring during construction and closure. At closure, during the pit filling period, the water surface level of Springpole Lake will be maintained within natural variation.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN identified that the Project may impact the quality of hunted and trapped game due to potential environmental contamination of water and food that animals rely on and to the health and quality of harvested plants and medicines in the study area.	Project design and implementation of mitigation measure will reduce effects to resources that are harvested and plants and animals in the vicinity of the mine site will remain healthy posing no new risk for consumption. Country foods monitoring will take place periodically during operations.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN identified that significant changes in water levels can interrupt navigation and the ability to navigate rivers and lakes.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site and site contact water will be managed with an integrated water management system that will collect, control and treat contact water with an effluent treatment plant that is not recycled in ore processing. The treated effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. The changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the HEHRA (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health. Country foods monitoring will take place periodically during operations. The navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be maintained and the portage route at the exploration camp will be re-established at closure. As noted earlier, an access management strategy will be developed and implemented to provide for improved access for traditional activities in the area of the mine site road.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN reported that the Project is likely to result in interruptions and curtailments to the transmission of intergenerational knowledge. Teaching sites extend through the study area and these sites are vital to the preservation of community knowledge, to increasing member resilience, and to the ability to adapt to the everchanging land.	The Project will not affect the water levels of adjacent lakes, upstream or downstream. An access management strategy will allow for new access along the mine road area for traditional purposes. FMG will support the development and delivery of Indigenous led ceremonies on site to pay respect to the land, air and water prior to construction and at other key Project milestones. FMG will also support community land-based cultural activities during all Project phases and facilitate land use for local area Indigenous trappers.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	LSFN requested that traditional land use information be presented and incorporated into the effects assessment and disaggregated by Indigenous community within relevant sections of the final EIS/EA.	Non-confidential traditional land use information provided by Indigenous communities during the preparation of the final EIS/EA has been included and disaggregated by Indigenous group (Section 6.21.2). For the purposes of the HEHRA, this information informs: the selection of POPC; representative PORs associated with traditional land use activities for use in the air quality modelling; identification of fish, vegetation and wildlife species important to Indigenous communities; identification of important traditional country foods; and informs the selection of representative country foods ingestion rates. Within supporting Attachment A of the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R), the traditional land use information pertaining to important country foods species and country foods ingestion is disaggregated by Indigenous community in the rationale for the selection of representative country foods species and ingestion rates. A description of the TK related to human and ecological health is provided in Section 6.24.2.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	LSFN requested consideration of the potential effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat due to the operation of the mine access road, airstrip and other transportation activities and the subsequent effect on hunting and other land-based activities.	Section 9 includes an assessment of the potential effects on wildlife and SAR birds as a result of a potential spill, accident or malfunction from Project activities. Specifically, Section 9.12 considers vehicular accidents that could release materials, Section 9.13 considers the potential spill of cyanide, and Section 9.14 considers the potential release of products from containment and dispensing facilities. Key measures to mitigate the potential effects of a spill on the environment, including SAR birds, are outlined in Section 9 of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Hydrology	LSFN expressed concern regarding the use of a lesser flooding resistance standard (1 in 10-year rainfall events) for the design of the seepage collection system (ditches) and for general stormwater drainage facilities.	The Project components are designed and constructed to withstand weather and major precipitation events expected to occur within the region and consider climate change. The risks associated with major precipitation events will be managed through design criteria, guidelines and regulations, and management practices. Additional analysis and design was completed in 2024 for the seepage and runoff collection systems and has been incorporated into the Water Management section of the Project Description (Section 5.11). As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified (i.e., 1:100-year storm event). A description of the design criteria has been added to 8.6.
TK and TLU Information	LSFN requested that TK/TLU information be incorporated into relevant sections of the EIS/EA to inform the assessment, including the assessment of archaeological resources.	A description of information relevant to the assessment of potential effects on archaeological resources is provided in Section 6.22.2.3. The TK/TLU information is further described in Section 6.21.2 (Traditional Land and Resource Use VC).
TK and TLU information	LSFN undertook two studies, namely an Indigenous Knowledge and Use Study and Socioeconomic Study and requested these be considered in the EIS/EA to inform the understanding of potential effects of Project.	A description of how TK was incorporated into the EIS/EA is provided in each VC section and in Section 6.21.1.2 of the final EIS/EA, including how the information is disaggregated by Indigenous community. Further, an assessment of the effects on Indigenous People is provided in Section 6.26 that includes the effects on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, socioeconomics, archaeology and cultural heritage.
TK and TLU information	LSFN prepared Traditional Knowledge and Land Use and Socio-economic Baseline reports for the Project and inquired how the information would be integrated into the EIS/EA.	The reports have been reviewed, and TK/TLU information has been integrated into the assessment of biophysical VCs and used to complete the assessment of effects on traditional land and resource use in Section 6.21. The information from the socio-economic baseline was integrated into Section 6.21 as well as in the assessments of socio-economic VCs (Sections 6.17, 6.18, 6.19, and 6.20).
TK and TLU information Caribou	LSFN emphasized the cultural and spiritual significance of Boreal Caribou, and their priority for Boreal Caribou conservation, especially protecting calving areas.	FMG acknowledges this and has integrated these values into the final EIS/EA. The draft EIS/EA was updated to include details from the community studies and other Indigenous Knowledge and Use and Socio-Economic Studies.

Table 2.6-4: Comments, Questions and Responses from Lac Seul First Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
TK and TLU information Human and ecological health	During engagement with Indigenous communities, the concerns about existing conditions of mental health and well-being in the communities was frequently raised.	In response to this feedback, FMG has developed a draft Health and Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3), elements of which are included in mitigation measures for potential social and economic effects including Section 6.20.4. The Strategy responds to what FMG has heard, including that northern-focused health & wellness support is crucial to improving employment participation, creating a mental health-conscious workplace; and enabling the Project, local people, and communities to thrive. The approach necessitates more than standard corporate occupational health and wellness policies and programs. It requires tailored health and wellness approaches, services and programs, in coordination with health service providers, that address the holistic needs of northern people and communities participating in the mining industry.
TK and TLU information Traditional land and resource use	LSFN have experienced a declining availability of previously harvested species and have diminished confidence in the edibility of some catches.	During construction, operations and active closure, water collection ditches will be constructed to collect and control all contact water from the stockpiles, CDF, and plant site areas. Collected water that is not recycled, in ore processing will be treated at the effluent treatment plant and the treated effluent be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with final permitting requirements. The minor changes in surface water quality have been included in the HEHRA (Appendix R), and the Project will not result in a change to ecological health.
TK and TLU Information/ Traditional Land and Resource Use	LSFN requested clarification on how the TK/TLU information was used to inform the EIS/EA.	TK/TLU information received from Indigenous communities has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the VCs selected for assessment as shown in Section 6.21 (Table 6.21-12). In some cases, the assessment of a VC has been modified to include areas of interest expressed by Indigenous communities such as the inclusion of mental health and well-being in Section 6.19 and Section 6.20. In addition, the description of the existing conditions for each VC, includes a description of TK/TLU that is relevant to the VC, and is considered in the assessment and selection of mitigation and monitoring.

2.6.1.5 Slate Falls Nation

FMG initiated Project consultation with SFN in July 2017 and SFN and FMG have been engaging regarding the Project since. FMG has shared information with SFN on the EA milestones as described below, as well as received valuable input from SFN that has incorporated into the final EIS/EA. FMG has considered comments shared, and where appropriate, incorporated into the final EIS/EA, as described in Table 2.6-6. FMG has received a TK/TLU Study as well as a Socioeconomic Baseline Study from SFN for consideration in Project planning. FMG and SFN are discussing a workplan to support their ongoing review of the Project and participation in the regulatory process. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to SFN organized by key EA milestone. Additional engagement relevant to SFN, but undertaken via the STPN, is presented above in the STPN Section. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and SFN up to June 30, 2024.

The key topics of interest identified by SFN to date include Project components including the transmission line routes, downstream water quality, social aspects, employment and training, fish habitat, and wildlife. Comments from SFN and FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-6 and Appendix C.

Table 2.6-5: Summary of Key Engagement with Slate Falls Nation

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
February 20, 2018	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in SFN to introduce the Project and environmental baseline work done to date. The main topics presented included a Project overview, Springpole update and economic impacts, and 2018 environmental field studies.
April 24, 2018	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in SFN to present a Project update, an overview of the provincial and federal environmental assessment process, consultation methods and processes, TK integration, 2018 Field Studies, draft Terms of Reference, and the alternatives assessment.
October 24, 2018	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in SFN to provide an overview of the Project, including the environmental assessment process and associated consultation processes, environmental baseline studies completed and proposed, as well as the Terms of Reference and alternatives assessment.
May 3, 2019	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in SFN to present an overview of the Project, the environmental assessment process and Terms of Reference, as well as present the environmental baseline study results to date.
December 11, 2019	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in SFN to provide updates on the Project, including the draft Terms of Reference. FMG presented an update and overview of the Project, proposed consultation methods and plans, the environmental baseline studies completed to date, and alternative methods
June – December 2021	Document Review: Baseline Studies	FMG provided SFN the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input on June 18, 2021. FMG also provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming baseline studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. SFN provided FMG with their technical comments on the baseline studies on October 12, 2021. FMG and CLFN held multiple technical meetings to discuss and resolve comments. FMG provided responses to the technical comments on November 29, 2021. FMG and SFN held additional technical meetings to discuss and resolve comments in December 2021.
August – December 2021	Technical Review Meetings: Baseline Studies	FMG met with SFN to discuss comments on the baseline studies, workplans for future years, and how they have been adjusted to address SFN comments.
October 1, 2021	Document provided for review: Preliminary Alternatives Assessment	FMG provided SFN with a preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive written feedback from SFN on these tables.
November 4, 2021	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in SFN to present an overview of the Project, baseline studies methods and results to date, and the alternatives assessment.
December 3, 2021	Notice of Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
May – June 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to SFN. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.
December 15, 2023	Document provided for review: Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples	FMG emailed SFN and provided the Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. FMG did not receive feedback from SFN on this table and another opportunity to review will be provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, Co-disposal facility Optimization, Environmental Assessment Progress, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
January 19, 2024	Workshop: Fish and Fish Habitat	FMG held a workshop with community members including leadership, as well as SFNs advisors and consultants. SFN shared valuable feedback on the FHOCP, that FMG has incorporated into the final EIS/EA.
April – June 2024	Document Review: Draft EIS/EA	SFN emailed FMG on April 1, 2024, providing a cover letter and technical review comments on the draft EIS/EA. Over 70 comments and questions were provided across various topics on the draft EIS/EA. On May 8, 2024, FMG provided responses to the comments received on the draft EIS/EA. On May 31, 2024, SFN emailed FMG providing the SFN evaluation of FMG's responses and following a series of meetings, FMG provided responses on August 28, 2024.
May 3, 2024	SFN Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use and Socioeconomic Report	SFN emailed FMG a copy of SFN's Health, Socioeconomic, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Baseline Study for use in the final EIS/EA.
June 11, 2024	Technical Review Meeting: Draft EIS/EA and Caribou	FMG and SFN met to discuss draft EIS/EA comments and FMGs responses regarding the effects assessment of Caribou.
June 12, 2024	Technical Review Meeting: Draft EIS/EA and Alternatives Assessment	FMG and SFN met to review the approach to assessing Project alternatives and summarize the results of the assessment of alternatives, specifically related to the access road and transmission line routes.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities related to SFN. This includes discussions related to potential preferred consultation approach; communications related to open calls for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions or other in-person engagement such as site tours.

Since 2017, FMG has been working with SFN leadership to develop community consultation processes and provide capacity support for substantial and meaningful participation in the Project.

FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with SFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones.

- February 20, 2018 – to introduce the Project and environmental baseline work done to date. The main topics presented included a Project overview, Springpole update and economic impacts, and 2018 environmental field studies. The meeting consisted of a power point presentation and printed maps. Open discussion and questions were encouraged from community members. Community members asked questions about the Project description, potential jobs, environmental monitoring and the potential impact on cultural heritage features on the landscape. Questions were either answered at the meeting or a commitment was made in the ToR.
- April 24, 2018 – to present a Project update, an overview of the provincial and federal EA process, consultation methods and processes, TK integration, 2018 Field Studies, draft ToR, and the alternatives assessment. The meeting consisted of a presentation and an open forum to encourage participation from community members. After the presentation there was opportunity for open discussion with a question-and-answer period. Community members asked questions about land tenure, environmental monitoring and the Project description. Questions were either answered at the meeting or a commitment was made in the ToR.
- October 24, 2018 - to provide an overview of the Project, including the EA process and associated consultation processes, environmental baseline studies completed and proposed, as well as the ToR and alternatives assessment. The meeting included a presentation, animation video, and an open forum for discussion on the materials and to answer any questions from the community. The questions asked and comments made at the meeting were regarding the timeline of the Project, consultation methods and processes, potential jobs and employment opportunities, and the Project description. Questions were either answered at the meeting or a commitment was made in the ToR.
- May 3, 2019 - to present an overview of the Project, the EA process and ToR, as well as present the environmental baseline study results to date. The meeting included a presentation, animation video, and an open forum for discussion on the materials and to answer any questions from the community. The intention of this meeting was to ask the community how they would like to be consulted with and seek guidance from SFN. Various questions were asked, primarily about the Project components and methods. Community members asked about how the environment would be protected, including related to fish and water quality, as well as related to the Project components and timelines. FMG answered the questions at the meeting or committed to addressing them in the EA.

- December 11, 2019 - to provide updates on the Project, including the draft ToR. FMG presented an update and overview of the Project, proposed consultation methods and plans, the environmental baseline studies completed to date, and alternative methods. Community members asked questions about the timeline and Project description, as well as number of questions and comments related to water management and concerns related to how the environment will be protected. FMG answered the questions at the meeting or committed to addressing them in the EA.
- November 4, 2021 - to present an overview of the Project, baseline studies methods and results to date, and the alternatives assessment. The posters for the meetings were provided by FMG in advance to advertise the meetings. This provided an opportunity for FMG to present Project information and gather community feedback on the Project, specifically on the existing environmental baseline data and the alternative assessments for the Project. A series of poster boards and handouts were also setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and Project components and methods alternatives. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures, and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. In general, comments and questions were regarding the Project components design and future opportunities and were answered at the meeting.

On May 25, 2018, FMG met with SFN, CLFN and the MNRF to discuss land use planning and implementation. There was discussion regarding the EA process for Springpole and that the CLFN Land Use Planning Committee would like to be kept up to date with the EA process. There was also discussion regarding the ability of the committee to provide TK and TLU information to FMG and to help FMG with information on heritage and cultural sites.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, most communication related to consultation processes and capacity support for SFN were done through the STPN and are summarized in the STPN Section above.

In addition, the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 impacted in-person Project consultation and engagement, with FMG limiting communications during this period to respect community priorities.

FMG met with SFN Lands and Resources Representatives to discuss consultation methods and opportunities amidst the global pandemic on April 29, 2020. It was noted that the STPN did not select any dates for rescheduling meetings. FMG met again with the SFN Lands and Resources representative on May 20, 2020, to provide a Project and ToR update. They discussed how FMG could continue providing the community updates/engagement and exchange of information about the Project during COVID-19 and FMG asked if there are any resources FMG can provide to SFN.

On July 23, 2020, LSFN, SFN, MON and FMG met to discuss the process for engagement moving forward.

On February 22, 2022, FMG emailed SFN to follow up on a local teacher who brought students to attend the Community Information Session on November 4, 2021, and inquire if any of the students were interested in any follow-up information or a virtual presentation. FMG noted that there might be able to support these initiatives.

Through March and April of 2022, correspondence was carried out through the STPN as described in Section 2.6.1.2. FMG and the STPN commenced conversations regarding capacity support for review of the draft EIS/EA.

FMG met with the STPN on January 6, 2023, to discuss their priorities including the Community Consultation Process, the Cat Lake Road Project, and mental health and addictions. FMG expressed openness and willingness to support community initiatives as well as their participation in the EA process.

SFN sent a letter to FMG on November 30, 2023, outlining the points discussed during a previous meeting related to the STPN's Community Consultation Process, noting that SFN would not be working collaboratively with CLFN and LSFN (as the SPTN) on the draft EIS/EA review, TK/TLU study or socioeconomic baseline study. SFN also provided a letter noting new consultants that would be representing SFN. FMG responded acknowledging SFN's decision and expressed willingness to work towards a Community Consultation Process for SFN and confirmed that FMG would provide reasonable funding for SFN's review of the draft EIS/EA, TK/TLU and socioeconomic baseline study. FMG requested a meeting with the consultant undertaking the TK/TLU and socioeconomic studies to provide any additional information needed for the studies.

On February 14, 2024, FMG emailed SFN thanking them for a phone call and to propose a meeting with SFN for February 15, 2024, for further discussion. FMG emphasized its dedication to collaboration and information sharing regarding the proposed transmission line route and exploration agreement, building on the discussions from the previous week's meeting. FMG suggested the possibility of scheduling weekly or bi-weekly meetings with SFN to explore ongoing Project activities, fostering a platform for questions and discussions. On February 22, 2024, SFN provided a summary of the discussion held during the meeting the week February 12 regarding engagement processes, Cat Lake Road, the STPN Community Consultation Process, transmission line, the EIS/EA, exploration, permitting, alternatives assessment, Caribou, and recreational and commercial activities. FMG responded on February 23, 2024, thanking SFN for taking the time to provide detailed feedback regarding the Project and confirmed FMG's commitment to taking the review the feedback, assuring SFN that all aspects would be addressed during the upcoming meeting at the 2024 PDAC Convention on March 4. FMG attached an email exchange from August 16, 2021, between the former STPN SEC and the MECP which confirmed the SEC's satisfaction with the ToR prior to approval for reference to the new advisors. On March 1, 2024, SFN informed FMG by email that SFN would not be meeting with FMG as scheduled on March 4. as SFN was awaiting a response regarding the funding details that had been provided to date to the other communities, and further information regarding the transmission line route. On March 8, 2024, FMG emailed SFN requesting a meeting the week of April 1, 2024, considering that the meeting with SFN at the 2024 PDAC convention had been cancelled by SFN.

On April 3, 2024, FMG met with SFN to discuss the workplan for Community Consultation, including the next steps for SFN environmental review process and process around ongoing exploration and environmental work at the Project site.

Throughout May, June and July, FMG and SFN corresponded several times about the workplan for the Community Consultation Process with FMG seeking clarification on SFN's proposed process, workplan, budget and how it can be coordinated with the federal and provincial EA processes. FMG continued to offer meetings and interim capacity support to be supportive to the community's process and continued participation in the EIS/EA including meetings to discuss responses provided to SFN comments on the draft EIS/EA and on-going information sharing as new information was being developed through the final EIS/EA preparation. SFN accepted two meeting opportunities in June but declined additional meetings and on-going information sharing in lead up to the final EIS/EA and declined the additional capacity funding to support such engagement during that time. From August through October 2024 SFN and FMG held several meetings together with the goal of establishing the path forward on the next steps for community consultation.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to SFN related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with SFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On September 25, 2017, FMG sent a letter to SFN to update the community on the Project Preliminary Economic Assessment News release.

As described above, FMG held multiple Community Information Sessions with SFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones.

On May 25, 2018, FMG met with SFN, CLFN and the MNRF to discuss land use planning and implementation. There was discussion regarding the EA process for Springpole and that the CLFN Land Use Planning Committee would like to be kept up to date with the EA process. There was also discussion regarding the ability of the committee to provide TK and TLU information to FMG and to help FMG with information on heritage and cultural sites.

Throughout November 2018, FMG communicated with SFN about a date for the next potential Community Information Session. It was determined to be December 12, 2018; however, the meeting was later cancelled by the community. On December 13, 2018, FMG had an informal dinner with the Chief in Sioux Lookout.

In January 2019, FMG continued to reach out to schedule meetings to discuss the Project.

SFN and FMG met on April 29, 2020, FMG met briefly with the SFN Lands and Resources representative. to follow up on the STPN meeting on April 28, 2020. SFN noted that the STPN did not select any dates for rescheduling the meeting, the communities are working on meeting internally first. FMG and SFN discussed how FMG can continue meetings, engagement and sharing of information during the global pandemic.

May 20, 2020, FMG met with the SFN Lands and Resources representative to provide a Project and ToR update. They discussed how FMG could continue providing the community updates/engagement and exchange of information about the Project during COVID-19 and FMG asked if there are any resources FMG can provide to SFN.

On June 15, 2021, FMG informed SFN a newsletter for the Project was being finalized and requested feedback on the best way to distribute the newsletter to SFN community members at that time. On June 16, SFN responded and requested that the newsletter be posted on the SFN Facebook page and put into community members' mailboxes. FMG noted this and informed SFN that it would send them the newsletter in the coming days.

FMG followed up with SFN on September 17, 2021, to ask if they had any feedback on the transmission line routes map previously provided. FMG attached another figure that included four routes being considered and asked SFN if they had any insights or sensitivities in the area. FMG stated it was planning to present the route options in the meeting planned for the next week and requested information in advance of this meeting.

Between July and November 2021, FMG and the STPN engaged in ongoing coordination to organize Community Information Sessions with SFN.

On November 22, 2021, FMG asked a teacher from SFN who attended the Community Information Session with their students if they were interested in any follow up information or a virtual presentation. FMG noted that if there were special projects or events being worked on, FMG may be able to support those initiatives. FMG did not receive a response.

On November 23, 2021, FMG informed the Chief of SFN that it is beginning the provincial EA process for the Project, and a Notice of Commencement would be published in the Sioux Lookout Bulletin.

On November 23, 2021, FMG and the SFN representative on the STPN SEC discussed power options for the Project, the Notice of Commencement and contact information for the principal of Bimaychikamah School. FMG sent the SFN representative on the STPN SEC an email notifying that they may hear from Wataynikaneyap Power regarding a planned study in relation to Springpole power requirements.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to SFN via email on December 3, 2021.

A vast amount of general Project information sharing with SFN from 2021 to 2023 occurred through the STPN and therefore is described in the Section 2.6.1.2.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

FMG and LSFN engaged in substantial discussions throughout the ToR process, meeting a total of 11 times from the Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process in August 2018 and the submission of the draft amended ToR in April 2021 that resulted in updates to the ToR. SFN, as part of the STPN, provided comments and FMG provided responses on the draft amended ToR.

As described above, FMG held multiple Community Information Sessions with SFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the ToR process.

On February 26, 2020, FMG mailed a hard copy of draft of the ToR to SFN for review.

On August 17, 2020, FMG provided hard and electronic copies of the final ToR to SFN.

On September 22, 2020, SFN and FMG met to provide a Project update and discuss capacity support for review of the draft ToR. On September 25 and October 21, 2020, FMG followed up with SFN via phone call regarding the ToR review. SFN noted that they were looking for a consultant to review the draft ToR. On November 15, 2020, SFN Chief and Council met with FMG to discuss review of the draft ToR and capacity support. On November 20, 2020, FMG emailed SFN to inquire if SFN had any comments on the draft ToR and provided the comment deadline.

FMG provided SFN with a Notice of Intent to submit amended ToR on December 18, 2020. FMG followed up on January 8, 2021, to provide an opportunity to review the draft amended ToR. The review of the draft amended ToR by SFN was undertaken as part of the STPN, and therefore more information is available in Section2.6.1.2.

On April 6, 2021, FMG emailed CLFN, SFN and the MECP requesting a joint discussion regarding the Project's timelines and amended ToR and indicated that FMG would contact the MECP about arranging this discussion. FMG suggested discussion regarding setting up the SEC in collaboration with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

On April 21, 2021, the Chief of CLFN and FMG had a phone call to discuss the draft amended ToR and how the establishment of the SEC could be advanced. FMG emailed Chief of CLFN summarizing the phone call held earlier that day. FMG provided a set of commitments to be made by FMG that would be inserted into

the final amended ToR for the Chief's review. FMG noted that it would also be following up to restart the work on establishing the SEC. FMG also noted that the Economic Development Officer of Sioux Lookout and another consultant could proceed to help coordinate the process of establishing the SEC between CLFN, LSFN and SFN.

Engagement and consultation on the ToR with CLFN were carried out through the STPN; these consultation activities and outcomes are described in Section 2.6.1.2.

As noted above, on July 28, 2021, the STPN emailed FMG with proposed revisions to the amended ToR which were incorporated into the final approved ToR. STPN SEC responded to FMG's responses to their comments on the ToR inquiring what process will be implemented to track that FMG's responses to the SEC's comment are fulfilled during the EA. FMG replied stating that a concordance table will be included in the EA. STPN SEC responded stating this is satisfactory. The ToR was approved on November 8, 2021. On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with LSFN and the STPN Environment Committee Coordinator. On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with SFN and the STPN.

Baseline Studies

SFN has been engaged in the baseline studies for the Project since 2017 by reviewing and providing input on workplans and permits, participating in field studies as well as completing technical reviews of reports documenting the method and results of the studies. FMG has welcomed members from SFN at the Project site to participate and/or oversee field studies, as well as for site tours.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with SFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including baseline studies.

SFN and FMG met on September 22, 2020, to discuss baseline report review and capacity support funding for the review workplan in Section 2.6.1.1 and 2.6.1.2

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly community bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. As described in Section 2.6.1.1, On June 18, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

FMG emailed a letter to the Chief and the STPN on November 6, 2023, inviting community members to a workshop on the FHOCP. The purpose of the workshop was to present information on the options proposed in the draft FHOCP and discuss new potential offsetting options and answer questions on existing studies and plans. The communities were invited to share knowledge, comments and questions on the options and bring forward potential new ideas to be considered in developing the updated FHOCP. The workshop was proposed for December 6, 2023, in Thunder Bay and FMG offered support and funding for the logistics. FMG followed up to the invitation on November 15, 2023, and requested a response before November 17. FMG requested confirmation on November 20, 2023, and November 23, 2023, that SFN would attend the workshop and on November 24, 2023, FMG cancelled the workshop due to the lack of response expressing interest in the opportunity and FMG stated it would aim to provide another opportunity in 2024. FMG followed-up with SFN on April 16, 2024 to offer the workshop again.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Studies

Throughout the EA process, FMG and SFN held conversations during which FMG encouraged the community to undertake TK/TLU studies and FMG reached out through email and phone calls with SFN inquiring about their interest in conducting TK/TLU studies. Since the submission of the draft EIS/EA, SFN has provided their TK/TLU study, which is discussed further in the Post-Draft EIS/EA Submission Section below.

On May 25, 2018, FMG met with CLFN, SFN and the MNRF to discuss land use planning and implementation. There was discussion regarding the EA process for Springpole and that the CLFN Land Use Planning Committee would like to be kept up to date with the EA process. There was also discussion regarding the ability of the committee to provide TK and TLU information to FMG and to help FMG with information on heritage and cultural sites.

SFN and FMG met on September 22, 2020, to discuss SFN's interest in TK/TLU studies and capacity support for these studies. FMG provided SFN with further information about funding for the TK/TLU Studies the next day.

In July 2021, FMG and the SEC corresponded regarding the Cat Lake – Slate Falls Community Based Land Use Plan (July 2011) and FMG was able to obtain the files and appendices related to this for consideration in the Project planning.

On January 14, 2022, FMG asked SFN again if they would be interested in working together to identify TK/TLU Information as part of the EA process. FMG indicated its willingness to fund supplemental TK/TLU work through a specialized consultant to better understand how the Project area is used by SFN. FMG proposed discussing this opportunity at the convenience of SFN.

Much of the discussion related to TK/TLU studies for SFN prior to the draft EIS/EA occurred as part of the communication with the STPN and is described more in the STPN Section above.

Assessment of Alternatives

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with SFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including Assessment of Alternatives.

On January 8, 2021, FMG circulated a draft list of VCs as part of the draft amended ToR. The preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment were also included in the draft amended ToR for review. The consultation that occurred through the ToR process, including related to the VCs, criteria and indicators, is described in the ToR Section above. Also, FMG shared Project factsheets describing VCs, available on the Project website.

In 2021, FMG also shared Project factsheets with SFN describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs which were also available on the Project website.

On October 1, 2021, FMG provided the SEC with the preliminary assessment of alternatives for their review and requested their feedback. More information related to this review is provided in section 2.6.1.2.

FMG emailed SFN on July 29, 2021, to request a call to discuss the concern and to share a figure of power route alternatives. On September 17, 2021, FMG followed up with SFN to inquire about whether SFN had any comments on the figure of power (transmission line) route alternatives and about the September 6, 2021, Community Information Session in SFN, requesting any feedback before this meeting. On September 30, 2021, FMG followed up again to ask if SFN had any feedback on the figure of power route alternatives.

FMG attached another figure that included four routes being considered and asked SFN if they have any insights or sensitivities in the area. FMG was planning to present the route options in the meeting next week and requested information in advance of this meeting. FMG discussed the alternative assessment during a meeting in SFN on November 4, 2021. On December 3, 2021, FMG asked SFN about their preferences for the transmission line route options for the Project and requested a call to discuss the following week. On December 13, 2021, FMG asked SFN for a meeting date in January to discuss the transmission line route alternatives for the Project. FMG emailed SFN again on April 1, 2022, asking to set up a meeting to better understand SFN's views on the transmission line route options. Consultation and engagement with SFN on the transmission line routes continued as part of the draft EIS/EA review described below.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to SFN related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This section summarizes general consultation activities with the SFN after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

For SFN, a vast amount of general Project information sharing in 2021 through 2023 occurred through the STPN and therefore is described in Section 2.6.1.2.

FMG emailed SFN representatives on July 30, 2022, offering to provide an update on the Project and informed SFN that FMG is planning to visit SFN in September to get to know the area with SFN's experience and perspective.

FMG emailed the STPN Chiefs on April 11, 2023, directly providing the sixth issue of the Springpole quarterly newsletter; acknowledging comments from SFN about the Nation not being aware of activities at Springpole and trying to distribute more information. FMG noted that the newsletter was being translated to Ojibwe and it would follow up to start scheduling dates for another site tour. The next official site tour with members of SFN was held in 2024, as described below.

On May 4, 2023, FMG emailed SFN providing a hyperlink to the Springpole Project video with subtitles translated to Ojibway. FMG provided a reminder to SFN that draft EIS/EA documents are included in the same hyperlink. FMG once again invited questions or comments about the Project and offered to present the video at an in-person meeting.

FMG met with SFN on February 7, 2024, where SFN provided feedback on proposed video edits.

On April 3, 2024, FMG emailed SFN providing an update on the re-routing of the transmission line. FMG requested review and comments from SFN to ensure FMG captures all necessary comments and concerns.

On April 3, 2024, in response to feedback received from SFN, FMG confirmed that the edits to the Project video have been completed and provided a hyperlink to the video. On June 18, 2024, FMG emailed a SFN community member providing a link to a webinar that FMG's CEO participated in providing information on the Project's permitting process.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

SFN and FMG have been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022. FMG has received a comprehensive review of the draft EIS/EA from SFN and provided opportunities to discuss key comments with SFN as described below.

FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to provide the understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to the communities. FMG emailed SFN on June 30, 2022, offering to provide an update on the Project and informed SFN that FMG is seeking to visit SFN in September to get to know the area from SFN's experience and perspective.

On September 29, 2022, FMG provided an invitation to a series of five virtual public presentations on the Springpole Gold Project and its draft EIS/EA to be held in October. The five presentation themes would be: water resources, fish and fish habitat, human environment, terrestrial environment, and atmospheric environment. The invitation noted that the sessions would include a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period with WSP (on behalf of FMG). The invitation was sent to the Project contact list. On October 13, 2022, SFN requested copies of the technical presentations on the draft EIS/EA being given at the webinars. On October 14, 2022, On November 14, 2022, FMG provided SFN with hyperlinks to the recorded draft EIS/EA presentations.

On May 4, 2023, FMG emailed SFN providing a hyperlink to the Project video with subtitles translated to Ojibway. FMG provided a reminder to SFN that draft EIS/EA documents are included in the same hyperlink. FMG once again invited questions or comments about the Project and offered to present the video at an in-person meeting.

FMG emailed the STPN Chiefs on April 11, 2023, directly providing the sixth issue of the Springpole quarterly newsletter; acknowledging comments from SFN about the Nation not being aware of activities at Springpole and trying to distribute more information. FMG noted that the newsletter was being translated to Ojibwe and it would follow up to start scheduling dates for a June site tour. The next official site tour with members of SFN was held in 2024, as described below. Following this, on May 4, 2023, FMG emailed SFN providing a hyperlink to the Springpole Project video with subtitles translated to Ojibwe. FMG also informed SFN that draft EIS/EA documents are included in the same hyperlink. FMG invited questions or comments about the Project and offered to present the video at an in-person meeting.

Between December 11, 2023, and January 18, 2024, FMG emailed SFN to provide updates related to monthly bulletin to be shared with community members that summarized water management and treatment proposed for the Project; provided links to the draft EIS/EA (English and Ojibwe), the EIS/EA website and the draft EIS/EA Summary Materials and Presentations page; and letters regarding the establishment of the IGTRB. On February 20, 2024, FMG and SFN emailed to correspond about booking a meeting room during the PDAC convention to discuss SFN's TK study and SFN's review of the EIS/EA. On March 8, 2024, FMG emailed SFN requesting a meeting the week of April 1, 2024, as the tentative meeting with SFN at the 2024 PDAC convention was cancelled by SFN.

On January 24, 2024, SFN emailed FMG requesting shapefile maps that illustrate the proposed alternative routes for the mine access road and transmission line that SFN could use to develop customized maps for use in their studies. FMG advised that it would provide the requested shapefile maps and requested to

choose a date for the proposed upcoming meeting with the environmental technical consultants. On January 26, 2024, FMG provided the requested shapefile maps, and the sections from the EIS/EA Alternatives Assessment containing the rationale for the proposed road and transmission line route options together with the corresponding maps. FMG requested to meet virtually or in person with SFN to discuss the proposed options and for SFN to provide feedback.

On March 13, 2024, in response to an email from FMG on March 11, 2024, SFN informed FMG that SFN's draft EIS/EA comments are tentatively scheduled to be submitted to FMG by the end of March. SFN also noted their intention of arranging a meeting to review the comments. On March 22, 2023, SFN informed FMG that SFN anticipated providing the draft EIS/EA review and the TK/TLU and Socioeconomic studies the week of April 1, 2024. SFN requested that FMG provide the information regarding the alterations to the transmission line route. FMG replied providing information regarding the proposed transmission line route on April 3, 2024.

SFN emailed FMG on April 1, 2024, to provide the communities' technical review of the draft EIS/EA and requested that FMG call with any questions. Over 70 comments and questions across various topics were provided on the draft EIS/EA. FMG replied and noted that it would propose a meeting time to discuss comments. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA, is provided in Appendix C.

On April 4, 2024, FMG emailed SFN providing a tentative date of May 3, 2024, for a Caribou workshop in SFN. FMG indicated that the workshop would discuss the Caribou monitoring program and proposed habitat off-setting measures, seeking input from community members and land users. Throughout April, FMG corresponded with the SFN representative to try and organize the Caribou workshop.

On April 16, 2024, in response to an email from SFN dated April 1, 2024, FMG proposed a series of meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA review and comments/responses. FMG also offered to arrange an in-person meeting in Winnipeg or Thunder Bay in addition to the virtual meetings. On April 17, 2024, SFN advised that availability for the series of virtual meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA review and the responses to the comments would be forthcoming. On April 29, 2024, FMG requested an update on availability for sessions on the draft EIS/EA technical review.

On May 3, 2024, SFN emailed FMG requesting that detailed responses to the comments on the draft EIS/EA must be reviewed by SFN prior to scheduling the series of meeting required to discuss all topics (Project design and fish, surface water quality, atmospheric/human & ecological health, and terrestrial & TK/TLU). SFN requested that FMG submit responses by May 10, 2024, so SFN may be ready to meet with FMG the week of May 20, 2024.

FMG emailed SFN on May 8, 2024, providing the STPN draft EIS/EA review comment responses.

On May 13, 2024, in response to an email from SFN on April 30, 2024, FMG requested a response regarding SFN's interest in participating in the eDNA fish sampling program happening the week of May 20, 2024. FMG requested a confirmation of attendance by May 15, 2024, as lodging and travel needed to be booked. On May 15, 2024, SFN emailed FMG declining participation in eDNA sampling for Lake Sturgeon at that time. SFN mentioned concerns about a re-introduction of Lake Sturgeon in SFN. SFN informed FMG that SFN would like to be involved early in the planning and implementation of environmental monitoring programs. SFN informed FMG that water quality is the primary concern for SFN and SFN is interested in having more conversation about taking part in water studies in the future.

On May 14, 2024, in response to an email from SFN on May 3, 2024, FMG emailed SFN providing responses to comments shared from SFN on the Project draft EIS/EA. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C. FMG requested confirmation of meeting every Wednesday starting on May 15, 2024, and would send out calendar invitations upon confirmation. In response, SFN emailed FMG on May 15, 2024, confirming meeting dates would be forthcoming. FMG replied, requesting confirmation as to whether the eDNA study on site would occur. FMG requested a confirmation by end of day May 15 as the spawning window for Lake Sturgeon would be closing. On May 17, 2024, FMG emailed SFN indicating that the eDNA study (to identify if Lake Sturgeon were present) would be cancelled since SFN did not want to participate. FMG advised that the eDNA study was first identified as a study of interest by SFN in the FHOCP workshop held in Thunder Bay on January 19, 2024, and SFN had expressed interest in doing the eDNA study at that time. FMG informed SFN that the next downstream sampling event is scheduled between May 21 and June 3, 2024, and could have an SFN member participate.

On May 22, 2024, in response to an email from SFN on May 15, 2024, FMG emailed SFN requesting a follow-up to schedule the technical meeting series to begin on May 29, 2024. SFN replied informing FMG that SFN's response regarding availability for scheduling the first meeting would be forthcoming and that they were looking to schedule technical meeting series beginning the week of June 3, 2024. In response FMG emailed SFN on May 23, 2024, requesting to set up the first of the technical meeting series on either June 3 or June 7, 2024. FMG recommended starting the meeting agenda with comments and questions related to the Project overview and description. SFN replied informing FMG that availability for a meeting would be forthcoming. SFN informed FMG that SFN would develop agendas for the meeting series.

On May 27, 2024, in response to an email from SFN on May 23, 2024, FMG emailed SFN requesting an update on availability for the technical meeting series and proposed agenda.

On May 31, 2024, in response to an email from FMG on May 3, 2024, SFN emailed FMG providing the SFN evaluation of FMG's responses to the SFN comments on the draft EIS/EA. A cover letter was included that outlined the key areas where SFN was seeking more information, and meetings were proposed for June 11 and 12. A table of the comments, responses and additional follow-up questions was provided that covered various topics on the draft EIS/EA. In response, FMG organized these meetings, as described below.

FMG and SFN met on June 11, 2024, to discuss draft EIS/EA comments and FMG's responses regarding the effects assessment of Caribou. FMG provided an update on ongoing field work, data collection and how the data would be incorporated in the final EIS/EA—and a discussion was held on the results of the Caribou telemetry program, trends in Caribou populations as well as potential Caribou habitat compensation and offsetting measures.

On June 12, 2024, FMG and SFN met to review the approach to assessing Project alternatives and summarize the results of the assessment of alternatives. FMG gave a presentation, which was followed by a discussion on the assessment of the access road as well as mine rock and tailings storage alternatives. Questions were asked by SFN regarding the co-disposal of mine rock and tailings, alternatives assessment methods and the IGTRB. FMG provided answers and offered to hold additional meetings on other topics.

FMG emailed SFN on June 21, 2024, providing the presentation material for the draft EIS/EA review of Caribou meeting. As a follow-up to the June 11 and 12 discussions, FMG offered a meeting to discuss the engineering design of the CDF on July 8 or 10, 2024 and inquired about other relevant discussion topics. FMG suggested a site tour by SFN for the week of July 14, 2024, subject to their availability.

On June 27, 2024, in follow up to an email from FMG on June 21, 2024, FMG emailed SFN requesting confirmation on a meeting date to discuss the engineering design of the CDF and site tour. SFN replied to FMG informing them that meetings would not be scheduled until SFN's internal meeting on July 3, 2024. SFN informed FMG that confirmation of the continuance of meetings to discuss draft EIS/EA comments would be forthcoming. FMG replied to SFN informing them that FMG awaited a response.

Baseline Studies (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

Since submission of the draft EIS/EA, SFN has been engaged in the baseline studies for the Project by reviewing and providing input on workplans and permits, participating in field studies, as well as completing technical reviews of reports documenting the method and results of the studies. FMG has welcomed members from SFN at the Project site to participate and/or oversee field studies, as well as for site tours.

On January 11, 2023, FMG emailed SFN informing them of the upcoming Caribou study in the Project area that would be conducted from January 25 to February 10. FMG provided SFN with details on what the study would entail and attached a map of the Project location for reference. FMG did not receive a response from SFN regarding this program.

FMG emailed the STPN communities on April 17, 2023, regarding participating in the 2023 Stage 2 archaeology program and Lake Sturgeon eDNA Study. The communications related to this are described further in section 2.6.1.2.

On September 12, 2023, FMG invited up to six SFN members to participate in an upcoming archaeological study. FMG continued to follow up about this opportunity on September 18 and 25 and on October 10, 2023. SFN provided an update on October 19, 2023, that an SFN member would not be attending the visit. SFN requested details of the previous correspondence to provide to Chief and Council. FMG thanked SFN for taking time for the call and confirmed that details of the correspondence would be forwarded. Ultimately, SFN chose not to participate in this opportunity due to ongoing internal discussions between communities.

FMG emailed a letter to the Chiefs and the STPN on November 6, 2023, inviting their communities to a workshop on the FHOCP. The purpose of the workshop was to present information on the options proposed in the draft FHOCP and discuss new potential offsetting options and answer questions on existing studies and plans. The communities were invited to share knowledge, comments and questions on the options and bring forward potential new ideas to be considered in developing the updated FHOCP. The workshop was proposed for December 6, 2023, in Thunder Bay and FMG offered support and funding for the logistics. FMG followed up with SFN on December 14, 2023, to invite traditional land users from SFN to attend a collaborative workshop on January 19, 2024, in Thunder Bay regarding the FHOCP and provided details on the workshop and an agenda. The workshop was held as scheduled with 10 community members including leadership, as well as SFN advisors and consultants. SFN shared constructive feedback on the FHOCP, that FMG has incorporated into the final EIS/EA (Appendix F).

SFN requested a copy of the SEC review of the EIS/EA. FMG responded on December 6 and 7, 2023 and provided historical documents including a table of comments shared from the SEC on the baseline studies, including FMG's responses to the comments, as well as the original AECOM review document and a document to help guide the TK and TLU studies. These were documents previously issued that were provided to SFN for reference for the new consultants on the Project. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

On December 14, 2023, FMG met with SFN and their new consultants to provide an overview of the Project and discuss their workplan for the draft EIS/EA review, TK/TLU Study and Socioeconomic Baseline Study. SFN noted they anticipate providing comments on the draft EIS/EA by the end of February 2024 and completed studies by end of March 2024. FMG followed up with the meeting attendees the same day and provided links to the draft EIS/EA, Summary Document (English and Ojibway), the EIS/EA website and the draft EIS/EA Summary Materials and Presentations page. FMG also provided two letters regarding the establishment of the IGTRB and six Community Bulletins that had been circulated in 2023. SFN consultant thanked FMG and requested the October newsletter and to be added to the monthly newsletter distribution list. FMG provided the October newsletter, as well as the March and July newsletters, and confirmed Odonaterra (SFN consultant) would be added to the distribution list.

FMG emailed SFN on December 15, 2023, providing a Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples draft table that outlines the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects as was planned to be presented in the final EIS/EA. FMG requested that SFN provide any comments or questions on the draft table by February 15, 2024, so that FMG can fully consider it, and have necessary follow-up discussions, in advance of the final EIS/EA. FMG offered to arrange a meeting to discuss and review the draft table. FMG did not receive feedback from SFN on this table and another opportunity to review will be provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.

On March 22, SFN informed FMG that SFN anticipated providing the draft EIS/EA review and the TK/TLU and socioeconomic studies the week of April 1, 2024. On April 9 and April 15, 2024, FMG emailed SFN requesting the TK/TLU study and Socioeconomic Baseline reports.

On April 30, 2024, FMG emailed explaining that based on feedback from SFN, an additional Lake Sturgeon eDNA baseline sampling program was proposed for the week of May 25, 2024. FMG provided details on the program and requested that SFN confirm their interest in participating. SFN replied informing FMG that further conversation regarding their availability would happen on May 1, 2024. In response, FMG emailed SFN on May 2, 2024, indicating that FMG would be available anytime on May 3, 2024, to discuss the eDNA sampling and proposed meeting schedule.

On May 3, 2024 FMG followed up on the previous offer for SFN community members' interest for participation in the eDNA study the week of May 20, 2024. FMG informed SFN the eDNA study proposed in response to interest expressed at the SFN fish and fish habitat workshop on January 19, 2024, was planned around the sturgeon spawning window, and if that window was missed, it would not be able to conduct the study again until 2025.

On May 3, 2024, SFN provided FMG a copy of SFN's Health, Socioeconomic, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Baseline Study. On May 5, 2024, FMG emailed SFN indicating that FMG would review the study shared by SFN and ask any questions in upcoming meetings. FMG has considered this study throughout the final EIS/EA.

SFN emailed FMG on December 22, 2024, requesting documentation related to the STPN SEC Vision document (described further in Section 2.6.1.2). FMG provided a copy of the STPN SEC Vision document and FMG's responses to the document that were previously provided to the community.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

FMG held several discussions with the STPN throughout regarding the development and sharing of TK/TLU studies which is described in the STPN Section above. Most discussions related to TK/TLU are included within the baseline studies subsection as most of the communications held regarding this topic also involved the socioeconomic baseline studies.

On May 6, 2024, a follow-up phone call between Trapline Holder SL194 and FMG was held based on a previous conversation on March 15, 2024. During the follow-up phone call on May 6, 2024, FMG scheduled a meeting with Trapline Holder SL194 on May 9, 2024, and May 10, 2024, to discuss the trapline, as well as visit the Sioux Lookout MNR office. Trapline Holder SL194 did not attend the May 9, 2024, meeting, and attempts by FMG to contact Trapline Holder SL194 on this day were unsuccessful.

On May 10, 2024, FMG communicated with a SFN community member regarding Trapline SL194 and offered to assist Trapline Holder 194 with the application for Trapline SL 194. Additionally, FMG texted Trapline Holder SL194 to reschedule the meeting. Trapline Holder SL194 responded on May 13, 2024, and inquired if they could reschedule the May 9, 2024, meeting to the week of May 20, 2024. Trapline Holder SL194 noted that the trapline licence renewal had not yet been applied for and that contact numbers were required for MNR. FMG provided the contact numbers for MNR. FMG also offered to reimburse Trapline Holder SL194 for the mandatory course for the licence. On May 14, 2024, Trapline Holder SL194 called FMG and advised that a member of the SFN had agreed to support Trapline Holder SL194 regarding the renewal of the trapline licence.

On May 3, 2024, SFN provided FMG a copy of SFN's Health, Socioeconomic, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Baseline Study. On May 5, 2024, FMG emailed SFN indicating that FMG would review the Health, Socioeconomic, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Baseline Study (also referred to ask the TK/TLU and Socioeconomic Baseline Study) shared by SFN and would ask any questions in upcoming meetings. FMG has considered this study throughout the final EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives	SFN requested that the transmission line routing (Alternative 3) selected in the draft EIS/EA be replaced with Alternative 1 to follow the existing E1C transmission line corridor through the northern portion of the SFN Reserve lands. Alternative 1 and Alternative 3 were both identified as the preferred alignment routes in the draft EIS/EA with an understanding that further engagement and discussion with SFN and others could result in optimizing the alignment. SFN shared land use value locations along the southern end of Alternative 3 and noted that following the existing E1C corridor was preferred over making a new corridor around the community.	Alternative 1 has been selected as the updated preferred alignment. In addition to selecting Alternative 1, the transmission line has been optimized to follow the mine access road more closely, thereby reducing the overall corridor width through this segment. Details on the transmission line are provided in Section 5.18.
Assessment of Alternatives	SFN requested more information on how FMG can prevent the south cell and north cell from mixing of potentially acid generating (PAG) and non-acid generating (NAG) mine rock piles.	The design of the CDF is described in Section 5.10, and in Appendix V, and involves co-locating the NAG tailings with the PAG mine rock in the north cell. The north cell will be maintained at an elevation above the south cell such that drainage will be from the north cell through the permeable internal dam into to the south cell by gravity.
Assessment of Alternatives	SFN provided comments during consultation and engagement on the assessment of alternatives.	These comments resulted in the following alternatives that were considered in the EIS/EA: • Potential use of renewable power sources (considered under power supply); • Dike locations; • Treated effluent discharge locations; and • Additional routing alternatives for the mine access road.
Assessment of Alternatives Local and regional, infrastructure and services	SFN expressed interest in transmission line alternatives, including the potential to increase power access opportunities for the community and to utilize the alternate route parallelling the existing E1C transmission line.	FMG has worked with SFN towards adjusting the transmission line route to pass through the SFN reserve lands along the existing E1C transmission line route which will continue to be the preferred route where SFN remains supportive.
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	SFN requested a summary of any data gaps, the rationale for the selection of monitoring sites and the adequacy of these sites to spatially characterize surface water quality.	The baseline surface water quality monitoring program has been ongoing since 2011 and is designed to be extensive and appropriate to inform the EIS/EA, encompassing a comprehensive network of sites strategically selected to capture spatial and temporal variations in water quality. This monitoring program will continue through life of mine and be adjusted as needed over time. To address the comments received, water quality monitoring continued through the submission of the draft EIS/EA resulting in an extensive baseline dataset covering and additional 3 years of data since the draft EIS/EA submission. More than 40 water quality stations have been monitored as part of the baseline program, with over 900 water quality samples having been collected. The monitoring program includes an extensive number of sites distributed across various water body types, including smaller sensitive lakes and tributaries and regional stations, to ensure representative sampling. These sites are carefully chosen to cover different ecological zones, flow regimes, and potential sources of interaction with the Project. Furthermore, the program accounts for seasonal variations by conducting sampling throughout the year, often monthly, capturing fluctuations in water quality associated with different hydrological conditions and climatic patterns. This approach allows to obtain a comprehensive understanding of baseline conditions to help assess potential impacts associated with the Project. Overall, the monitoring sites to characterize water quality spatially and temporally within the area is extensive. The updated baseline water quality samples have been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) and described in Section 6.6, Section 6.6.7, Section 6.8 and Section 6.9.
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	SFN requested additional water quality monitoring stations downstream of Project, and to address traditional land and resource activities.	The baseline surface water quality monitoring programs undertaken for the Project is comprehensive, spanning multiple years and covering all surface water bodies potentially affected by the Project, including those that may be utilized for traditional land and resource activities as described by TK/TLU studies. The surface water sampling program has been extended approximately 35 km downstream of the mine site, as previously requested by SFN in 2021 during the review of the initial baseline surface water monitoring reports. The 2022 Surface Water Quality Technical Workplans (Appendix W of the draft EIS/EA) incorporated feedback received from these Indigenous communities, and the results of this additional monitoring have been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3). FMG continues to be interested in establishing a monitoring committee with the community for all phases of the mine.
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	SFN requested additional monitoring sites for the small tributaries and lakes/ponds draining into the larger lakes.	Small inland lakes and tributaries have been characterized as part of the Baseline Aquatic Resources Reports (Appendix O-2, Section 3; Appendix O-3, Section 3; and AppendixO-4, Section 3). Additional surface water quality monitoring for small body lakes (including L-1, L-16, L-18, and L-19) were collected in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and the results are included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3).

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	SFN requested further information on mercury and a description of the associated monitoring program.	As shown in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), the baseline water quality monitoring in the Project waterbodies from 2012 through 2022 indicate that mercury levels are generally below analytical detection limits (<0.005 µg/L). and are less than the CWQG for mercury (0.026 µg/L). Further, ultra-low mercury and methylmercury from specialized analyses has occurred at key monitoring locations across the baseline study since 2021, with detection limits of approximately 0.0001 µg/L and 0.00002 µg/L respectively. Mercury is not proposed to be used in the process for gold mining at the Project, and the Project will not be a source of mercury. A description of key metals in host rock and ore is presented in Section 4.3 of Appendix K-1 (Static Geochemical Testing Baseline Report). Solid phase mercury concentrations in the Project rock are low. Specifically, mercury concentrations were below qualitative threshold values (10 times crustal abundance) in 98% of the mine rock samples and 94% of the ore-grade samples. The potential for mercury leaching from the rock is also low for materials based on the results of leaching tests (Appendix K-1) and humidity cell tests (Appendix K-2). A description of inorganic contaminants of potential concern in soil can be found in Appendix R (Human and Ecological Health Risk Assessment Model Report (Appendix R, Section 3.4.3). The maximum concentration of mercury in the collected soil samples did not exceed federal or provincial guideline values. The predictive models developed to support the EIS/EA which use the baseline data described above indicate that mercury levels remain below threshold criteria for surface water quality and human health and the Project is not a source of mercury. A surface water sampling program has been included in Section 12 and will be further developed during the permitting phase. FMG will continue to engage and consult with local Indigenous communities through the permitting phase as further details are developed. The permitting phase program is expected to include further details on methods, locations and duration, along with monitoring and reporting requirements based on discussions with regulatory agencies. The purpose of the surface water program will be to monitor compliance against regulatory permits, and validate the predictions in the EIS/EA.
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	SFN requested further information on the seasonal variability of the surface water quality monitoring program for the Project, and the results of the 2021 field program.	The Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) documents the spatial and temporal variability of surface water quality of the waterbodies that have the potential to be affected by Project and additional unaffected waterbodies. The dataset is extensive when compared to other projects at the environmental assessment stage. The characterization of existing conditions within the local area habitat type is well documented and exceeds requirements to support the environmental assessment. Water quality sampling has continued throughout the EA process, and the data that has been collected through to the end of 2023 is included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3).
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	SFN requested additional detail on the conclusion that surface water quality parameters that exceeded guideline values was related to natural variation associated with total suspended solids.	Natural baseline exceedances occurred in less than 2% of observations, are associated with elevated TSS levels (total phosphorus, total iron) and are considered representative of the natural heterogeneity of these lake systems, and the natural heterogenicity of waters in the baseline study area have been well characterized by the baseline program. Over with over 1,120 samples have been collected between as part of baseline surface water monitoring program for the Project. Overall, the results indicate that surface water quality of monitored waterbodies are typical of oligotrophic lakes in northwestern Ontario, including low concentrations of nutrients and anions, low turbidity, and saturated to near- saturated dissolved oxygen concentrations. The pH levels of Birch Lake, Springpole Lake, Seagrave Lake, small area lakes and regional monitoring stations are circumneutral; low frequency slightly alkaline to alkaline pH values are associated with summer sampling of surface (epilimnion) waters, wherein elevated pH values are likely driven by photosynthesis and generally warmer water quality conditions. There are no other consistent seasonal trends or inter-annual trends for other monitored parameters. The levels of TSS and TDS are generally low for all the sampled waterbodies. Similarly, concentrations of most total and dissolved metals are low, consistently below WQG PAL. There were a few occasions where measured baseline concentrations are outside the range established by WQG PAL. Parameters outside the range established by WQG PAL included pH, total phosphorus; total iron, and total copper. As noted, these exceedances occur less than 2% of observations, are associated with elevated TSS levels (total phosphorus, total iron) and are considered representative of the natural heterogeneity of these lake systems. This information has been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), and described in Section 6.6.2, Section 6.7.2 and Section 6.8.2.
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	SFN requested a discussion of the surface water quality trends over the period monitored.	Trends in surface water quality are discussed in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3), and the effects to surface waters are quantitively assessed by predictive modelling (Appendix N-2, Section 4).
Baseline Studies Air Quality	SFN suggested mercury be included in the baseline air concentrations.	With respect to mercury, the total particulate sampling using a high-volume sampler included the analysis of filters for particle-bound mercury; the highest baseline mercury concentration measured was less than 0.01% of the MECP's AAQC.

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline Studies Air Quality	SFN requested information on the use of regional air quality data as baseline data for the air quality assessment, as well as a description of how local data are considered. In addition, SFN requested clarification on representative data used to inform the assessment. SFN also requested clarification on the relevant averaging periods for baseline parameters.	The assessment of air quality uses three to five years of data from the NAPS program stations at Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Pickle Lake and Simcoe to ensure a robust, long-term monitoring dataset has been considered with onsite Project data used preferentially. Although the selected NAPS locations are influenced by local urban sources, they are broadly reflective of regional air quality, and from an EA perspective they are expected to overestimate parameters relative to the Project site. This lends itself to a conservative approach when assessing the effects on air quality from the Project. The collected onsite data will provide a comparison against the regional NAPS data and will be used preferentially to characterize the existing air quality at the remote Project site. A discussion of this comparison has been added to the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Section 6.2.2.2 of the final EIS/EA. Per standard practice, for air parameter criteria with averaging periods shorter than one year, the 90th percentile of the data are used to represent baseline conditions; for parameters with an annual averaging period, the average (mean) concentrations are used. Onsite data were supplemented by the regional data, and discussions include a comparison of onsite data to regional data. For parameters that were not measured on site and were not measured at the regional NAPS stations, such as silica, baseline concentrations have been established using appropriate methods, such as use of a particle size distribution, speciation of a measured parameter, or published values. This rationale has been described in the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1, Section 5). The Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2, Section 4) include a summary of the meteorological data relevant to discussions of air quality modelling, a summary table of baseline concentrations and the rationale for the selection of the baseline concentrations used for the assessment of effects.
Baseline Studies Fish and fish habitat	SFN requested additional baseline data to support the assessment of fish and fish habitat.	A full lake provincial standard BsM study was completed in 2022 (Appendix O). The BsM was used to calibrate a full lake hydroacoustic fish community study also completed in 2022. Lower trophic level (chlorophyll a, phytoplankton and zooplankton) studies (multi-year and multi-season) were completed throughout Springpole Lake and adjacent comparable locations in Birch Lake. Reviewers also requested additional habitat data for the nearshore areas of Birch Lake adjacent to the Project and therefore supplemental habitat characterization of nearshore areas of Birch Lake was completed in 2022. Further detail on this study is provided in Section 6.10.2.2.
Baseline Studies Fish and fish habitat	SFN requested clarification regarding statements that Lake Sturgeon are absent from Springpole Lake or are in extremely low abundance within the Birch River / Cat River system.	A full lake BsM and hydroacoustic survey was completed in Springpole Lake in 2022 (Appendix O). To gather more data on Lake Sturgeon, a targeted large mesh netting in Springpole Lake coupled with a two-season (spring and summer) eDNA metabarcoding sampling program in Springpole Lake, Birch Lake and regional stations (Cat River) was completed in 2022. Additional targeted eDNA quantitative polymerase chain reaction sampling of historical observations and spawning areas was completed within Springpole Lake, Cat River, Lake St. Joseph outflow, Birch Lake and Birch River in 2023. The studies confirmed that the deep basins within Springpole Lake and Birch Lake were similar in fish species composition and lower trophic conditions concluding that temporary isolation of one deep basing will not alter the ability of the remailing 94 % of Springpole Lake to maintain all resident fish species. Further detail on these studies is provided in Section 6.10.2.
Baseline Studies Groundwater	SFN requested additional information about groundwater baseline data	Groundwater baseline data was supplemented, resulting in a higher degree of confidence for the environmental assessment predictions. Supplemental data collected included: • Water level monitoring and hydraulic test data from 15 additional screened monitoring well installations; • Vibrating wire installations at ten new locations, and water level monitoring from 26 monitoring ports equipped with dataloggers; • Automated pressure transducers monitoring groundwater level fluctuations in 25 monitoring wells; • Packer testing at new drillhole locations, including 71 new unique measurements; • Hydraulic testing in 29 pre-existing monitoring well installations; • Additional stratigraphic boreholes and test pits from 2021 and 2022 investigations; • Bedrock outcropping mapping information from historical surveys; and, • Additional quarterly groundwater quality data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The results of these studies are discussed below under Existing Conditions (Section 6.5.2) with additional details included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1).

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline Studies Hydrology	SFN requested a summary of data gaps, the rationale for the selection of monitoring sites and the adequacy of these sites to spatially characterize hydrology.	The hydrometric monitoring program was developed primarily on the understanding of the potential impacts from the Project, site reconnaissance and observations, and input received through engagement and consultation. An initial gap analyses and site reconnaissance informed the 2021 monitoring work. Although considerations were made to carry forward existing stations, the focus was on the need to establish a monitoring program that aligned with the Project and broad environmental assessment requirements. Stations were established at key locations, including smaller tributaries to Springpole Lake, and where quality data could be collected, in line with WSC Guidelines. The monitoring program has further developed since 2021. A comprehensive list of historic and current monitoring locations has been provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Table 4-1) and includes the rationale for each of the monitoring locations, as well as the adequacy of the monitoring program to characterize the Project area.
Baseline Studies Hydrology	SFN requested flow monitoring data for the winter seasons.	Winter flow monitoring was collected in 2022 and 2023 (February) and presented in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.4.2) of the EIS/EA includes a description of results from the winter monitoring programs, and Section 4.5.2 includes a description of the incorporation of this data into the rating curve.
Baseline Studies Hydrology	SFN requested previous information from earlier monitoring programs be included in the main body of the baseline hydrology report.	A list of all historical and ongoing hydrometric monitoring stations, including those monitored during previous monitoring programs has been provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Table 4-1), and has been compared to the ongoing data set.
Baseline Studies Hydrology	SFN requested that updated Climate Normals be incorporated into the baseline hydrology dataset.	Climate Normals are typically issued at the completion of each decade, and the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1) includes the dataset from the 1981 to 2010 period for the Sioux Lookout, Red Lake A and Pickle Lake A Climate Stations.
Baseline Studies Hydrology	SFN noted discrepancies with the Casummit Lake weather station and requested that the baseline characterization of precipitation be revised once enough data are collected from the Springpole station.	The Project has continued to collect site specific data from the Springpole weather station to support the development of a climate database for the Project. The assessment is using a dependable, long-term data sets from ECCC, which is a standard approach for the purpose of environmental assessment as the onsite database continues to be developed. The findings have been compared to other data sets, such as the ECCC climate stations in the Section 3.3 of the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1).
Baseline Studies Noise and Vibration	SFN requested further information on the baseline sound reports (Appendices H-1 and H-2), including a summary of the applicable regulations and criteria for the Project.	The baseline sound reports have been updated to include a summary of the applicable guidelines. Further, the applicable noise and vibration criteria are described in detail in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 2) and Blasting Assessment Report (Appendix H-4, Section 2).
Baseline studies Birds	SFN inquired whether EWPW surveys were completed at locations where Common Nighthawk were found.	ARUs were used in the survey and would have detected both EWPW and Common Nighthawk, if both occurred at the crepuscular bird survey station. This information was added to Appendix P-1 (Baseline Terrestrial Report), which also includes the results the baseline surveys completed.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	SFN asked how the effluent treatment plant will function before releasing contaminants (nitrates, cyanide) to Springpole Lake, and what will management of the mine rock, tailing slurry and PAG rock in the CDF entail.	Additional information about the three stages of water treatment (i.e., biological process, removal of metals, and a flocculation/ clarification process), are provided in Section 5.12.5. The management of excess mine rock and tailings is described in Sections 5.8 and 5.10, respectively. In both cases the facilities will be engineered including perimeter seepage collection to mitigate impacts to the environment from seepage and runoff.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	SFN requested clarification of the geographic coverage for the preliminary study area used for the environmental assessment. The geographic coverage for the preliminary study area used for the proposed project assessed in the draft EIS/EA did not overlap with the planning area for the Cat Lake / Lac Seul Community Land Use Plan.	As a result of consultation, the transmission line route has been optimized and is proposed to follow the existing E1C transmission line to the Wataynikaneyap transmission line (Alternative 1 in draft EIS/EA). As a result, the PDA and the Local and Regional Study Areas for the effects assessment will overlap with the planning area and is considered in the assessment as illustrated in Section 6.21 (Table 6.21-9).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN requested a surface water/groundwater interaction monitoring and mitigation plan that is designed to identify areas of potential groundwater/surface water interaction.	Seepage quality and quantity estimates are provided in Section 6 of the Hydrogeology Modelling Report (Appendix L-2) of the final EIS, including schematizations to illustrate mitigated potential seepage pathways (Figure 4.2-1). Groundwater mitigation measures as described in Section 6.5.4, have been designed for the CDF and include the siting of the CDF on highly preferred foundation conditions composed of andesite bedrock, the appropriate management of tailings and mine rock within the facility, and an engineered perimeter seepage collection system. Section 12 includes follow-up surface water and groundwater monitoring programs for the Project which will be refined as part of the provincial permitting process, as is standard practice. However, note that the existing surface water quality and groundwater monitoring programs undertaken for the Project are comprehensive, spanning multiple years and form the basis for the follow up monitoring.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	SFN requested more information on how FMG can prevent the south cell and north cell from mixing of PAG and NAG mine rock piles.	The design of the CDF is described in Section 5.10, and in Appendix V, and involves co-locating the NAG tailings with the PAG mine rock in the north cell. The north cell will be maintained at an elevation above the south cell such that drainage will be from the north cell through the permeable internal dike into to the south cell by gravity.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	SFN asked what thresholds exist to determine contact waters that need treatment, and will the chemicals continue to concentrate as recycling proceeds.	All contact water from the CDF will be collected and sent either to the process plant as recycled water or to the Central Water Storage Pond (CWSP) for treatment and release when it can be demonstrated to meet water quality criteria as regulated by the province. Additional details have been included in Section 5.12, the Mine Site Water Quality model (Appendix K-1) and the Mine Site Water Balance (Appendix M-2).

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	SFN requested further information on the destruction of cyanide throughout the water management system.	As described in Section 6.11.5, the in-plant effluent treatment will be using SO_2/Air to destroy cyanide and to precipitate metals in the processing plant tailings effluent before it is discharged to the CDF. This is the standard proven technology used to treat gold mine tailings effluents at most mines in Ontario. The treated effluent will be discharged to the CDF and the CDF will generally be operated as a closed loop system. Excess waters collected in the CWSP will be treated in an ETP before being released to the environment. Within the ETP, a biological process will be used based on the moving bed bioreactor concept, where plastic carriers with attached biofilm move freely in the water column and remove contaminants present in the wastewater. The moving bed bioreactor will be used for additional cyanide where the by-products are nitrate, carbon dioxide and associated biomass. The final stage of treatment involves flocculation, which includes a mixing tank before feeding to a clarification process. Following clarification, the fully treated effluent will be confirmed to meet all applicable regulatory discharge criteria before being released to the environment at the final discharge location in the southeast arm of Springpole Lake. The ETP will be designed to produce an effluent quality appropriate for discharge to the environment in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, including the federal MDMER, and the effluent concentrations required by the MECP to protect the receiving water and aquatic resources. Cyanide predictions have been included in the water quality model (Appendix N-2, Section 4) and are used to inform the effects assessment for surface water systems (including this section, and Sections 6.7 and Section 6.8). A rigorous monitoring program will be in place to ensure effluent and receiver water quality is maintained, as described in Section 12.5.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators Surface Water Quality	SFN requested clarification for why nutrients and TSS are not included in the parameters listed in the indicators and measurable parameters sections.	Nutrients (total phosphorus, nitrogen species) have been included in the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 3.3) for the EIS/EA. With respect to TSS, the industry-standard surface water quality models used in the EIS/EA cannot accurately represent or predict TSS levels. This arises from the complexity of TSS sources and transport mechanisms, making it difficult to establish consistent relationships between model input parameters and TSS levels. Instead, in Ontario, mining operations must adhere to stringent regulatory requirements and environmental standards governing water quality, including TSS levels. FMG is committed to environmental protection and has strategically integrated comprehensive water management mitigation strategies for TSS into the Project's design, ensuring proactive measures to safeguard water quality and minimize the potential for environmental impact. These measures have been included in Section 6.7.4.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	SFN requested clarification on potential effects to the food web / primary productivity.	Detailed investigations and studies have been completed for the Project and provide comparison of lower trophic data and fish community data for Springpole lake and adjacent Birch Lake sufficient to assess the potential effects of the isolated open pit basin. Results show comparable primary resources in the six deep water sample stations in Springpole Lake and two stations in Birch Lake, and a high degree of similarity between the three most northern stations in the north basin of Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	SFN requested additional information on how the isolation of the basin and removal of fish from the isolated areas would occur.	Additional detail of the isolation procedure including methods, timing and other mitigation measures has been added to Section 5.6.1.2, Section 6.10.4 and the FHOCP (Appendix F, Section 5.2.3). Detailed discussion on controlled dewatering rates and procedure for the isolated basin has been added. Additional description of the fish removal (mitigation) is also provided, including a strategy suggested by DFO where isolation of the basin during the spring may reduce the number of Lake Trout and Walleye entrained in the basin.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	SFN requested more information about potential effects on Springpole Lake and Birch Lake from blasting effects.	A revised blasting assessment (Appendix H-4) was completed using more conservative (larger) charges and the more stringent blasting criteria for fish to conservatively identify additional areas of potential impacts as discussed in Section 6.10.3 and the FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	SFN requested a schematic of the water management system, a summary of the design levels for all water management features, and illustration of these features in the mine site layout.	Further engineering has occurred since the draft EIS/EA to develop a water management plan for the operations phase of the Project, including a schematic of the water management conveyance and collection systems which is presented in Section 4.10.1.2 and includes the sizing of the key storage facilities. The water management facilities will be designed to ensure that mine contact water is collected, and that infrastructure is sized appropriately to avoid untreated discharge to the environment respecting design criteria. The mine site layout has been updated accordingly with the water management infrastructure. The boundaries for the mine site water balance model (Appendix M-2, Section 5.2) have been updated to include runoff on the outside edge of the mine haul roads for the final EIS/EA. This additional watershed area is extremely small in comparison to the overall total watershed (approximately 935 ha) and is not expected to result in any changes to the effects assessment. Section 9.8 includes consideration for climate change and provides a discussion of the measures to reduce risk and consequences of a discharge of contact water from the ponds during a major storm event. Additional detailed design of the key water management facilities will be carried out to support environmental approvals applications, and to support construction.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	SFN requested clarification on the evaporation estimates that informed the Mine Site Water Balance. Further, IAAC requested a discussion on the use of this value in the assessment and whether additional water would need to be taken from Birch Lake.	Estimations of evaporation are based on the Hamon equation and result in an annual value that aligns with other references (i.e. Hydrologic Atlas of Canada). Pan evaporation data collected from the Project site have been considered in the hydrology modelling, however the site data record was only used in the selection of the methodology used for estimating evaporation at the Project site. This has been described in the Mine Site Water Balance (Appendix M-2, Section 5.1).

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and Vibration	SFN noted that sensory disturbances such as noise, particularly from the use of helicopters and the airstrip, may affect Indigenous land users in carrying out Traditional Land Use activities.	There are currently helicopters and other aircraft being used to support the existing exploration camp, however the potential effect of noise from the Project has been acknowledged in the introduction to Section 6.3. The description of Traditional Land Use activities has factored into the selection of PORs, as described in Section 6.3.5 and the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 4). The potential effect of helicopters and the airstrip has also been included in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 6.1). The effect on the experience associated with Traditional Land Use activities is further assessed in Section 6.21.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN requested further information on the calibration of surface water models with realistic, conservative inputs to support the interpretation of water quality predictions for future scenarios and improve the confidence with the predicted effects.	The importance of calibrating models with realistic and conservative inputs to ensure accurate representations of future scenarios, while also ensuring potential effects will not be underestimated is acknowledged. The surface water models for the final EIS/EA, including mass and water balance models, have incorporated model calibration as well as comprehensive sensitivity analyses to test modelling outputs and increase confidence that water quality predictions. The Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 3) includes analysis with higher concentrations of parameters of concern and scenarios with reduced assimilative capacity, which ensures that Project effects on surface water quality will not be underestimated.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN requested clarification on the water quality guidelines utilized for the EIS/EA.	The final EIS/EA uses a consistent set of WQG PAL as per the latest guidance from MECP. Recent MECP guidance necessitates the utilization of the most current WQG PAL sourced from either the PWQO/iPWQO, CWQG, or FWQG. This has been clarified in Section 6.6.5.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	SFN requested additional evaluation of the isolated basin compared to the rest of Springpole Lake and how the remaining area will support the fish community during the life of the mine.	Additional fisheries and aquatic data were collected for the entire Springpole Lake and the open pit basin during 2022. The 2022 program included a full lake BsM program, ongoing lower trophic level studies, a lake-wide hydroacoustic fish community survey, and multiple eDNA metabarcoding surveys. The additional data, in combination with previously collected aquatic data, increase the confidence that the majority of the Springpole Lake area will remain capable of sustaining all species and all life functions present in the lake and that Lake Trout and the resources they depend on are well distributed in the north basin and not reliant only on the portion that will be isolated.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	SFN asked for more details about Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measures and additional documentation and data to describe species absence and the likely cause of Lake Sturgeon absence.	The Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measure has been revised to a two-step measure: 1. collect additional data and information and 2. implement reintroduction / enhancement measures. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Air quality, Human and ecological health	SFN identified that dust with unknown chemical composition being blown onto Birch Lake and Springpole Lake could affect water quality, fish, and the consumption of water and fish by Indigenous peoples.	The Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2) and Section 6.2.5 of the EIS/EA have been updated and include an assessment of the construction phase activities, including the development of site infrastructure such as the aggregate areas, the construction of the transmission line, and the construction and operation of the mine access road. The predicted changes to dust have been carried forward into the assessment of potential water quality effects and quantitatively assessed. The results are included in both the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 4) as well as the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R). Results of these models informed the assessment of potential effects from fugitive dust on surface water systems and included in Sections 6.6 through Section 6.9. The effects from atmospheric dust deposition on water quality is not predicted to be distinguishable from base case predictions (Appendix N-2). However, the potential effect of dust will be mitigated with a dust management plan, and erosion and sediment control plan that will be developed during the permitting phase. The Project has developed mitigation measures for air quality and has committed to a follow-up program that will be initiated during construction and will include particulate monitoring to allow a feedback loop between conditions and maintenance activities; this will confirm the efficacy of controls at the property line.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators	SFN requested clarification of the geographic coverage for the preliminary study area used for the environmental assessment.	The geographic coverage for the preliminary study area used for the proposed project assessed in the draft EIS/EA did not overlap with the planning area for the Cat Lake / Lac Seul Community Land Use Plan. As a result of consultation, the transmission line route has been optimized and is proposed to follow the existing E1C transmission line to the Wataynikaneyap transmission line. As a result, the PDA and the Local and Regional Study Areas for the effects assessment will overlap with the planning area and is considered in the assessment as illustrated in Section 6.21 (Table 6.21-9).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	SFN requested further information on the potential and perceived risk of contamination of surface water and ground water that is consumed by humans, and the potential effects to the health of plants and animals due to water contamination. They also requested information on the change in groundwater flow or levels. SFN also identified potential concern for contamination to Birch Lake from runoff.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site to limit the areal extent of disturbance, and to limit the overall areas of site contact water that requires management. A 120 m setback will be maintained around the mine site, where practical. The CDF has been located on the most favourable geologic conditions at the Project site to support long term stability and effective seepage management. Further, a geosynthetic clay liner will be installed on the upstream side of the perimeter dam of the CDF south cell (specifically the south, west, and east sides) to mitigate seepage potential. During construction, an erosion and sediment control plan will be implemented to manage runoff water around disturbed areas. During all phases, an integrated water management system will be designed to collect and control contact water from the mine site area. Water collection ditches will be constructed and operated around the perimeter of infrastructure to collect overland flow and seepage and direct it to the integrated water management system. Collected contact water that is not recycled in ore processing will be treated at the ETP and the treat effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. Non-contact water will be diverted away from Project components using ditches, diversion berms and other suitable measures. The changes in surface water quality have been predicted in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2), with the Project meeting stringent CWQG during all phases as discussed in Section 6.6 to Section 6.9. Further, the changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the HEHRA (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health.

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	Through the draft EIS/EA consultation process, FMG was informed of the challenges that many communities and individuals face with mental health and addictions, and the various barriers to treatment and employment opportunities.	The draft Employee Health & Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3) looks at employee health and well-being through a proactive lens by embracing education, prevention and early intervention measures. From design to implementation, FMG provides a collaborative framework with opportunities for continual improvement input and guidance so that services and support offered will remain relevant throughout the life of mine.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional economy	SFN commented that the loss of employment after industry leaves can have a devastating effect on a community and should be considered from the start.	The Project will give preference to local and Indigenous workers and businesses and participation will provide skills and experience for future opportunities. This will increase labour and business income directly and through spending of income at local and regional businesses. The skills and experience gained by participating in the Project will assist in gaining future employment and contracts.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	SFN expressed concerns about racism based on their experience with other projects and recommended mandatory cultural awareness training be completed by FMG employees and contractors. SFN also identified that increasing the road network has the potential for drug trafficking.	The Project will give preference to local and Indigenous workers and businesses and participation will provide additional labour and business income. FMG will support retraining programs to establish transferable skills for employees during the latter part of the operations phase and will provide job search assistance at the closure phase. The skills and experience acquired through the Project are anticipated to be highly transferable to other employment opportunities in the region at closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	SFN also commented that in-migration may stress local infrastructure and services and increase the costs for maintaining infrastructure and delivering services.	The Project will accommodate a rotational workforce in on-site accommodations; however, it is acknowledged that the Project will provide an opportunity through working with government to deliver improvements to local infrastructure and services.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN also requested additional information on the water storage capacity of the management system and effluent treatment limits.	Additional analysis was completed in 2024 for the design of seepage and runoff collection systems. As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified. Section 9.9 has been updated to clarify that although the short-term construction phase water management will use more frequent design events (i.e., 1:10-year), the operations phase water management facilities will be designed to accommodate and contain a 1:100-year, 24-hour storm event. A summary of the additional analyses to support the design criteria has been added to Section 9.10. The assessment of the effects of the environment on the Project (Section 8.6) has also been updated to include additional information that describe the resiliency of the overall water management system to extreme rainfall events, including the ability to use the open pit for additional storage in the event of an extreme precipitation event.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN requested clarification on the destruction of cyanide throughout the entire water management system.	As discussed in Section 5.12.5, the in-plant effluent treatment using SO2/Air will be used to destroy cyanide and to precipitate metals in the processing plant tailings effluent before it is discharged to the CDF. This is the standard proven technology used to treat gold mine tailings effluents at most mines in Ontario. The treated effluent will be discharged to the CDF and the CDF will generally be operated as a closed loop system. Excess waters collected in the CWSP will be treated in an ETP before being released to the environment. The ETP will be designed and operated to produce an effluent quality appropriate for discharge to the environment in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, including for cyanide species. The fully treated effluent will be confirmed to meet all applicable regulatory discharge criteria before being released to the environment at the final discharge location in the southeast arm of Springpole Lake. A rigorous monitoring program will be in place to assess whether effluent and receiver water quality is maintained (Section 12.5). The potential effects of discharging treated effluent are discussed in Section 6.8.6.2 and based the results of the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2), which includes cyanide (total and WAD) as modelled parameters.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN requested further information on how nitrates was assessed.	Nitrogen species (nitrite, nitrate, ammonia) have been added to the predictive Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2). The predicted concentrations of nitrite, nitrate, ammonia inform the effects assessment for Surface Water VCs (Section 6.6 through 6.9) and aquatic resources (Section 6.10). Effluent discharged from site will be protective of aquatic life and must adhere to all provincial and federal requirements, including the MDMER. This includes that effluent quality must be below MDMER effluent criteria for unionized ammonia, and meet applicable provincial requirements, prior to discharge into the receiving environment.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN requested clarification on the maximum dilution and mixing zone predicted from the CORMIX model. The CORMIX model has been revised and includes additional clarification regarding the calculation of effluent strength and estimation of potential effluent limits (Appendix N-2, Attachment 1, Section 3).	The CORMIX model has been revised and includes additional clarification regarding the calculation of effluent strength and estimation of potential effluent limits (Appendix N-2, Attachment 1, Section 3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN asked what thresholds exist to determine contact waters that need treatment, and will the chemicals continue to concentrate as recycling proceeds.	All contact water from the CDF will be collected and sent either to the process plant as recycled water or to the CWSP for treatment and release when it can be demonstrated to meet water quality criteria as regulated by the province. Additional details have been included in Section 5.12, the Mine Site Water Quality model (Appendix K-1) and the Mine Site Water Balance (Appendix M-2).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN asked how the ETP will function before releasing contaminants (nitrates, cyanide) to Springpole Lake, and what will management of the mine rock, tailing slurry and PAG rock in the CDF entail.	Additional information about the three stages of water treatment (i.e., biological process, removal of metals, and a flocculation/ clarification process), are provided in Section 5.12.5. The management of excess mine rock and tailings is described in Sections 5.8 and 5.10, respectively. In both cases the facilities will be engineered including perimeter seepage collection to mitigate impacts to the environment from seepage and runoff.

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	SFN commented that changes in water levels impacts travel routes and the accessibility of areas and can expose hazards that interfere with safe passage and interrupt navigation. SFN also stated that ensuring trails and access routes be protected is important for maintaining culture.	An assessment of the potential effects on water quantity due to the Project is provided in Section 6.8. The assessment determined that the expediting filling of the open pit basin at closure can be achieved while maintaining water levels with Springpole Lake well within the observed range of natural baseline conditions and is not anticipated to have an effect on navigation. Monitoring will be undertaken, and pumping will be adjusted as needed in real time to ensure there is no effect. An alternate navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be established and maintained by FMG through all Project phases. The existing portage route located at the exploration camp will be relocated during prior to construction of the Project to a historical portage route on the west side of the north basin of Springpole Lake that will be reestablished and maintained by FMG. The original portage route will be reestablished at post closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	SFN members noted concerns about the visual aesthetics of the Project as the mine rock pile will be visible permanently after the mine closes.	Changes to viewscapes, which may affect the experience for TLRU on Birch Lake and Springpole Lake are mitigated by Project setbacks and buffers with the CDF being the visible component of the Project from a distance and appearing as rock plateau on the landscape, which will be revegetated at closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	SFN identified that significant changes in water levels can interrupt navigation and the ability to navigate rivers and lakes.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site and site contact water will be managed with an integrated water management system that will collect, control and treat contact water with an effluent treatment plant that is not recycled in ore processing. The treated effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. The changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the HEHRA (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health. Country foods monitoring will take place periodically during operations. The navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be maintained and the portage route at the exploration camp will be re-established at closure. As noted earlier, an access management strategy will be developed and implemented to provide for improved access for traditional activities in the area of the mine site road.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	SFN stated that ensuring trails and access routes used for hunting, trapping, harvesting, and fishing are protected and preserved is critical for the community.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site and site contact water will be managed with an integrated water management system that will collect, control and treat contact water with an effluent treatment plant that is not recycled in ore processing. The treated effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. The changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the HEHRA (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health. Country foods monitoring will take place periodically during operations. The navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be maintained and the portage route at the exploration camp will be re-established at closure. As noted earlier, an access management strategy will be developed and implemented to provide for improved access for traditional activities in the area of the mine site road.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	SFN requested that traditional land use information be presented and incorporated into the effects assessment and disaggregated by Indigenous community within relevant sections of the final EIS/EA.	Non-confidential traditional land use information provided by Indigenous communities during the preparation of the final EIS/EA has been included and disaggregated by Indigenous group (Section 6.21.2). For the purposes of the HEHRA, this information informs: the selection of POPC; representative PORs associated with traditional land use activities for use in the air quality modelling; identification of fish, vegetation and wildlife species important to Indigenous communities; identification of important traditional country foods; and informs the selection of representative country foods ingestion rates. Within supporting Attachment A of the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R), the traditional land use information pertaining to important country foods species and country foods ingestion is disaggregated by Indigenous community in the rationale for the selection of representative country foods species and ingestion rates. A description of the TK related to human and ecological health is provided in Section 6.24.2.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	SFN expressed that herbicide spraying on the transmission line corridor could contaminate wildlife in that area.	The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road, locating noise producing stationary equipment inside of buildings, the implementation of a revegetation plan that preferentially uses local vegetation sources and incorporates plant species of interest to Indigenous communities and wildlife habitat features, and uses mechanical vegetation removal practices. Further, a HEHRA (Appendix R) has been prepared for the proposed Project and concluded that there will be no change to human and ecological health from the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Human and ecological health	SFN requested additional information on the potential for spills of hazardous materials at the mine site and along the transportation routes, and the associated mitigation measures and emergency response plans.	Additional information on the spill mitigation and emergency response has been included in Section 9.12 and Section 9.13.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Traditional land and resource use	The CLFN and SFN land use plan proposes the establishment of a sustainable forestry license.	The removal of timber will be limited through the development of a compact mine site, the co-location of the transmission line, airstrip, and mine access road, and through the optimization of the transmission line route during detailed engineering. FMG will work with local forestry companies to salvage merchantable timber and will work with communities to explore opportunities to set aside harvested poplar for potential use by local communities.
Draft EIS/EA/Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	SFN requested further information on the predicted effect of dust deposition on adjacent waterbodies.	The change in water quality parameters due to the deposition of dust on surface water and snow during winter in adjacent waterbodies is assessed in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2, Section 4) and included in the assessment of effects on local inland waterbodies (Section 6.9.6); it is based on the predicted changes in air quality parameters (dust) from the Project as described in the Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2). Based on the results in Section 6.9, the change in surface water quality parameters due to dust deposition on snow is negligible.

Table 2.6-6: Comments, Questions and Responses from Slate Falls Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
TK and TLU Information	SFN requested that TK/TLU information be incorporated into relevant sections of the EIS/EA to inform the assessment, including the assessment of archaeological resources.	A description of information relevant to the assessment of potential effects on archaeological resources is provided in Section 6.22.2.3. The TK/TLU information is further described in Section 6.21.2 (Traditional Land and Resource Use VC).
TK and TLU information	SFN provided a Health, Socio-economic, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Baseline Study regarding the Project.	Information from this report was integrated into the assessments of biophysical VCs, the assessment of effects on traditional land and resource use, and the assessment of socio-economic VCs.
TK and TLU information Caribou	SFN emphasized the cultural and spiritual significance of Caribou, and their priority for Boreal Caribou conservation, especially protecting calving areas.	FMG acknowledges this and has integrated these values into the final EIS/EA. The draft EIS/EA was updated to include details from the community studies and other Indigenous Knowledge and Use and Socio-Economic Studies.
TK and TLU information Human and ecological health	During engagement with Indigenous communities, the concerns about existing conditions of mental health and well-being in the communities was frequently raised.	In response to this feedback, FMG has developed a draft Health and Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3), elements of which are included in mitigation measures for potential social and economic effects including Section 6.20.4. The Strategy responds to what FMG has heard, including that northern-focused health & wellness support is crucial to improving employment participation, creating a mental health-conscious workplace; and enabling the Project, local people, and communities to thrive. The approach necessitates more than standard corporate occupational health and wellness policies and programs. It requires tailored health and wellness approaches, services and programs, in coordination with health service providers, that address the holistic needs of northern people and communities participating in the mining industry.

2.6.1.6 Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation

FMG initiated Project consultation with MON in March 2018 and MON and FMG have been engaging regarding the Project since. FMG has shared information with MON on the EA milestones as described below and MON has shared valuable input into the final EIS/EA from the community. FMG has received a TK/TLU Study from MON for consideration in Project planning. FMG has considered comments shared and where appropriate, incorporated into the final EIS/EA, as described in Table 2.6-8 and Appendix C. FMG and MON have signed a workplan that outlines how they will work together moving forward. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to MON organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and MON up to June 30, 2024.

The key topics of interest identified by MON to date include Fish and Fish Habitat, Water Quality (water management and treatment), Caribou, Incorporation of TK/TLU, Training and Employment. Comments from MON and FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6 8 and Appendix C.

Table 2.6-7: Summary of Key Engagement with Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
May 15, 2018	Chief and Council Meeting	FMG met with MON to discuss the Project and associated environmental assessment processes, potential site tours, and site access.
September 12, 2018	Chief and Council Meeting	FMG met with MON to discuss the Project and associated environmental assessment processes.
November 2020 – November 2021	Document Review: Provincial Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference	FMG and MON engaged in substantial discussions throughout the Terms of Reference process including holding multiple meetings and MON providing written input into the final approved Terms of Reference.
May – December 2021	Document Review: Baseline Studies	FMG provided MON the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input on May 31, 2021. FMG also provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming baseline studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. MON provided FMG with their technical comments on the baseline studies on November 11, 2021. FMG provided responses to the technical comments on December 23, 2021.
August 2021	Technical Review Meetings: Baseline Studies	FMG had a series of meetings with MON and their technical consultants to present and discuss the baseline studies prior to MON completing their review.
October - December 2021	Document Review: Preliminary Alternatives Assessment	FMG provided MON with a preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components on October 1, 2021. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. On December 21, 2021, MON provided FMG with comments on the preliminary Assessment of Alternatives. FMG considered the comments and feedback shared from MON, provided responses and incorporated the feedback into the draft EIS/EA.
December 3, 2021	Notice of Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
May – June 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to MON.
July – September 2022	Technical Review Meetings: Draft EIS/EA	Pending MON's comments on the draft EIS/EA, three technical meetings were held with MON's consultants in July and September 2022 to discuss the progress on the review and answer any questions the MON reviewers have. The meetings were focused on Fish and Fish Habitat, Terrestrial, and Human Environment Sections.
August 3, 2022	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session to provide information about the Project, and to review and seek feedback on the draft EIS/EA.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, Co-disposal facility Optimization, Environmental Assessment Progress, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
July 11, 2023	Site Tour	FMG hosted MON for a site tour on July 11, 2023. Community members had the opportunity to see the proposed Project site and ask questions.
July 12, 2023	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in MON. FMG provided a presentation on the draft EIS/EA, including how the comments from the community were shaping the final EIS/EA.
December 2023	MON Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Study	MON provided FMG with a redacted TK study for use in the final EIS/EA.
December 5, 2023	Workshop: Fish & Fish Habitat	FMG held a collaborative community workshop on the FHOCP to present information on the options proposed in the draft FHOCP, and to discuss new potential offsetting options.
December 15, 2023	Document provided for review: Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples	FMG emailed MON and provided the Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. FMG did not receive feedback from MON on this table and another opportunity to review will be provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.
February 2024	Technical Review Meetings: Draft EIS/EA	Throughout February 2024, FMG and MON met to discuss comments on the draft EIS/EA, including related to fish and fish habitat, surface water, air quality, greenhouse gasses, terrestrial environment and incorporation of TK/TLU.
June 26, 2024	Workshop: Caribou	FMG hosted a collaborative workshop on the Caribou habitat offsetting strategy MON. The workshop presented information on the updated baseline caribou studies, the potential offsetting options identified to date, and to discuss new potential offsetting options. Participants were invited to share knowledge, comments and questions on the options and bring forward potential new ideas.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities related to MON. This includes discussions related to potential preferred consultation approach; communications related to open calls for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions or other in-person engagement such as site tours.

Since 2017, FMG has been working with MON leadership to develop community consultation processes and provide capacity support for substantial and influential participation in the Project.

On January 11, 2017, FMG met with MON regarding consultation process for the Project. The Shared Territory Protocol and Framework Agreement was discussed as the framework between the First Nations and FMG. At this time, it was also discussed how the exploration framework agreement served as the main communication vehicle to ensure that everyone is aware and knowledgeable of Project objectives and how they will be accomplished.

In late 2017 and early 2018, FMG reached out to MON to schedule meetings regarding the Project. On February 1, 2018, FMG met with the Chief to present an introduction to the Project. Following this, the federal EA process started and FMG continued to work on scheduling meetings with the community leadership to discuss.

MON Chief and Council and FMG met on May 15, 2018 to discuss the Project and associated EA processes, potential site tours, and site access. During the meeting, the Chief noted that MON had received the April 25, 2018 notification from the MECP, as well as the federal Notice of Commencement. Discussions were held on how FMG could seek the community's input about the Project and FMG suggested that Community Information Sessions would be valuable. MON also noted that they felt it was important for FMG's CEO to come to the community and talk about the company, its plans for the Project and to meet and be familiar with the community on a face-to-face basis. FMG incorporated this input into future meeting planning, including many trips to the community by the CEO which have now occurred.

On September 12, 2018, MON leadership and community representatives and FMG met to discuss the Project in Sioux Lookout. FMG provided a presentation on the Project overview, as well as the EA process and allowed for an opportunity to ask questions. MON asked about the current activities at the site, the Project overview and timelines. There were also a few questions asked about tailings management which were answered at the meeting. FMG noted that more information about tailings management would be provided in the EA documents.

MON and FMG had a phone call on January 24, 2020, to discuss engagement processes for the Project. FMG met with MON representatives on March 3, 2020, to present and discuss an overview of the Project, the draft ToR, the plans for Community consultation, the baseline studies completed to date and proposed, and alternative assessment methods.

The start of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 impacted in-person Project consultation and engagement, with FMG limiting communications during this period to respect community priorities.

FMG emailed MON Chief and Council on May 21, 2020, proposing a meeting the following week for FMG to provide a Project update and to discuss the ToR and options for how to keep the community up to date on the Project, considering the global pandemic. The next meeting was scheduled for July to discuss engagement with other communities. On July 23, 2020, LSFN, SFN, MON and FMG met to discuss the

engagement process moving forward. However, MON decided to take its own path with FMG on Project consultation and a process agreement was advanced with MON in 2020 and 2021.

On April 8, 2021, FMG requested the EA workplan for the Process Agreement from MON as the process agreement discussions advanced. On July 29, 2021, FMG informed the MON Chief and their consultants that the Process Agreement had been signed.

FMG contacted MON on June 18, 2021, to schedule a meeting to discuss the baseline reports and next steps. FMG noted it wanted to discuss participation in field work and asked MON if community environmental monitors have been identified for several upcoming opportunities. MON responded explaining that there would be a meeting with Chief and Council that day and MON would reach out regarding community environmental monitors.

FMG has held Community Information Sessions with MON prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones.

- September 14, 2021 – to present Project information and to gather community feedback on the Project, specifically on the environmental baseline data and the preliminary alternative assessment for the Project. Nineteen MON members attended the meeting. FMG created a poster to advertise the Community Information Session, and to share information on the Project, and provide FMG contact information. Translation was provided for this meeting.
- August 3, 2022 - to provide information about the Project, and seek feedback on the draft EIS/EA. The Community Information Session was held as a combination of a presentation and open-house style, with approximately 37 community members in attendance as well as MON advisors. FMG presented an overview of the Project and status, work completed to date on the Project and EA, including the method and results of the draft EIS/EA. The presentation also included a description of feedback heard to date and how it has been addressed. A series of poster boards and handouts detailing the environmental baseline data, Project components and alternatives methods were set up around the room. FMG also presented a 10-minute video showing the development of key features of the Project. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments. Questions were answered at the meeting regarding the EA process and associated consultation, environmental protection primarily related to water quality, closure planning and employment and training opportunities.
- July 12, 2023 – to provide a presentation on the draft EIS/EA, including how the comments from the community were shaping the final EIS/EA. FMG noted it was looking forward to receiving the MON TK/TLU study and provided an overview of next steps. A series of poster boards and handouts detailing the draft EIS/EA methods and results were set up around the room and FMG presented a 10-minute video showing the development of key features of the Project. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide feedback.

On November 29, 2021, FMG emailed MON requesting an update on the progress of MON's TK/TLU Study. FMG also inquired if MON had hired an environmental monitor, as FMG was hoping to arrange training ahead of the environmental monitor's 2022 fieldwork.

FMG met with MON and representatives on December 2, 2021 to discuss current opportunities related to participation in the Project, including next steps in environmental data review and environmental monitor selection. On December 14, 2021, FMG provided MON with action items from the December 2 meeting that were primarily related to capacity support. MON was to confirm the environmental monitor selection and

provide to FMG their review of the alternatives assessment. On December 20, 2021, FMG provided MON with attachments related to capacity support funding identified as follow-up action items.

In January and February 2022, FMG continued to follow up with the Chief of MON to see if there was any progress on hiring for the Springpole environmental monitor and community liaison positions for the 2022 season. FMG suggested a MON member who expressed interest in the positions.

MON Chief and Council met with FMG on March 27, 2022, to discuss updates on the Project and the status of the EA, as well as capacity support for the community.

FMG emailed MON on October 27, 2022, requesting an update on potential meeting dates for the community long-term relationship agreement presentation, the next long-term relationship agreement negotiation session, and the meeting with Chief and Council of MON regarding comments on the draft EIS/EA. FMG followed up on this email on November 15, 2022, and offered to meet in Winnipeg in November. On November 21, 2022, MON and FMG agreed on a meeting date of November 25, 2022; however, MON later requested to reschedule the meeting to 2023, due to a loss in the community. FMG noted that the parties could reconnect on a meeting date later.

On February 15, 2023, FMG sent MON an invitation for the meeting in Winnipeg and proposed March 16, 2023. MON informed FMG that they would discuss internally, and the meeting was scheduled later in the year, as described below.

FMG set up a booth at the MON Career Fair on February 28, 2023, to share information about the Project and current job opportunities. Students and adults asked about the Project, job opportunities, site location and Project timeline.

On March 28 and April 3, 2023, FMG and MON exchanged emails to discuss a meeting the upcoming meeting agenda, invoices and technical meeting dates. On June 13, 2023, FMG called Maawandoon (MON consultant) to discuss the next steps for the draft EIS/EA review and Community Information Session. Maawandoon informed FMG that they would follow up on timing for a meeting to discuss the responses to comments provided on the draft EIS/EA and noted the tentative dates of July 11 and 12, 2023, for a site tour and Community Information Session.

FMG hosted MON for a site tour on July 11, 2023. Attendees had the opportunity to see the proposed Project site and ask questions.

FMG held a meeting with MON on September 28, 2023, to meet the newly elected Chief and Council and introduce them to the Project. FMG provided a Project overview and an update on the draft EIS/EA. Discussions were held on community engagement and agreements, TK/TLU, the FHOCP, baseline environmental data, the EIS/EA review, labour and economy, the CDF and the transmission line.

On November 2 and 6, 2023, FMG emailed MON inviting them to a series of November webinars. The topics of the webinars included detailed updates on the CDF, FHOCP, water management and treatment strategy, and the alternatives assessment process. FMG also provided links to the invitations for the webinars.

On January 22, 2024, and January 23, 2024, FMG emailed MON and provided logistical details for a meeting in Thunder Bay. FMG and MON met on February 2, 2024, and again on March 7, 2024, to discuss Project planning and benefits.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to MON related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with MON prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that were not related to a key EA milestone.

As described above, MON and FMG met in May and September 2018 and March 2020 to discuss the Project and associated processes and consultation.

On May 21, 2020, FMG emailed MON Chief and Council proposing a meeting the following week for FMG to provide a Project update and to discuss the ToR and options for how to keep the community up to date on the Project, considering the global pandemic. On September 21 and 22, 2020, FMG met with MON Chief and Council to discuss the ToR review, Engagement and Baseline Reports.

On July 13, 2021, FMG requested that meeting dates be set to provide MON's consultant with an overview of the baseline reports and 2021 work. FMG also requested that four meetings be scheduled regarding the technical studies and noted that it would like to set a meeting date with MON's consultant for the TK study. In addition, FMG identified the need to start planning in-person Community Information Sessions for September.

As described above, FMG held a Community Information Sessions in MON on September 14, 2021 prior to the draft EIS/EA submission to consult on baseline studies and the alternatives assessment.

FMG provided advance notice to MON on November 23, 2021, that FMG is beginning the Project EA, and a Notice of Commencement would be published in the Sioux Lookout Bulletin. FMG attached the Notice of Commencement and noted that it would be published upon ToR approval.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to MON via email on December 3, 2021.

On June 20, 2022, FMG provided MON with the 2021 ESG Report in advance of its public release. FMG welcomed feedback from MON; however, FMG did not receive a response.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

FMG and MON engaged in substantial discussions throughout the ToR process, meeting a total of five times from the Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process in August 2018 and the submission of the draft amended ToR in April 2021 that resulted in updates to the ToR. MON provided comments and FMG provided responses on the draft amended ToR. FMG provided MON with the draft ToR for review on February 26, 2020.

As described above, March 3, 2020 and May 21, 2020 meetings included discussions on the ToR process.

On July 30, 2020, MON requested a copy of the draft ToR from FMG. MON Chief and Council noted that they would like to discuss the availability of resources and professionals to discuss the draft ToR with community members and to carry out a meaningful review and submit comments to FMG and the regulator. FMG noted that it was happy to arrange a meeting to discuss capacity support with MON and provided hard and electronic copies of the final draft ToR to MON on August 17, 2020.

After providing the ToR, MON emailed FMG on August 26, 2020, noting that they did not receive the ToR, and they do not have the resources available to do a thorough review. In August and September 2020, FMG and MON corresponded regarding capacity funding and on September 21 and 22 2020, MON and FMG met regarding capacity funding for review of the draft ToR.

On November 23, 2020, the MECP provided FMG with MON's comments on the draft ToR.

On December 18, 2020, FMG provided MON with the Notice of Intent to submit the amended ToR. On January 8, 2021, FMG provided MON with the draft amended ToR, a cover letter explaining how comments were reflected in the updated document, and a copy of responses to previous comments. On January 27, 2021, MON and FMG met to discuss the draft amended ToR. On February 5, 2021, MON provided a response letter to FMG's responses to MON's comments on the draft amended ToR.

On March 17, 2021, FMG provided MON with responses to comments on the draft amended ToR and offered to have a call to discuss the responses. A phone call occurred on the same day with MON representatives to discuss updates on the draft amended ToR review. On March 26, 2021, MON and FMG met to review the responses to comments on the draft amended ToR; FMG also provided an overview of the status of the ToR process and next steps in the EA process. On March 30, 2021, FMG provided responses to MON's comments on the draft amended ToR.

On June 15, 2021, FMG inquired if MON could respond to the MECP regarding MON's comments on the draft amended ToR for the Project. FMG noted that the MECP deadline for comments on the draft amended ToR is June 20, 2021. On August 11, 2021, MON emailed FMG indicating that there were no further comments on the amended ToR and that MON and FMG were moving into the TK/TLU Study Phase.

On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with MON.

Baseline Studies

FMG met with MON representatives on March 3, 2020, to present and discuss an overview of the Project, the draft ToR, the plans for Community consultation, the baseline studies completed to date and proposed, and alternative assessment methods.

On March 3, 2021, FMG provided MON with the Springpole 2021 aerial survey map for upcoming air and water quality monitoring. MON responded inquiring about submitting a proposal for air and water quality monitoring to which FMG responded that it would send further information to MON on March 4, 2021.

MON and FMG had a phone call on March 22, 2021, to discuss updates on the baseline review. MON has identified a technical consultant for the review and FMG would be funding the review.

On April 19, 2021, FMG requested a phone call with MON to discuss the capacity support for the Baseline Study review and following this on September 21 and 22, 2020, MON and FMG met to discuss the community's capacity support for reviewing upcoming environmental baseline reports.

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly community bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. As described in Section 2.6.1.1, On May 31, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

FMG contacted MON on June 18, 2021, to schedule a time to meet to discuss the baseline reports and next steps. FMG noted it wanted to discuss participation in field work and asked MON if community environmental monitors have been identified for several upcoming opportunities. MON responded explaining that there would be a meeting with Chief and Council that day and MON would reach out regarding community environmental monitors.

In August 2021, FMG had a series of meetings with MON and their technical consultants to present and discuss the baseline studies prior to MON completing their review.

- On August 20, 2021, MON and FMG met to discuss the baseline water and fish studies. FMG presented a Project overview, as well as details on the data collection done to date and the ongoing programs. The water presentation and discussion covered groundwater, hydrology and surface water quality. The fish and fish habitat presentation covered various aquatic studies. The consultants for MON asked questions about the technical studies that were answered at the meeting.
- On August 25, 2021, MON and FMG met to discuss the baseline terrestrial study. The presentation covered the details of the studies done from 2011 to 2020 related to vegetation, birds, bats and mammals. It also detailed the 2021 winter aerial survey and associated results. The consultants for MON asked questions about the technical studies that were answered at the meeting.
- On August 26, 2021, MON and FMG met to discuss the baseline studies for the atmospheric environment. The presentation covered the studies completed to date on air quality, sound and vibration and ambient light assessment. The consultants for MON asked questions about the technical studies that were answered at the meeting. Prior to this meeting, FMG informed MON that the Baseline Sound and Vibration (Leaves On/summer) Report was posted on the Springpole EA portal. FMG noted that the results were consistent with the leaves-off report and provided the link to the document.

FMG provided the slide presentations from the meetings in August to MON on September 1, 2021.

On September 7, 2021, Pinchin (consultant for MON) contacted FMG to inquire if there were any baseline studies still waiting to be released for MON review. FMG responded on the same day noting that the baseline studies are currently available on the website and any ongoing work would be captured in the draft EIS/EA.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with MON prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including baseline studies.

On October 15, 2021, MON reported that the review of the atmospheric, aquatic, and terrestrial environment baselines studies was complete, and the review of the hydrogeology and water quality studies would be finished in the next week; comments would be provided by November 22, 2021, and they would share the reviews with FMG when they had been approved by MON's Chief and Council.

MON provided FMG with the community's review of the baseline studies for the Project on November 11, 2021. The review included comments on the aquatic, terrestrial, water and atmospheric environment. FMG thanked MON for sharing the review, noting that FMG would review the comments and put together a plan with the MON team to address questions and comments.

FMG also indicated that the MECP asked FMG to undertake a Caribou telemetry program in early 2022. FMG noted that it would share the permit application for review and noted that it can be discussed during the meeting to discuss the baseline review. FMG forwarded the Caribou permit application to MON the same day. MON did not send any feedback on the permit application.

On December 23, 2021, FMG provided MON with responses to the community's comments on the baseline studies. FMG noted they would be happy to set up a meeting to discuss any questions related to the responses in the new year. FMG followed-up to see if this meeting should be scheduled prior to draft EIS/EA submission however MON did not schedule it. The comments and feedback were then incorporated into the future baseline studies and/or draft EIS/EA as appropriate. See Table 2.6-8 and Appendix C for a concordance table on how comments were addressed.On November 29, 2021, FMG inquired if MON had hired an environmental monitor, as FMG wanted to arrange training ahead of the environmental monitor's 2022 fieldwork. FMG met with MON and its representatives on December 2, 2021, to discuss current opportunities related to participation in the Project, including next steps in environmental data review and environmental monitor selection. MON was to follow up to confirm the environmental monitor selection.

In January and February 2022, FMG continued to follow up with the Chief of MON to see if there was any progress on hiring a Springpole environmental monitor for the 2022 season. FMG suggested a MON member who expressed interest in the positions.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

Prior to the draft EIS/EA, FMG and MON held conversations during which FMG encouraged the community to undertake TK/TLU studies, with capacity support from FMG, and FMG reached out through email and phone calls with MON inquiring about their interest in conducting a TK/TLU study. Since the submission of the draft EIS/EA, MON has provided their TK/TLU study, which is discussed further in the Post-Draft EIS/EA Submission section below.

FMG met with MON representatives on March 3, 2020, to present and discuss an overview of the Project, the draft ToR, the plans for community consultation, including TK/TLU studies, the baseline studies completed to date and proposed, and alternative assessment methods.

In December 2020 and January 2021, MON and FMG met to discuss TK/TLU studies. On March 3, 2021, FMG sent a letter to MON regarding funding approval for the TK/TLU study. On April 8, 2021, FMG requested an update on the TK/TLU work being done by MON. On April 23, 2021, FMG provided MON with information to support the TK/TLU work. In May 2021, MON and FMG corresponded regarding the status of the TK/TLU work.

FMG provided shapefiles for the TK/TLU study area and a memo describing the type of information that would be required in the TK/TLU study, on July 23, 2021.

On August 25, 2021, MON and FMG met to discuss the logistics of the upcoming Community Information Sessions and starting the TK/TLU Study.

On September 8, 2021, MON asked FMG if shapefiles of the Project Development Area and existing transmission lines could be provided. FMG responded on the same date noting that the previously provided shapefiles are appropriate for the TK study. FMG also provided a link to the provincial website where transmission line mapping could be found.

On October 19, 2021, FMG requested an update from MON on the progress of the TK/TLU Study. MON noted that the Study was progressing well, and 30 interviews had been conducted. They also noted that

MON was in the process of finalizing the hiring of the environmental monitor and community liaison positions. On November 29, 2021, FMG emailed MON requesting an update on the progress of MON's TK/TLU Study.

FMG continued to provide support to MON to complete their TK/TLU Study after the draft EIS/EA, which is discussed in that section below.

Assessment of Alternatives

On October 5, 2021, FMG contacted MON to identify that FMG had completed a preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components and methods and was seeking MON's feedback. FMG also shared Project factsheets describing the EA process, including the alternatives assessment and VCs, and reminded MON of baseline reports also available for review. FMG indicated that a series of videos were available that explained the baseline environment work in plain language. FMG provided the link to the EA website where the assessments were saved.

As described above, FMG has held multiple Community Information Sessions with MON prior to the draft EIS/EA submission in support of engagement on various milestones, including the Assessment of Alternatives.

On December 21, 2021, MON provided FMG with comments on the preliminary Assessment of Alternatives. FMG thanked MON for providing comments and noted it would respond with any questions and would like to schedule a meeting in January 2022 to discuss the comments; however, this did not occur prior to the draft EIS/EA release due to community priorities.

FMG considered the comments and feedback shared from MON, provided responses and incorporated the feedback into the draft EIS/EA accordingly. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C. See Table 2.6-8 for more information on how MON feedback was considered in the alternatives assessment for the final EIS/EA.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to MON related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the MON after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone

FMG emailed MON on June 20, 2022, providing them with the 2021 ESG Report in advance of its public release. FMG welcomed MON's feedback on the report; however, FMG did not receive any feedback.

On July 28, 2022, FMG emailed MON with the radio and poster ads to be distributed to the community in advance of a Community Information Session to present the EIS/EA findings. FMG and MON held a Community Information Session on August 3, 2022, to provide information about the Project, and to review and seek feedback on the draft EIS/EA. The Community Information Session was held as a combination of a presentation and open-house style, with approximately 37 community members in attendance as well as MON advisors. FMG presented an overview of the Project and status, work completed to date on the Project and EA, including the method and results of the draft EIS/EA. The presentation also included a description of feedback heard to date and how it has been addressed. A series of poster boards and handouts were also setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and Project

components and methods alternatives. FMG also presented a 10-minute video that showed the development of key features of the Project. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. Questions were answered at the meeting regarding the EA process and associated consultation, environmental protection primarily related to water quality, closure planning and employment and training opportunities.

FMG attended the Mishkeegogamang Career Fair on February 28, 2023. FMG set up a booth and shared information about the Project and current job opportunities. Students and adults asked about the Project, job opportunities, site location and Project timeline.

As described in Section 2.6.1.1, on July 18, 2023, FMG emailed MON providing details on the IGTRB being established for the Project. FMG offered to address any questions and requested that the letter be shared with the new EIS/EA technical consultant and to schedule an update with them as well.

On August 15, 2023, FMG provided the newly elected Chief with a brief Project overview and extended gratitude to MON for collaboration to date. FMG requested to meet with MON and provided contact information.

On September 15, 2023, FMG provided MON with an update, and a letter with additional details, on the IGTRB. FMG offered to address any questions. MON inquired if the IGTRB is appointed or selected by government. FMG noted that the board is neither appointed nor selected by government.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

MON and FMG have been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022.

FMG emailed MON on May 30, 2022, providing the draft EIS/EA to the community and invited them to participate in the review of the draft documents by providing comments on the areas that may be of interest to the community. FMG noted it would be reaching out to arrange a date to meet and present the draft EIS/EA information to, the leadership and the community, noting that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA. On June 1, 2022, FMG also informed the Chief of MON that USBs with the final EIS/EA would be mailed out the following week and asked if their consultants would like a USB mailed as well. FMG proposed possible meeting dates for technical overview presentations that would help facilitate the review process.

On June 15, 2022, MON emailed FMG requesting a meeting to discuss MON's anticipated timeline to review the draft EIS/EA. On July 7, 2022, MON and FMG met to discuss the progress on the review of the draft EIS/EA and next steps. A discussion was held on planning for a Community Information Session in August to obtain feedback from the community members and it was noted that the review comments on the draft EIS/EA were expected to be issued to FMG by the end of August.

Pending MON's comments on the draft EIS/EA, three technical meetings, focused on fish and fish habitat, terrestrial resources, and human environment, were held with MON's consultants in July and September 2022 to discuss the progress of the review and answer any questions. The presentations provided an overview of the existing environment, effects assessment method and results, mitigation measures, and residual effects.

As described above, FMG held a Community Information Session with MON on August 3, 2022, in support of engagement on various milestones, including the draft EIS/EA.

MON emailed FMG on October 20, 2022, indicating that MON's technical consultant would be presenting the draft EIS/EA review comments to MON prior to sending to FMG, and that they are seeking a different consultant to represent MON on the EA work moving forward. FMG thanked MON for the update and noted that comments on the draft EIS/EA should be submitted by the end of October, if possible.

On February 1, 2023, MON provided FMG with MON's comments on the draft EIS/EA. There were over 50 comments provided across various topics on the draft EIS/EA, primarily related to the biological environment and TLU. FMG acknowledged receipt and on March 13, 2023, FMG emailed MON to inform them that FMG would like to schedule technical meetings to resolve draft EIS/EA comments.

On April 28, 2023, FMG provided MON with its responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA. FMG stated that a series of technical meetings would be scheduled to review the comments and responses in greater detail to determine areas that require further discussion and collaboration. On May 2, 2023, FMG followed up to request availability for the four meetings to discuss comments and responses on the draft EIS/EA. FMG proposed the meetings be organized on the atmospheric environment, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment and TK/TLU and methodology.

On June 13, 2023, FMG called MON to discuss the next steps for the draft EIS/EA review and Community Information Session. MON noted that the Chief and Council has not yet confirmed a consultant to take over in supporting the EIS/EA review process. MON and FMG discussed potential dates for the upcoming Community Information Session, which were to be confirmed via a follow up phone call. MON informed FMG that they would follow up on timing for a meeting to discuss the responses to comments provided on the draft EIS/EA. MON also confirmed July 11 and 12, 2023, for a site tour and Community Information Session.

On July 11, 2023, FMG provided MON with a tour of the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp. The next day, on July 12, 2023, FMG held a Community Information Session at MON. FMG provided a presentation on the draft EIS/EA, including how the comments from the community were shaping the final EIS/EA. FMG noted they were looking forward to receiving the MON TK/TLU Study and provided an overview of next steps. A series of poster boards and handouts were set up around the room—they provided further detail on the draft EIS/EA method and results. FMG also presented a 10-minute video that showed the development of key features of the Project. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures, and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials.

On August 1, 2023, FMG followed up with MON again, asking about their availability for a meeting to discuss the community's comments on the draft EIS/EA.

On August 8, 2023, at the request of MON, FMG provided FMG's responses to the community's comments on the draft EIS/EA in advance of holding meetings. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA, is provided as Appendix C. Also, FMG noted that a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Report had been provided to MON's consultant, Woodland Heritage, for review on May 9, 2023, but no review comments had been shared yet. FMG provided MON with the email chain regarding the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment.

MON and FMG met on September 28, 2023, to meet the newly elected Chief and Council and introduce them to the Project. FMG provided a Project overview and an update on the draft EIS/EA. Discussions were held on community engagement and agreements, TK/TLU, fish habitat compensation and offsetting, the,

baseline environmental data, review of the EIS/EA, labour and economy, the tailings management facility/CDF and the transmission line.

On September 29, 2023, and October 2, 2023, FMG and MON exchanged emails discussing review of the EIS/EA. MON confirmed that they would complete review by the end of October or November.

On November 6, 2023, FMG invited MON to a community-specific workshop on the FHOCP in December. The purpose of the workshop was to present information on the options proposed in the draft FHOCP, and to discuss new potential offsetting options. The workshop was held on December 5, 2023, with seven community members, as well as MON's advisors. MON shared valuable feedback on the FHOCP that has been incorporated into the final EIS/EA (see Appendix F). FMG distributed a copy of the presentation to the attendees and requested any other follow up ideas or questions regarding the workshop to be shared with FMG.

On December 15, 2023, FMG emailed MON and provided the Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. FMG requested that MON provide any comments or questions on the draft table by February 15, 2024, so that FMG can fully consider it, and have necessary follow-up discussions, in advance of the final EIS/EA. FMG offered to arrange a meeting to discuss and review the draft table. FMG did not receive feedback from MON on this table and another opportunity to review is provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.

In February and March 2024, MON and FMG met on various occasions for technical discussions on MON's comments on the draft EIS/EA and FMG's responses. Presentations and summaries from these meetings are included in Appendix D.

- February 9, 2024 - to discuss fish and fish habitat (EA Technical Meeting #1). FMG provided updates on surface water systems, groundwater systems, and biological communities that had been conducted since the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided updates on baseline conditions including Project area fish species, broadscale monitoring (BsM), the acoustic study, lower trophic communities, and environmental eDNA. FMG provided a review of comments shared from MON on the draft EIS/EA and how FMG responded to each of the comments. FMG provided information on mitigation measures (offset and compensation), including restoration of inland lakes, reclaimed basin, constructed shoals, and Lake Sturgeon restoration. Lastly, FMG provided information on new candidate measures including littoral coarse wood structure enhancement, and the South Bay Mine rehabilitation partnership. FMG provided the presentation slides to MON on February 12, 2024.
- February 16, 2024 - to discuss the surface water effects assessment and protection (EA Technical Meeting #2). FMG finished a presentation from February 9, 2024, that provided information on the updated fish habitat offsetting and compensation measures in response to feedback shared. More discussion was also held regarding Lake Sturgeon and what caused a reduction of their population. FMG provided a summary on the draft EIS/EA assessment for surface water, surface water quality, and environmental baseline studies. FMG provided information on how surface water will be protected during the Project.
- February 28, 2024 - to discuss air quality and greenhouse gases (GHGs) (EA Technical Meeting #3a) and the Human and Ecological Health Risk Assessment (EA Technical Meeting #3b). FMG presented information on assessment method for air quality and GHGs, including updates for the final EIS/EA, mitigation measures, and residual effects. FMG presented post-draft EIS/EA field data updates and modelling methods/approaches regarding the human and ecological health risk assessment.

- March 21, 2024 - to discuss terrestrial environment and incorporation of TK/TLU into the EIS/EA (EA Technical Meeting #4). FMG presented on how TK/TLU will be considered in the final EIS/EA, Vegetation communities and wetlands, and wildlife and wildlife habitat including SAR. On the same day, FMG sent the presentation slides from the technical meetings to MON.

Baseline Studies (Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission)

On June 6, 2022, MON emailed FMG asking if FMG had a draft Archaeological Study prepared for review. FMG responded providing MON with the link to the archaeological materials in the draft EIS/EA documents and invited an environmental monitor from MON to accompany FMG for the field season. FMG asked MON if there are areas of interest to the community related to TK/TLU to include in the archaeology program. FMG did not receive a response from MON.

FMG emailed MON and their consultants on July 27, 2022, to provide information on the 2022 archaeology program for the Project, and informed MON that it was completing Stage 2 archaeological assessments of areas within project development. FMG provided figures to identify current Stage 2 components. FMG asked MON to identify any additional areas of interest to their community in the LSA that could be incorporated into the study program. FMG then provided the dates for the archaeology program and invited an MON member to participate and represent the community.

On September 12, 2022, MON emailed FMG to connect them with MON's consultant, Woodland Heritage, to relay any concerns about the Project archaeology study. FMG indicated that there would be a meeting with FMG's consultant, WSP, and MON's consultant, Pinchin Ltd. about the human environment section of the draft EIS/EA which includes archaeology and asked if MON and their consultants would like to join. MON replied that they may not be able to attend the call on September 14, 2022, but would appreciate the meeting information.

MON's consultants and FMG met on September 16, 2022, to discuss ongoing archaeological work for the Project. FMG and WSP presented plans for Stage 1 work in 2023 and requested input from MON identifying any other areas of interest. MON noted that a helicopter survey in September until mid-October may be disturbing to land users conducting fall harvest and hunting activities. FMG and WSP noted that additional Stage 2 work is required for the transmission line route, which is expected to be carried out next year. FMG and MON advisors would meet again in advance of Stage 2 work to review proposed plans and MON input. On October 4, 2022, FMG followed up with MON, regarding previous concerns about the proposed archaeology program identified during their meeting. FMG informed them that LiDAR data would be used for the Stage 1 archaeological assessment, rather than a site visit, to address the community's concerns with helicopter disruption and intrusion during the moose hunting season.

On January 11, 2023, FMG emailed MON and MON's consultants informing them of the upcoming Caribou study in the Project area that would be carried out from January 25 to February 10, 2023. FMG provided MON with details on what the study would entail and attached a map of the Project location for reference. No response was shared from MON.

On March 27, 2023, FMG emailed MON informing them of the 2023 archaeology program that is focused on completing the Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the proposed treated effluent discharge line within the Project area. FMG inquired if there are any additional areas of interest to MON in the LSA that could be incorporated into the program. FMG also inquired about historical Lake Sturgeon spawning locations to inform the eDNA Study. FMG welcomed a representative of MON to participate in these programs. MON

responded asking if MON's comments on the Stage 1 report have been addressed, and for FMG to share the 2022 work for review and planning for 2023. FMG responded clarifying that responses to comments on the Stage 1 report were provided in late 2021, and that responses to MON's comments on the draft EIS/EA are expected to be provided in the coming weeks. MON responded thanking FMG for the update and requested a map of the anticipated Stage 2 area. FMG provided the area. and on March 28, MON asked what archaeological standards would be applied to the study area. FMG responded indicating that it would be conducted according to the Technical Standards defined in the 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. MON responded inquiring which standards would be applied from the Guidelines. FMG responded on March 30, 2023, clarifying the Sections of the Technical Standards that would be applied to the Stage 2 Archeological Assessment Program. FMG also noted that Woodland Heritage's review of Stage 1 can help refine the study area for Stage 2 fieldwork.

On May 9, 2023, FMG provided MON with the Stage 1 Archeological Assessment for review and comment. FMG followed up with MON on June 20, 2023, inquiring if they had any comments on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments. FMG also welcomed input from the community if there were additional areas of interest. No further feedback was shared from MON or the consultants.

FMG emailed MON on April 2, 2024, requesting logistical details for the Caribou Workshop. MON followed up and noted availability between May 13, 2024, to May 17, 2024, or between May 20, 2024, to May 24, 2024. MON replied on April 3, 2024, noting that a May 2, 2024, date worked for the Caribou Habitat Workshop.

MON emailed FMG on April 29, 2024, to note that the Caribou Workshop scheduled for May 2, 2024, would need to be postponed. FMG replied noting that confirming an alternative date for the Caribou Habitat Workshop was understood.

FMG emailed MON on May 27, 2024 requesting to reschedule the Caribou Workshop, proposing June 25, 2024, in the City of Thunder Bay. FMG requested that traditional land users attend the Caribou Workshop to present information on the options proposed for Caribou offsetting, as well as to discuss new potential offsetting options. FMG also informed MON that they are invited to bring forward new ideas, share knowledge, comments, and questions on the options. FMG also informed MON that suggestions for new alternative options and Caribou habitat improvement projects are welcome. FMG informed MON that the provided feedback from the traditional land users would be considered in the final EIS/EA. FMG requested MON provide confirmation of the proposed June 25, 2024 workshop.

Throughout June 2024, FMG corresponded with MON several times regarding logistics for the workshop.

On June 26, 2024, FMG and MON hosted a collaborative workshop on the Caribou habitat offsetting strategy with MON community members. The workshop presented information on the updated baseline caribou studies, potential offsetting options identified to date and discussed new potential offsetting options. Participants were invited to share knowledge, comments and questions on the options and bring forward potential new ideas. 17 members and representatives of MON attended the workshop. The presentation and notes for the workshop are provided in Appendix D.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

On October 27 and December 6, 2022, FMG emailed MON requesting an update on the TK/TLU Study finalization. As of December 31, 2022, MON and their consultants indicated to FMG that they were working to finalize the studies. On March 13, 2023, FMG emailed MON to inquire whether the TK Study team is

scheduled to go back to the community to complete the validation work so the report can be finalized. FMG followed up again on March 27, 2023, asking for an update on the anticipated meeting to discuss future TK/TLU studies.

During a call with MON on June 13, 2023, FMG inquired when it would receive the TK study. MON noted that the study is completed but still requires confirmation from the Chief and Council of what information would be released to FMG and that they were working on the TK study, and they would try to get it to FMG as soon as possible.

On June 15, 2023, MON provided FMG with a redacted TK map and provided details on the map, in advance of the full TK/TLU study. On August 1, 2023, FMG emailed asking for an update on the complete TK/TLU Study document and requested to schedule a time to discuss next steps regarding the map. On August 29, 2023, FMG emailed requesting additional information on the TK map and study related to the transmission line route. FMG offered to schedule a phone call.

On December 8, 2023, MON provided FMG with a redacted TK study and a confidentiality disclaimer. FMG acknowledged receipt and stated that FMG would include information in the final EIS/EA acknowledging details provided in the TK study, noted that information shared in the final EIS/EA represents only a small, Project-relevant portion of that study (see Section 6.21).

Table 2.6-8: Comments, Questions and Responses from Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives Traditional land and resource use	Traditional Land Use information shared by MON noted several land use values located along the southern end of Alternative 3 transmission line route.	Alternative 1 has been selected as the updated preferred alignment. In addition to selecting Alternative 1, the transmission line has been optimized to follow the mine access road more closely, thereby reducing the overall corridor width through this segment. Details on the transmission line are provided in Section 5.18.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	MON requested clarification regarding statements that Lake Sturgeon are absent from Springpole Lake or are in extremely low abundance within the Birch River / Cat River system.	A full lake BsM and hydroacoustic survey was completed in Springpole Lake in 2022 (Appendix O). To gather more data on Lake Sturgeon, a targeted large mesh netting in Springpole Lake coupled with a two-season (spring and summer) eDNA metabarcoding sampling program in Springpole Lake, Birch Lake and regional stations (Cat River) was completed in 2022. Additional targeted eDNA quantitative polymerase chain reaction sampling of historical observations and spawning areas was completed within Springpole Lake, Cat River, Lake St. Joseph outflow, Birch Lake and Birch River in 2023. The studies confirmed that the deep basins within Springpole Lake and Birch Lake were similar in fish species composition and lower trophic conditions concluding that temporary isolation of one deep basing will not alter the ability of the remailing 94 % of Springpole Lake to maintain all resident fish species. Further detail on these studies is provided in Section 6.10.2.
Baseline studies Groundwater	MON requested additional information about groundwater baseline data.	Groundwater baseline data was supplemented, resulting in a higher degree of confidence for the environmental assessment predictions. Supplemental data collected included: • Water level monitoring and hydraulic test data from 15 additional screened monitoring well installations; • Vibrating wire installations at ten new locations, and water level monitoring from 26 monitoring ports equipped with dataloggers; • Automated pressure transducers monitoring groundwater level fluctuations in 25 monitoring wells; • Packer testing at new drillhole locations, including 71 new unique measurements; • Hydraulic testing in 29 pre-existing monitoring well installations; • Additional stratigraphic boreholes and test pits from 2021 and 2022 investigations; • Bedrock outcropping mapping information from historical surveys; and, • Additional quarterly groundwater quality data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The results of these studies are discussed below under Existing Conditions (Section 6.5.2) with additional details included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1).
Baseline studies Air Quality	MON requested information on the use of regional air quality data as baseline data for the air quality assessment, as well as a description of how local data are considered.	The assessment of air quality uses three to five years of data from the NAPS program stations at Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Pickle Lake and Simcoe to ensure a robust, long-term monitoring dataset has been considered with onsite Project data used preferentially. Although the selected NAPS locations are influenced by local urban sources, they are broadly reflective of regional air quality, and from an EA perspective they are expected to overestimate parameters relative to the Project site. This lends itself to a conservative approach when assessing the effects on air quality from the Project. The collected onsite data will provide a comparison against the regional NAPS data and will be used preferentially to characterize the existing air quality at the remote Project site. A discussion of this comparison has been added to the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Section 6.2.2.2. Per standard practice, for air parameter criteria with averaging periods shorter than one year, the 90th percentile of the data are used to represent baseline conditions; for parameters with an annual averaging period, the average (mean) concentrations are used. Onsite data were supplemented by the regional data, and discussions include a comparison of onsite data to regional data. For parameters that were not measured on site and were not measured at the regional NAPS stations, such as silica, baseline concentrations have been established using appropriate methods, such as use of a particle size distribution, speciation of a measured parameter, or published values. This rationale has been described in the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1, Section 5). The Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2, Section 4) include a summary of the meteorological data relevant to discussions of air quality modelling, a summary table of baseline concentrations and the rationale for the selection of the baseline concentrations used for the assessment of effects.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	MON commented on the adequacy of the sampling strategy for the characterization of vegetation communities.	Ground truthing vegetation surveys (111 vegetation plots in 2021 and an additional 254 plots in 2022) have been undertaken across the ecosites present in the vegetation community and wetland RSA to further refine local levels of detail per ecosite. Vegetation surveys up to the end of 2022 identified a total of 397 plant species within the RSA.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	MON commented on the use of Far North Land Cover Classification vegetation data.	Updated 2021 Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) data has been received from MNR that has increased the spatial coverage within the RSA for the final EIS/EA. The 2021 FRI data has been used in the Baseline Terrestrial Report (Appendix P) and in the assessment of potential effects on vegetation communities and wetlands for the final EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-8: Comments, Questions and Responses from Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	MON requested additional information on how the isolation of the basin and removal of fish from the isolated areas would occur.	Additional detail of the isolation procedure including methods, timing and other mitigation measures has been added to Section 5.6.1.2, Section 6.10.4 and the FHOCP (Appendix F, Section 5.2.3). Detailed discussion on controlled dewatering rates and procedure for the isolated basin has been added. Additional description of the fish removal (mitigation) is also provided, including a strategy suggested by DFO where isolation of the basin during the spring may reduce the number of Lake Trout and Walleye entrained in the basin.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	MON requested clarification on potential effects to the food web / primary productivity.	Detailed investigations and studies have been completed for the Project and provide comparison of lower trophic data and fish community data for Springpole lake and adjacent Birch Lake sufficient to assess the potential effects of the isolated open pit basin. Results show comparable primary resources in the six deep water sample stations in Springpole Lake and two stations in Birch Lake, and a high degree of similarity between the three most northern stations in the north basin of Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Air Quality	MON requested further clarification on the standard measures that would be implemented to manage dust from the mine access road and the aggregate areas, during all phases of the Project.	Fugitive dusts generated during the construction phase will be managed with targeted mitigation to control dust emissions at the source, thereby reducing effects. A dust management plan to mitigate dust will be required to support the Provincial Environmental Compliance Approval (Air). This Plan will include all sources of dust and will address sources and activities. Mitigation measures are further described in Section 6.2.4 and in the Air Quality Assessment (Appendix Environmental Compliance Approval G-2, Table 6-1).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	MON requested additional rationale for the strategic stocking and micro hatchery measure, as well as assurance that it would not unbalance natural communities.	Several comments from Indigenous communities and government agencies indicated a lack of support for this measure, and as a result, it has been removed from the preferred offsetting and compensation measures detailed in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MON requested further information on the predicted effect of dust deposition on adjacent waterbodies.	The change in water quality parameters due to the deposition of dust on surface water and snow during winter in adjacent waterbodies is assessed in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2, Section 4) and included in Section 6.9.6 of the EIS/EA; it is based on the predicted changes in air quality parameters (dust) from the Project as described in the Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2). Based on the results in Section 6.9, the change in surface water quality parameters due to dust deposition on snow is negligible.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MON requested further information on the process for determining significance and how uncertainty was addressed.	The determination of significance is described in Section 6.1.5 and is consistent with the approach described in the approved Amended ToR. Uncertainty is addressed in the assessment of potential effects by include conservative assumptions to minimize the risk that a potential effect is underestimated. A description of the level of confidence in the prediction is provide for each VC, and if there is uncertainty in the prediction, a follow-up program may be developed to assess the prediction or the effectiveness of the mitigation. This additional information is included in Section 6.1.5.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MON requested clarification on the use of the ecological and social context and timing attributes for the determination of significance.	The ecological and social context attribute is used to describe the sensitivity of a VC to further changes, and whether typical or special measures are required to managing further effects on sensitive VCs. The characterization of residual effects takes into consideration the ecological and social context for the VC, in determining whether the residual effects after the application of mitigation is likely to result in a significant adverse effect. The timing attribute is used to describe whether the residual effect on the VC would be influenced by timing, such as occurring during a sensitive period of the year or season for the VC. If the residual effect occurs outside these sensitive periods, there would be a lower likelihood that timing would influence the determination of significance.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	MON asked for more details about Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measures and additional documentation and data to describe species absence and the likely cause of Lake Sturgeon absence.	The Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measure has been revised to a two-step measure: 1. collect additional data and information and 2. implement reintroduction / enhancement measures. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MON requested further information on the assessment of the effect of fugitive dust on surface water systems.	The potential water quality effects from dust deposition have been quantitatively assessed and results are included in both the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 4) as well as the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R). Results of these models informed the assessment of potential effects from fugitive dust on surface water systems and included in Sections 6.6 through 6.9. For Birch Lake, the assessment of dust effects has also been considered and included in Section 6.6.3. The potential effect of dust will be mitigated with a dust management plan, and erosion and sediment control plan that will be developed during the permitting phase.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse gas emissions	MON requested clarification on the validity of GHG emissions as a VC and the reversibility of effects. A distinction was made regarding the reversibility of residual GHG effects, specifically between GHG emissions (the VC) and atmospheric GHG concentrations.	The Project's effects on atmospheric GHG concentrations are not fully reversible; however, it is recognized that this Project is not expected to have a measurable effect on these GHG concentrations. In contrast, the residual effects of GHG emissions are reversible as the emissions cease once the activities generating GHG emissions no longer occur. Additionally, GHG emissions are measurable at the Project level and both the federal and provincial governments have implemented initiatives to manage and mitigate GHG emissions.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	MON requested additional information on how the potential time lag between impact and the implementation of offset measures is addressed, considering that a large proportion of the offsetting and compensation relies on the reclamation of the open pit basin.	Through discussion with government agencies (DFO and the MNRF), fish biomass and surrogates to productivity will be used as the measure of impacts and the measure of offsetting success to allow consistent and readily made revisions to the total impact and total required offsets should a delay in reclamation occur. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).

Table 2.6-8: Comments, Questions and Responses from Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Air quality, Surface Water Quality	MON commented that the effect of dust in snow and water and the impact of air quality on the snowpack for drinking and runoff.	The Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2) and Section 6.2.5 of the EIS/EA have been updated and include an assessment of the construction phase activities, including the development of site infrastructure such as the aggregate areas, the construction of the transmission line, and the construction and operation of the mine access road. The predicted changes to dust have been carried forward into the assessment of potential water quality effects and quantitatively assessed. The results are included in both the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 4) as well as the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R). Results of these models informed the assessment of potential effects from fugitive dust on surface water systems and included in Sections 6.6 through Section 6.9. The effects from atmospheric dust deposition on water quality is not predicted to be distinguishable from base case predictions (Appendix N-2). However, the potential effect of dust will be mitigated with a dust management plan, and erosion and sediment control plan that will be developed during the permitting phase. The Project has developed mitigation measures for air quality and has committed to a follow-up program that will be initiated during construction and will include particulate monitoring to allow a feedback loop between conditions and maintenance activities; this will confirm the efficacy of controls at the property line.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators, Birds	MON requested further information on the assumptions used to support a conservative assessment of effects for SAR birds.	It has been assumed that all the habitat within the PDA will be removed during the construction phase of the Project. However, some areas may not be fully removed and will remain, and therefore this assumption will overestimate the actual effects. Further, it has been assumed that rehabilitation measures and any associated offsetting of habitat loss or disturbance would not occur until the closure phase. Progressive rehabilitation is expected to occur during the operations phase such that some of the rehabilitated areas would provide habitat to SAR birds prior to closure, and as a result, the effects would be overestimated. Overall, the assumptions used in the Section 6.16.5 provide a conservative approach and results in an overestimation of effects.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Bats	MON requested further information on the potential effects of the loss of candidate hibernaculum on bats.	Baseline studies conducted in 2023 confirmed that there is no hibernaculum in the PDA; therefore, the effects of this potential loss were not required. As a result, the assessment of potential direct effects on bat habitat has been updated in Section 6.15.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Birds	MON requested further information to support the conclusions for potential effects on EWPW.	Baseline surveys for the Project have been undertaken for EWPW and have substantially expanded the baseline knowledge for EWPW in both distribution and abundance of this SAR in this region of Ontario, as described in Appendix P-1 (Baseline Terrestrial Report) and Section 6.16.2.1 of the final EIS/EA. This extensive baseline information for EWPW was used to support the assessment of potential effects.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	MON noted that if there is significant in-migration of workers, it could introduce unwanted behaviors at the on-site accommodations and affect the quality of life for community members.	FMG has developed an Employee Health and Wellness Strategy as a result of engagement with local Indigenous communities with goals to support physical and emotional well-being and culturally safe workplaces, maximize the recruitment, employment and retention of northern and Indigenous people, and successfully integrate northern and Indigenous people into the Project workforce for the long-term.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	Through the draft EIS/EA consultation process, FMG was informed of the challenges that many communities and individuals face with mental health and addictions, and the various barriers to treatment and employment opportunities.	The draft Employee Health & Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3) looks at employee health and well-being through a proactive lens by embracing education, prevention and early intervention measures. From design to implementation, FMG provides a collaborative framework with opportunities for continual improvement input and guidance so that services and support offered will remain relevant throughout the life of mine.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MON requested further information on the assessment of the mixing zone.	The assessment of the mixing zone is described in the Treated Effluent Discharge Mixing Study (CORMIX; Appendix N-2, Attachment 1).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	MON requested further information to support the conclusions related to the assessment of vegetation species of interest to Indigenous communities, including the assumption that mitigation and rehabilitation measures will suffice.	Available TK has been reviewed to identify species of interest. Substantial additional vegetation field surveys were carried out in 2021 and 2022 and have been used to update the baseline conditions and improve the understanding of natural variability estimates. This has been included in the Baseline Terrestrial Report (Appendix P) and summarized in Section 6.11.2. Based on the assessment of potential effects, mitigation measures have been re-evaluated and are included in Section 6.11.4.

Table 2.6-8: Comments, Questions and Responses from Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	MON identified there may be Project impacts on the abundance of harvested plants.	With the exception of the mine site footprint, all other areas will remain available for TLRU activities. The change in wildlife distribution and the experience of harvesters due to sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. The access management strategy aims to address Indigenous concerns regarding public access to TLRU areas. The strategy will describe appropriate signage to advise the public of the road's intended use, safety communication protocol for traditional land users, and the establishment of a gatehouse/checkpoint towards the end of the Wenasaga Road to ensure unauthorized use does not occur. Further, the transmission line corridor portion of the Project footprint will be allowed to naturally regrow following construction to an extent that limits accessibility and therefore new access along the transmission line is not anticipated. The change in fish habitat supporting fisheries will be mitigated with measures outlined in the FHOCP (Appendix F) and described in Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat) which includes fish habitat enhancements to the lake-facing embankments of the dikes, enhancements and reclamation of the open pit basin, the creation of new fish habitat adjacent to the open pit basin, and the proposed reclamation of fish habitat at the abandoned South Bay mine. In addition, fishing and hunting will be prohibited within the controlled access portion of the PDA by Project personnel while working or residing on site, during all phases of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MON noted that vegetation and wetlands assessment should be used to identify areas where the species used for plant harvesting sites by Indigenous communities.	Section 6.11.6 includes a detailed assessment of the vegetation communities for the Project, based on updated FRI data. This is used to identify areas where plant harvesting sites may be located, based on the information provided by TK/TLU information. As a mitigation measure, opportunities will be provided, prior to construction for Indigenous communities, where there is interest to the harvest vegetation and aquatic resources within the PDA and access outside the mine site will be maintained supporting all traditional land use activities during all phases of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wolverine	MON requested clarification on the application of the ecological and/or social context attribute for the determination of significance for Wolverine.	The ecological and/or social context attribute is used to describe the sensitivity of the VC to further changes. As Wolverine are designated as a Threatened species under the provincial ESA, there is likely a need to implement special measures to manage the potential effects on Wolverine, and therefore the ecological and/or social context is considered moderate. The characterization of the ecological and social context has been clarified in Section 6.1.5, and the evaluation of this attribute is described in Section 6.14.7.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Birds	MON requested clarification on how pre-construction surveys will mitigate the loss of "nesting habitat" for Barn Swallow.	Pre-construction surveys, as described in Section 6.16.4 will identify actively used nesting habitat so that Project activities can be sequenced to avoid these areas during construction and operations.
Draft EIS/EA VCs, Criteria and indicators	MON requested clarification on the use of the likelihood attribute and noted that the discussion of the significance determination for each VC should follow a consistent approach.	The use of the likelihood attribute is only applied to those residual effects that have been determined to be significant and has been clarified in Section 6.1.5. The discussion of significance for each VC in this final EIS/EA presents the attributes in a consistent order to provide additional clarity.
TK and TLU information	MON provided a Traditional Land Use and Occupancy and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Study.	Information from this report was integrated into the assessments of biophysical VCs, the assessment of effects on traditional land and resource use, and the assessment of socio-economic VCs.
TK and TLU information Caribou	MON emphasized the cultural and spiritual significance of Boreal Caribou, and their priority for Boreal Caribou conservation, especially protecting calving areas.	FMG acknowledges this and has integrated these values into the final EIS/EA. The draft EIS/EA was updated to include details from the community studies and other Indigenous Knowledge and Use and Socio-Economic Studies.
TK and TLU information Traditional land and resource use	MON stated that the location the Project described in the draft EIS/EA is a ceremonial ground.	As a result of traditional land use information, the selected alternative for the transmission line route in the draft EIS/EA, which was routed west and south of SFN, has been optimized, and the selected route for the transmission line route avoids sensitive land use areas identified by MON.

2.6.1.7 Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

FMG initiated Project consultation with NWOMC in August 2018 and NWOMC and FMG have been engaging regarding the Project since. FMG has shared information with the NWOMC on the EA milestones, as well as incorporated valuable input shared by NWOMC into the final EIS/EA. FMG has considered comments shared, and where appropriate, incorporated into the final EIS/EA, as described in Table 2.6-10 and Appendix C. FMG has received a TK/TLU Study as well as a Supplemental Study from NWOMC for consideration in Project planning. FMG and the NWOMC have developed a Consultation Agreement that outlines how they will work together during the EA process. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to NWOMC organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and NWOMC up to June 30, 2024.

The key topics of interest identified by NWOMC to date include wildlife, fish and fish habitat, incorporation of TK/TLU, ongoing engagement in the Project, and follow-up and monitoring. Comments from NWOMC and FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6 10 and Appendix C.

Table 2.6-9: Summary of Key Engagement with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
March 2020 – April 2021	Document Review: Provincial Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference	FMG and NWOMC engaged in substantial discussions throughout the Terms of Reference process including meeting multiple times and NWOCM providing comments on both the Terms of Reference and draft amended Terms of Reference which were considered.
May 31, 2021	Document provided for review: Baseline Studies	FMG notified NWOMC that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. FMG did not received comments from NWOMC.
October 1, 2021	Document provided for review: Preliminary Alternatives Assessment	FMG provided NWOMC with a preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive written feedback from NWOMC on these tables.
December 3, 2021	Notice of Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
February 1, 2022	Community Presentation – Valued Component & Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Study	NWOMC consultants presented an overview of the findings from the Study and workshops conducted with NWOMC, as presented in the reports.
March 10, 2022	NWOMC Valued Component & Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Study	NWOMC provided their Valued Component and Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use studies, which were subsequently considered in the draft EIS/EA report, as well as considered throughout the final EIS/EA.
May – June 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to NWOMC.
July – December 2022	Document Review: Draft EIS/EA #1	NWOMC provided a cover letter and technical review comments on the draft EIS/EA on July 29, 2022. On December 19, 2022, FMG provided responses to the comments received on the draft EIS/EA.
September 22, 2022	Community Information Session	FMG had a Community Information Session to discuss comments and next steps regarding the draft EIS/EA.
April – June 2023	Document Review: Draft EIS/EA #2	On April 13, 2023, NWOMC provided FMG with a letter detailing NWOMC's review of FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA. NWOMC and FMG met on May 29, 2023, to discuss the draft EIS/EA review and next steps. Following the discussion, FMG provided its written responses to NWOMC's follow-up comments on June 23, 2023.
May 29, 2023	Technical Review Meetings: Draft EIS/EA	FMG met with NWOMC to discuss the draft EIS/EA review and next steps. It was discussed that the comments were resolved, and outstanding requests included that NWOMC to be involved in the fish compensation planning and would like to have a site tour.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, Co-disposal facility Optimization, Environmental Assessment Progress, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
September 7, 2023	Workshop: Fish & Fish Habitat	FMG and WSP held a workshop with NWOMC to discuss the draft FHOCP. NWOMC members provided comments and input on the draft FHOCP.
September 27, 2023	Site Tour	FMG hosted a site tour at the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with NWOMC, which provided an opportunity for them to become more familiar with the location, existing environment and components of the proposed mine site.
December 15, 2023	Document provided for review: Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples	FMG emailed NWOMC and provided the Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. It is understood that NWOMC will review this as part of the final EIS/EA.
May 2, 2024	Workshop: Caribou	FMG presented information on the updated baseline Caribou studies, the potential offsetting options identified to date and discussed new potential offsetting options.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities related to NWOMC. This includes discussions related to potential preferred consultation approach; communications related to calls for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions and other in-person engagement such as site tours.

Since 2018, FMG has been working with NWOMC leadership to provide capacity support for substantial and participation in the Project EA.

Throughout 2019 and 2020 FMG and NWOMC corresponded and met to discuss the consultation process and associated agreements. FMG and NWOMC signed a Consultation Agreement in April 2021. FMG has and will continue to engage with the NWOMC using the preferred methods and approaches identified by NWOMC in the agreement. In April 2020, FMG emailed noting that FMG understood that NWOMC prefers to continue to work directly with the NWOMC Lands, Resources and Consultations branch, specifically the Mineral Development Advisor and had assigned a manager to coordinate document reviews, meetings, and provision of TK/TLU.

On March 10, 2022, NWOMC provided the results of their VC and TK/TLU studies, which were subsequently considered in the draft EIS/EA report, as well as considered throughout the final EIS/EA.

In April 2023, FMG and NWOMC signed a workplan, which outlines expectations and timelines for continued work between FMG and NWOMC in relation to several aspects of the Project.

During a meeting on May 29, 2023, FMG informed NWOMC that FMG was preparing to submit the final EIS/EA in the first half of 2024 and therefore invited all information that may be relevant to the EIS/EA, including TK and TLU information, socioeconomic baseline data, and any further specific comments on alternatives, effects assessment, and proposed mitigation, to be shared with FMG prior to the end of 2023. Additionally, FMG indicated it would continue to engage with NWOMC by coordinating regular technical meetings to facilitate ongoing information sharing, and assured NWOMC that preferred methods and approaches identified by NWOMC would be utilized for continued engagement. FMG also informed NWOMC of their plans to organize a site tour in late summer/fall of 2023.

In July and August 2023, discussions focused on the organization of the site tour, which was planned for August 23, 2023. The site tour did not occur, as NWOMC emailed FMG on August 21, 2023, noting that they were unable to attend and requested to reschedule for September 27, 2023. On September 25 and 26, 2023, NWOMC and FMG emailed each other to discuss details related to attendees for the upcoming site tour. The site tour was held on September 27, 2023, where FMG shared a presentation on the Project and draft EIS/EA, including economic benefits, ongoing baseline studies (i.e., Wolverine Study); FHOCP, and next steps regarding the ongoing consultation process for the final EIS/EA. FMG also held a Q&A session and a walking tour of the site during the site tour.

On April 9, 2024, FMG emailed NWOMC to share a community update bulletin, which could be shared with the community members, summarizing current activities occurring during the EA process. FMG noted that the monthly bulletin also described training, job and procurement opportunities.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to NWOMC related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with NWOMC prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On May 4, 2021, NWOMC emailed FMG to introduce their new Mineral Development Advisor and requested that FMG put together a presentation for the VC workshop that provided an overview of the Project. NWOMC noted that they had reserved three hours for the workshop, which two of the hours should be dedicated to an internal session, as well as one hour dedicated to opening remarks/prayer and requested presentation and question-and-answer period. The Mineral Development Advisor also noted that they were looking forward to working with FMG. NWOMC also noted that they were having difficulties opening Project shapefiles, FMG responded by providing them with additional copies of the shapefiles via Dropbox. On May 11, 2021, NWOMC noted that they were able to successfully open the files shared by FMG this time.

On May 13, 2021, discussions between FMG and NWOMC included updates and links about the baseline reports and supporting information including videos and factsheets describing the work that has been done and information on the area of the baseline environment.

NWOMC held the VC workshop on May 20, 2021, and invited FMG to provide an introductory presentation prior to the workshop. FMG also provided a copy of the presentation before the workshop. Discussions for the remainder of May 2021 focused on follow-up questions regarding the VC workshop and upcoming opportunities for participation socioeconomic studies.

In August 2021, NWOMC and FMG correspondence focused on planning an in-person meeting to discuss the consultation agreement; potential opportunities to participate in the Project baseline socioeconomic study; selection of technical consultants for the EA review; and VC workshop results.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to NWOMC via email on December 3, 2021.

On March 29, 2022, April 25, 2022, and May 6, 2022 FMG emailed NWOMC to follow up on details related to workplans and potential upcoming dates for a virtual information session Project update for the Regional Consultation Committee.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

FMG and NWOMC engaged in substantial discussions throughout the ToR process, meeting a total of 10 times from the Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process in August 2018 and the submission of the draft amended ToR in April 2021. NWOMC provided comments and FMG provided responses on both the ToR and draft amended ToR.

FMG and NWOMC met on March 3, 2020, and FMG provided the draft ToR on a USB flash drive. On May 21 and October 19, 2020, FMG and NWOMC held subsequent meetings to discuss the ToR.

On October 23, 2020, the MECP provided FMG with comments submitted by NWOMC on the draft ToR. FMG provided responses to NWOMC's comments on November 9, 2020, and FMG and NWOMC met to discuss NWOMC's comments on the draft ToR on November 23, 2020.

In January 2021, FMG and NWOMC corresponded regarding capacity funding for NWOMC's review of the draft amended ToR. On February 3, 2021, NWOMC informed FMG that NWOMC would be reaching out to the MECP to request an extension on the commenting deadline for the draft amended ToR. FMG confirmed

that the extension request date was suitable for them. On February 8, 2021, FMG and NWOMC met to discuss the draft amended ToR review, objectives of the ToR, next steps, and anticipated timelines.

On February 16, 2021, NWOMC provided their comments on the draft amended ToR to FMG. On February 19, 2021, FMG and NWOMC met to discuss NWOMC's comments. On March 30, 2021, FMG provided its responses to NWOMC's comments.

On October 7, 2021, NWOMC emailed FMG to request a status update on the draft amended ToR as there were comments provided in May 2021 (as the contact was new to the file). FMG confirmed that earlier in the year, FMG and NWOMC had worked through the draft amended ToR, noting that NWOMC had engaged consultants to provide support for the review. FMG acknowledged and responded to the comments and updated the draft amended ToR as an outcome. The draft amended ToR was submitted to the MECP in April 2021. FMG offered NWOMC a copy of the draft amended ToR to support the Request for Proposal process.

On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with NWOMC.

Specific consultation on VC selection with NWOMC included a VC workshop in 2021 and a VC Study conducted by NWOMC in 2022. These findings were considered in the draft EIS/EA.

In May 2021, NWOMC and FMG discussed logistics related to a VC workshop that would provide an overview of the Project. On May 20, 2021, FMG attended the introduction of the VC workshop hosted by NWOMC. FMG provided an overview of the Project, there was a discussion of the VCs and there was an opportunity for community members to ask questions. Know History (on behalf of NWOMC) provided details on what a VC is and how it is used in the EA process. FMG then left the meeting so that the workshop could be conducted among NWOMC citizens. On May 20, 2021, FMG emailed NWOMC and thanked them for putting the VC Workshop together and noted that it was very pleased with the turnout and the questions shared. FMG requested the additional questions that participants sent via the chat and noted that it would compile responses. NWOMC responded providing a follow-up question from a participant regarding ore processing details. FMG responded providing clarification and noted that the EA Project description currently in progress would provide more details on the ore processing. On May 27, 2021, FMG provided NWOMC with a document containing answers to the questions gathered from the VC workshop.

FMG met with NWOMC on July 21, 2021, to discuss the status of the VC workshop. NWOMC noted that the workshop results should be coming near the end of August. NWOMC informed FMG on August 23, 2021, that Know History was currently revising the VC report. FMG followed up with NWOMC on October 6 and 7, 2021 for an update on the delivery of the VC workshop outcome and associated report. NWOMC responded confirming that the results would be provided once the report was completed. FMG followed up again on November 12, 2021. NWOMC indicated that they would request availability from Know History to present the VC report.

FMG followed up on January 11, 2022, requesting a status update on the VC study report. NWOMC responded noting that they are finalizing what information can be provided from the VC workshop and study to FMG. A meeting was held on February 1, 2022, to discuss the status of the study. FMG followed up with an email to which NWOMC noted that they were finalizing edits on the study. A meeting was held on March 10, 2022, for Know History to present an overview of the findings from the VC Workshop. In March 2022, NWOMC provided a report on the VC Workshop along with the TK/TLU study, which FMG considered in the draft EIS/EA. The NWOMC VC information also informed field plans for baseline studies.

Baseline Studies

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly community bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input.

As described in Section 2.6.1.1, on May 31, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

NWOMC responded looking for clarification as to the extent to which the environmental baseline reports would be incorporated into the EIS/EA and if the reports are final. FMG responded that the reports would eventually be included in the appendices of the EIS/EA. FMG suggested to NWOMC that it would be good to start reviewing the reports now so that they understand what work has been done to date and the results that have been collected. FMG stated that the reports are final but used to inform what additional baseline data would be collected in the following years.

On June 18, 2021, FMG followed up with NWOMC to assess any progress made on the review of baseline reports. FMG proposed scheduling a meeting with the reviewers and discipline leads to present the findings of the reports and provide an overview of ongoing studies. In response, NWOMC explained that they sometimes reviewed baseline reports as they were completed and occasionally completed the review when the draft EIS/EA report was released. NWOMC expressed willingness to review these reports as they were released, potentially incorporating the reviews as appendices to their comments on the EIS/EA. NWOMC sought confirmation from FMG regarding the acceptability of this approach and indicated that if approved, they would engage a consultant to assist in reviewing the baseline reports together with the EIS/EA. On June 21, 2021, FMG responded, confirming that the reports had indeed been released and advised NWOMC to review the baseline studies in advance of the draft EIS/EA. Although encouraged, FMG did not receive written comments from NWOMC on the baseline reports provided.

On May 18, 2021, FMG invited NWOMC to participate in the baseline socioeconomic study for the Project, providing a detailed letter outlining the Project and interview details. Following this, on May 27, 2021, NWOMC requested the necessary information for their involvement. On June 18, 2021, NWOMC confirmed their willingness to participate in the study and expressed interest in retaining a consultant to assist with data collection and recording. NWOMC sought clarity on next steps, proposing to solicit quotes from consultants. Subsequently, on June 24, 2021, FMG clarified that a consultant was not necessary for participation as the study was being conducted by WSP as part of the EIS/EA. A meeting was held on July 21, 2021, during which FMG explained the nature of the socioeconomic study and outlined NWOMC's expected involvement. NWOMC indicated they would consider the information. By August 3, 2021, FMG provided NWOMC with a list of questions planned to ask for the study. Then, on August 23, 2021, NWOMC informed FMG of their ongoing consideration of participating in the socioeconomic study; ultimately, NWOMC did not participate in the socioeconomic study.

As described in Section 2.6.1.1, in May 2021, FMG notified NWOMC that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG did not receive feedback from NWOMC on the baseline studies.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

FMG and NWOMC began discussing the NWOMC TK/TLU Study in 2020. FMG continually offered support for a TK/TLU study, which was completed and incorporated into the draft EIS/EA. NWOMC and FMG discussed a supplementary TK/TLU study to the original TK/TLU study.

FMG and NWOMC met on July 30, 2020, January 11, 2021, and January 25, 2021, to discuss NWOMC's interest in undertaking a TK/TLU study for the Project. TK/TLU studies were further discussed in a January 25, 2021 email exchange. On February 8, 2021, FMG and NWOMC met to discuss various topics related to the EA, which included a discussion the status of the TK/TLU study proposal and Consultation Agreement. This was followed by subsequent email correspondence in February 2021.

On April 23, 2021, FMG provided the NWOMC with a memo outlining the typical informational often provided in TK/TLU studies prepared to inform an EIS/EA and supplied shapefiles to help NWOMC and their consultants undertake the study and mapping.

FMG and NWOMC held a TK/TLU study kick-off meeting on May 7, 2021. FMG provided an overview of the Project, as well as typical TK/TLU information included in an EA to NWOMC and their consultants, and a discussion on the timelines for the study took place noting that the summer would be targeted.

In a meeting on July 21, 2021, NWOMC informed FMG that they were working with Know History on the TK/TLU Study but the timeline for providing the results is pending. In an update email on August 23, 2021, NWOMC informed FMG the TK/TLU Study would be available shortly. FMG reached out again to NWOMC on October 6 and 7, 2021 for an update on the delivery of the TK/TLU Study. NWOMC followed up on October 8, 2021, noting that the TK/TLU Study is undergoing internal review and would be provided once completed. FMG followed up a third time on November 12, 2021, noting that it would be appreciated if NWOMC presents the information to them for incorporation into the draft EIS/EA. NWOMC indicated that they would request availability from Know History to present the TK/TLU Study. FMG followed up again on January 10, 2022, requesting a status of the TK/TLU Study. NWOMC responded noting that they were finalizing what information can be provided from the VC Study in hard copy to FMG. A meeting was held on February 1, 2022, to discuss the status of the study. FMG followed up with an email to which NWOMC responded noting that they were finalizing edits on the study. NWOMC provided FMG with their TK/TLU Study on March 10, 2022. FMG thanked NWOMC for providing the report. A subsequent meeting was held the same day for Know History to present an overview of the findings from the Study and workshops conducted with NWOMC. During the meeting, it was noted that NWOMC had challenges in obtaining participants for the study, and FMG offered to support a supplemental study. Throughout 2022, 2023 and early 2024, FMG continued to follow up with NWOMC on their desire to conduct this study and offer support to complete it. The NWOMC provided a supplemental TK/TLU study for the Project on March 12, 2024, which was considered throughout the final EIS/EA, with details presented in Section 6.21.

Assessment of Alternatives

On January 8, 2021, FMG circulated a draft list of VCs as part of the draft amended ToR. The preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment were also included in the draft amended ToR for review. The consultation that occurred through the ToR process, including related to the VCs, criteria and indicators, is described in the ToR Section above. In 2021, FMG also shared Project factsheets with NWOMC describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs which were also available on the Project website.

On October 5, 2021, FMG contacted NWOMC to identify that FMG had completed a preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components and methods and was seeking NWOMC's feedback. FMG also shared Project factsheets describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs and reminded of baseline reports also available for review. FMG also indicated that a series of videos were available that explain the baseline environment work in plain language. FMG provided the link to the EA website where the assessments were saved and asked for a phone call to catch up on various aspects of the Project. FMG followed up the next day, requesting a status update on the VC workshop and TK/TLU Study and reminded NWOMC that the baseline information and the preliminary assessments of alternatives for the Project are available for review. On November 18, 2021, FMG requested a meeting with NWOMC to discuss the preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components. On November 29, 2021, FMG offered NWOMC a meeting to discuss the Project and alternatives, which was subsequently held February 1, 2022.

On February 1, 2022, FMG provided the NWOMC with an update on the Project EA and current activities. FMG asked NWOMC for an update on the TK and VC Studies. FMG asked NWOMC if they had selected a consultant to review the draft EA and asked when FMG can expect comments on the draft EA. FMG inquired about a virtual or in-person NWOMC Community Information Session, and informed NWOMC that FMG has a 2022 community investment strategy workplan for NWOMC.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to NWOMC related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the NWOMC after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone. Discussions with the NWOMC after the draft release in May 2022 largely focused on technical review and comments on the Draft EIS/EA and baseline reports; identification of areas for further TK/TLU Study; discussions surrounding the Caribou Collaring Information Session; and coordination of a site tour in the fall of 2023. These topics are discussed within subsections related to consultation processes and capacity; the draft EIS/EA review; baseline studies (post-draft); and TK/TLU. On June 27, 2024, FMG emailed NWOMC to share details related to permitting for tree removal along the road and to install a small culvert. FMG advised NWOMC that they could set up a meeting to discuss the permit applications and address feedback, noting that NWOMC could oversee and participate in monitoring of the road. FMG noted that the access road is intended to re-supply the camp and advised that tree cutting work was planned for November 2024.

FMG met with NWOMC on July 4, 2022, August 30, 2022, and September 22, 2022, to discuss Project updates, budgets, agreements, workplans for upcoming studies. FMG noted their desire for a meeting with leadership and citizens (preferably in-person) to provide a Project update.

Discussion between FMG and NWOMC between September 2022 and June 2023 focused largely on updates related to the review of the draft EIS/EA.

On July 4, 2023, FMG emailed NWOMC to note that the Portage Trail between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake has been cleaned up for safe passage. FMG also noted that staff at site were available to assist groups looking to move boats or equipment between the two lakes.

In July and August 2023, discussion between FMG and NWOMC was focused on confirming details related to organizing a site tour in Dryden at the Project site. The site tour was held on September 27, 2023. FMG followed up with the community on September 29, 2023, and requested that NWOMC provide any outstanding questions/concerns from the community for FMG to address the following week.

From December 2023 to April 2024, FMG and NWOMC primarily corresponded regarding the TK/TLU Study; the FMG-NWOMC Information Sharing Agreement; and logistical details related to the Caribou Habitat Workshop.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

NWOMC and FMG have been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022. During 2022 and 2023, NWOMC and FMG engaged in two rounds of formal written comments and responses on the draft EIS/EA. This feedback was considered in the final EIS/EA. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG also provided the draft EIS/EA in hard copy and on a USB drive to NWOMC. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA. FMG also informed NWOMC that it would be reaching out to schedule a meeting to present the draft EIS/EA, as well as a series of technical presentations for the NWOMC technical advisory team.

Upon submission of the draft EIS/EA, NWOMC informed FMG that their consultants would be supporting NWOMC on their review of the draft EIS/EA. NWOMC also asked FMG for the deadline for NWOMC's review. FMG informed NWOMC that the deadline for their review would be end of July with some flexibility. FMG informed NWOMC of a draft EIS/EA presentation that would help NWOMC's consultants review the material and inquired about meeting times.

On July 29, 2022, NWOMC provided their comments on the draft EIS/EA. FMG thanked NWOMC for the comments on the draft EIS/EA documents and asked to set up a time to discuss next steps and scheduling for future meetings, as well as a virtual meeting to present the draft EIS/EA findings to NWOMC members.

FMG met with NWOMC on August 30, 2022, to provide an update on the status of the draft EIS/EA and next steps. A Community Information Session was tentatively set for September 22, 2022. FMG emailed NWOMC the next day thanking them for meeting with FMG on August 30, 2022, to discuss next steps for the Project.

FMG met with NWOMC on September 22, 2022, to discuss comments and next steps regarding the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided NWOMC with an update regarding the timing of providing responses to the comments on the draft EIS/EA on October 4, 2022. FMG also invited NWOMC to a webinar series presenting the findings of the draft EIS/EA being held between October 6 and 20, 2022.

FMG provided its written responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA on December 19, 2022. FMG reached out to NWOMC on January 16, 2023, to confirm receipt and proposed to set up a call to discuss next steps. NWOMC responded on January 25, 2023, informing FMG that they are in the process of reviewing FMG's responses and proposed mid to late February for a meeting date. FMG followed up again on February 21,

2023, requesting an update to which NWOMC responded proposing a potential meeting in March. NWOMC noted that they would provide FMG with potential dates and the agenda once details are finalized.

On January 31, 2023, FMG emailed the NWOMC providing a hyperlink to the new Project overview video and noted that the draft EIS/EA had published and could be accessed through the hyperlink.

On April 13, 2023, NWOMC provided FMG with a letter detailing NWOMC's review of FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA. NWOMC noted that they would also distribute the review to IAAC and the MECP in advance of the April 18, 2023, meeting.

NWOMC, IAAC, the MECP and FMG met on April 18, 2023, to discuss a Project update. FMG presented a brief overview of the Project, and an update on the draft EIS/EA review process. FMG also highlighted that there is a website dedicated to the EIS/EA and that the draft EIS/EA reports and appendices can be downloaded from there. FMG noted its desire to continue meetings and engagement with the broader NWOMC members and readiness for engagement at any time. FMG informed the NWOMC that the final EIS/EA was currently being prepared for submission by mid-2024.

On May 2, 2023, FMG emailed NWOMC confirming that FMG had reviewed and responded to NWOMC's comments on the draft EIS/EA. FMG informed NWOMC that most of the comments can be resolved in a straightforward manner; however, it would be helpful to schedule a meeting with NWOMC's technical team to clarify a few unresolved comments, and to review the EIS/EA schedule and create timelines for 2023. FMG requested that NWOMC confirm their availability. FMG followed up on May 15, 2023, requesting availability for a technical meeting to discuss outstanding comments on the draft EIS/EA. NWOMC replied that availability for a meeting would be forthcoming.

NWOMC and FMG met on May 29, 2023, to discuss the draft EIS/EA review and next steps. Topics discussed include ongoing engagement, FHOCP, potential impacts to rights, biophysical approach, residual effects assessment criteria, and logistics. Following the discussion, FMG provided its written responses to NWOMC's follow-up comments on June 23, 2023. NWOMC and FMG discussed that the comments were resolved, and outstanding requests included that NWOMC to be involved in the fish compensation planning and would like to have a site tour.

In July and August 2023, NWOMC and FMG corresponded about a proposed site tour. The site tour was postponed and replaced with a fish workshop planned for September 2023. In August 2023, NWOMC and FMG corresponded about scheduling a virtual fish and caribou workshop.

On September 7, 2023, FMG and WSP met with NWOMC to discuss the draft FHOCP and share input and feedback from members of NWOMC. NWOMC was generally supportive of the measures proposed.

FMG held a site tour on September 27, 2023, with the NWOMC. FMG shared a presentation on the Project and draft EIS/EA, including Project economic benefits, the Wolverine study, the FHOCP, and the next steps regarding the consultation process and the final EIS/EA. This was followed by a Q&A session and a walking tour of the mine site.

FMG emailed NWOMC on November 2, 2023, inviting them to a series of webinars during the month of November that would provide an update on various components of the Project. The webinars would provide updates on the CDF, FHOCP, water management and treatment strategy, and alternatives assessment process. FMG provided links to the invitations for each webinar.

FMG emailed the NWOMC on December 15, 2023, providing a Preliminary Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples draft table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples,

proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects as planned to be presented in the final EIS/EA. FMG requested that NWOMC provide any comments or questions on the draft table by February 15, 2024, so that FMG can fully consider it, and have necessary follow-up discussions, in advance of the final EIS/EA. FMG offered to arrange a meeting to discuss and review the draft table. NWOMC noted that they would review the assessment as part of the final EIS/EA.

Baseline Studies (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

FMG continued to engage NWOMC on the baseline studies after the submission of the draft EIS/EA, including holding an information session on the Caribou program in 2022 and providing updated baseline information on aquatic resources and archaeology.

On August 11, 2022, FMG attended an information session held by the MECP to provide NWOMC members information on the Caribou telemetry program and answer any questions. FMG provided the presentation from the session to NWOMC the next day.

In response to FMG's email on January 11, 2023 to Indigenous communities regarding the upcoming Caribou program, NWOMC asked if FMG could provide a detailed map that outlines the location of the study area where work would be completed. FMG responded the next day providing a figure of the study area. FMG also noted that a member of NWOMC participated in an information session in August 2022 where details of the program were presented.

On April 4, 2023, FMG emailed NWOMC informing them that WSP had completed an additional review of the anomalous data points presented in the 2019-2020 Aquatic Resources Assessment and the 2021 Aquatic Resources Baseline Report as a follow-up to a comment shared from NWOMC on the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided hyperlinks to the two updated appendices where corrections to the data were made.

On May 29, 2023, FMG provided NWOMC with the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment for their review and records. FMG noted that the report is intended to supplement the draft EIS/EA Archeological Assessment and includes assessment of the aggregate sources and effluent discharge pipeline areas. FMG welcomed questions related to the report but did not receive questions or comments from NWOMC.

Between early March 2024 and early May 2024, main points of conversation between FMG and NWOMC were centered around discussions related to the TK and TLU Study (and follow-up report); and NWOMC participation in a Caribou Habitat Offsetting workshop FMG was hoping to organize between April or May 2024.

On May 1, 2024, NWOMC emailed FMG requesting presentation materials for the Project Caribou Habitat Compensation workshop. FMG replied providing a copy of the presentation.

NWOMC and FMG held a workshop on May 2, 2024, on Caribou. FMG presented information on the updated baseline Caribou studies, the potential offsetting options identified to date and discussed new potential offsetting options. The presentation and meeting notes from the workshop are provided in Appendix D.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

After submission of the draft EIS/EA, FMG continued to offer support to NWOMC for a supplementary TK/TLU Study, which was carried out and completed for consideration in this final EIS/EA.

On June 10, 2022, FMG emailed NWOMC inquiring about NWOMC's interest in participating in a TK/TLU Study for 2022. In a meeting on September 22, 2022, FMG requested that NWOMC provide a workplan for the TK/TLU supplementary study. FMG followed up on January 25, 2023, inquiring if NWOMC had begun developing a work of scope for the TK/TLU Study. FMG inquired about supporting a supplementary TK/TLU Study during a meeting on April 13, 2023.

On July 18, 2023, in response to FMG's letter regarding the IGTRB for the Project optimization update for the CDF, NWOMC noted the importance of integrating Indigenous Knowledge and input into the management of the CDF. NWOMC noted the need to create a feedback mechanism for issue reporting with the NWOMC. FMG responded confirming that TK/TLU and Indigenous perspectives would be integrated throughout the EA process and would continue to be integrated following the EIS/EA through ongoing information sharing. FMG noted that the IGTRB would conduct regular reviews of the CDF designs, construction, operation, and closure activities, which would be shared with NWOMC for additional review and input. NWOMC stated that additional information regarding the process of TK/TLU integration is required in the future, understanding that the details may not be available yet. NWOMC noted that this would be discussed through review of the final EIS/EA. FMG responded confirming that it did not at the time have the specific details requested on the IGTRB, and details would be shared with NWOMC as they became available. FMG offered to address any questions regarding the draft EIS/EA. FMG also suggested to schedule monthly meetings with the Lands, Resources & Consultations branch. NWOMC confirmed that they would discuss the suggestion for monthly meetings with Leadership and confirm.

FMG emailed the NWOMC on September 15, 2023, providing a letter with an update on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and provided information on the three members as well as next steps for the board. FMG offered to answer any questions but did not receive any.

NWOMC and FMG met on January 18, 2024, to discuss NWOMC's TK and TLU Study. On March 12, 2024, NWOMC provided the Springpole TK and TLU Study final report and presentation slides to FMG and noted the documents are bound by the terms outlined in the information sharing agreement. FMG replied, acknowledging receipt.

On May 7, 2024, FMG emailed NWOMC requesting more information about the historical camp located south of the Project and if there are any other resources available to learn more. On May 15, 2024, NWOMC responded to FMG providing maps of Canadian Fur Trade posts, highlighting the location of Crow Nest Lake Outpost. NWOMC also provided a link that provides more information. FMG replied, acknowledging receipt of additional information provided by NWOMC.

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC requested clarification of whether plant species of importance to Indigenous communities were surveyed and documented around the Project site.	A description of the plant species of importance to the Indigenous communities, including NWOMC, is included in Section 3.4.14.2 and potential effects on these species are assessed in Section 6.11.
Baseline studies Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC noted that portaging is both a historical and contemporary mode of travel to determine whether the potential navigation routes are used by NWOMC.	Following NWOMC review of the draft EIS/EA, FMG provided the opportunity for NWOMC to carry out a supplemental TK/TLU study for to better understand the use of important areas including the use of navigation routes and no navigation routes in the PDA were identified.
Baseline studies Groundwater	NWOMC requested additional information about groundwater baseline data.	Groundwater baseline data was supplemented, resulting in a higher degree of confidence for the environmental assessment predictions. Supplemental data collected included: • Water level monitoring and hydraulic test data from 15 additional screened monitoring well installations; • Vibrating wire installations at ten new locations, and water level monitoring from 26 monitoring ports equipped with dataloggers; • Automated pressure transducers monitoring groundwater level fluctuations in 25 monitoring wells; • Packer testing at new drillhole locations, including 71 new unique measurements; • Hydraulic testing in 29 pre-existing monitoring well installations; • Additional stratigraphic boreholes and test pits from 2021 and 2022 investigations; • Bedrock outcropping mapping information from historical surveys; and, • Additional quarterly groundwater quality data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The results of these studies are discussed below under Existing Conditions (Section 6.5.2) with additional details included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1).
Baseline studies Air Quality	NWOMC requested a description of the existing conditions for dust within the Project site, local study area and regional study area to provide a baseline for comparative analysis.	Table 6.2-3 in the Air Quality Effects Assessment Section (6.2) provides the baseline concentrations for suspended particulate matter, particulate matter less than 10 microgram (PM_{10}), particulate matter less than 2.5 microgram ($PM_{2.5}$) and diesel particulate matter (DPM) which is further described in the Baseline Air Quality Report (Appendix G-1, Section 4).
Baseline studies Air Quality	NWOMC requested opportunities to review the additional air quality data that has been collected since the draft EIS/EA was circulated.	The additional baseline data collected since submission of the draft EIS/EA, including sampling during the wintertime is included in the Baseline Air Quality Report (Appendix G-1, Section 4) and is sufficient to establish background concentrations.
Baseline studies Air Quality	NWOMC requested further information on the socioeconomic baseline data that has been collected since the draft EIS/EA was circulated.	The Socioeconomic Baseline Report (Appendix Q) has been updated to include specific information related to Métis in the area, and this information is summarized in Section 3.4.11.
Baseline studies Local and regional infrastructure and services	NWOMC requested further information on the socioeconomic baseline data specific to the NWOMC.	A dedicated Wolverine program was initiated in February 2023 and continued during 2024 to collect additional baseline information for inclusion in the EIS/EA and to support future permitting. Baseline data were collected on Wolverine demographics (including sex, age, structure), occupancy and population density, habitat use and dispersal and areas of concentration / activity centres. The Wolverine program used a tessellated hexagon approach (a pattern of repeating hexagons that fit together without gaps or overlaps) in which one station per subset of selected hexagons overlaid on the RSA is placed in the most suitable habitat within the hexagon (usually along a river / lake or ridge). The stations include dual cameras and hair traps, and collect information on Wolverine identification, sex and genotype. The cameras and hair traps can provide data on familial relationships, effective population size, dispersal patterns from DNA, survival rates in multi-year studies, lactation in females, centres of activity, population density using capture-recapture models, and behavioural information such as the association of individuals based on the date and time stamp on photographs. Further details on the Wolverine program methods and results are included in the Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P-1, Section 2.6 and Section 3.4, respectively). Figure 6.14-2 of the EIS/EA shows the observations of Wolverine during all baseline investigation programs.
Baseline studies Wolverine	NWOMC requested clarification on the number of years the study will occur and if it includes the mine access road.	Section 12.5 provides a description of the monitoring program to evaluate the predicted effects and effectiveness of the mitigation measures and along with the extensive surface water quality monitoring program in place currently, will form the basis for monitoring programs refined during the permitting phase. FMG will continue to keep NWOMC informed of the permitting timelines and any changes as the Project progresses.
Consultation processes and capacity Mitigation and Monitoring, Surface Water Quality	NWOMC expressed interest in participating in the environmental approvals phase related to the treated effluent discharge, and the development and implementation of a monitoring program to verify the accuracy of predicted effects.	A revised blasting assessment (Appendix H-4) was completed using more conservative (larger) charges and the more stringent blasting criteria for fish to conservatively identify additional areas of potential impacts as discussed in Section 6.10.3 and the FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	NWOMC requested more information about potential effects on Springpole Lake and Birch Lake from blasting effects.	Additional detail of the isolation procedure including methods, timing and other mitigation measures has been added to Section 5.6.1.2, Section 6.10.4 and the FHOCP (Appendix F, Section 5.2.3). Detailed discussion on controlled dewatering rates and procedure for the isolated basin has been added. Additional description of the fish removal (mitigation) is also provided, including a strategy suggested by DFO where isolation of the basin during the spring may reduce the number of Lake Trout and Walleye entrained in the basin.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	NWOMC requested additional information on how the isolation of the basin and removal of fish from the isolated areas would occur.	

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	NWOMC asked for more details about Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measures and additional documentation and data to describe species absence and the likely cause of Lake Sturgeon absence.	Based on the feedback received, the Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measure has been revised to a two-step measure: 1. collect additional data and information and 2. implement reintroduction / enhancement measures. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	NWOMC requested clarification on the ranking of the frequency attribute for the characterization of residual effects on groundwater.	Frequency is defined as the rate of occurrence for the residual effect and duration is defined as the length of time the residual effect is expected to occur. These attributes are assessed separately in the EIS/EA. The frequency of the residual effect on groundwater quantity from mine dewatering only occurs once during construction and therefore is low. However, since this effect will occur throughout operations, the duration is moderate. This detail has been included in Section 6.5.7.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Air Quality	NWOMC requested further clarification on the standard measures that would be implemented to manage dust from the mine access road and the aggregate areas, during all phases of the Project.	Fugitive dusts generated during the construction phase will be managed with targeted mitigation to control dust emissions at the source, thereby reducing effects. A dust management plan to mitigate dust will be required to support the Provincial Environmental Compliance Approval (Air). This Plan will include all sources of dust and will address sources and activities. Mitigation measures are further described in the Air Quality Assessment (Section 6.2.4 and Appendix G-2, Table 6-1).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Surface Water Quality	NWOMC expressed interest in participating in the development and implementation of a monitoring program to verify the accuracy of predicted effects.	Section 12 provides a description of the monitoring program to evaluate the predicted effects and effectiveness of the mitigation measures and along with the extensive surface water quality monitoring program in place currently, will form the basis for monitoring programs refined during the permitting phase. FMG will continue to keep NWOMC informed of the permitting timelines and any changes as the Project progresses.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Groundwater	NWOMC asked how seepage will be monitored to ensure that seepage is captured by the collection ditches before reaching surface water features, and what measures would be undertaken should seepage reach surface water features.	Seepage quality monitoring requirements will be established for the construction, operations and closure phases of the Project as part of the provincial approvals process in consultation with MINES, MECP, and Indigenous communities. The monitoring of seepage from the CDF will be primarily through regular sampling of groundwater monitoring wells that will be established between the CDF ditching and the surrounding environment. The foundation rock under the CDF is very competent with low hydraulic conductivity well suited for the CDF location, and in combination with the CDF design achieves highly effective seepage management and capture within the perimeter collection system. The potential presence of seepage in the monitoring wells will be determined by comparing results year after year to identify whether there are changes and/or trends in water quality that indicate the presence of seepage. Action will be taken if there are indications of potentially unexpected seepage in the monitoring well(s), beginning with an investigation to the cause and identification of mitigation measures if required. Contingency measures might include pump back wells whereby groundwater is pumped back into the CDF and/or grouting of bedrock to prevent seepage movement. Additional details on water monitoring have been included in Section 12.5.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	NWOMC requested additional rationale for the strategic stocking and micro hatchery measure, as well as assurance that it would not unbalance natural communities.	Several comments from Indigenous communities and government agencies indicated a lack of support for this measure, and as a result, it has been removed from the preferred offsetting and compensation measures detailed in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air Quality	NWOMC requested further information on the air quality assessment for the construction phase of the Project, including the construction and operation of the mine access road, the transmission line and aggregate areas.	The Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G 2, Section 5.1 and Section 6.2.5) has been updated and include an assessment of the construction phase activities, including the development of site infrastructure such as the aggregate areas, the construction of the transmission line, and the construction and operation of the mine access road. These activities are also considered as sources of dust and are similar in nature to those of the operations phase (e.g., diesel fleet and earth moving) with respect to the parameters emitted to the air.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Air Quality	NWOMC requested a description of the Project effects prior to mitigation to enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures for air quality.	The Air Quality Assessment (Section 6.2.3) provides a description of the potential effects on air quality from the Project prior to the application of mitigation measures during construction, operation s and closure phases. Section 6.2.4 and Table 6.2-5 provide a description and implementation of mitigation measures for the potential effects to air quality, and Section 6.2.6 provides a description of the residual effects after the application of mitigation measures.
Draft EIS/EA VCs, Surface Water Quality	NWOMC requested that the rationale for selecting surface water systems as a VC include consideration for Indigenous values.	The language in this section is intended to be inclusive of Indigenous users and is also represented by the reference to cultural values. This has been addressed in the introduction to each surface water system effects assessment, including Section 6.6.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse gas emissions	NWOMC requested clarification on the validity of GHG emissions as a VC and the reversibility of effects. A distinction was made regarding the reversibility of residual GHG effects, specifically between GHG emissions (the VC) and atmospheric GHG concentrations.	The Project's effects on atmospheric GHG concentrations are not fully reversible; however, it is recognized that this Project is not expected to have a measurable effect on these GHG concentrations. In contrast, the residual effects of GHG emissions are reversible as the emissions cease once the activities generating GHG emissions no longer occur. Additionally, GHG emissions are measurable at the Project level and both the federal and provincial governments have implemented initiatives to manage and mitigate GHG emissions.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and Vibration	NWOMC noted that sensory disturbances such as noise, particularly from the use of helicopters and the airstrip, may affect Indigenous land users in carrying out TLU activities.	There are currently helicopters and other aircraft being used to support the existing exploration camp, however the potential effect of noise from the Project has been acknowledged in the introduction to Section 6.3. The description of TLU activities has factored into the selection of PORs, as described in Section 6.3.5 and the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 4). The potential effect of helicopters and the airstrip has also been included in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 6.1). The effect on the experience associated with TLU activities is further assessed in Section 6.21.

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	NWOMC requested further information on the smaller waterbodies and how they may interact with Métis harvesting. The smaller waterbodies which could be temporarily affected by the mine dewatering are all in close proximity to the mine operations.	These smaller waterbodies are typically inhabited by small-bodied fish, which were not identified as fish typically harvested in the NWOMC Traditional Knowledge and Land Use study. A FHOCP (Appendix F) has been developed to offset losses of fish habitat within the affected area and will mitigate changes in harvesting. The Plan includes the reclamation of inland lakes at closure where possible, and the development of new littoral habitat directly connected to Springpole Lake which will benefit both small-bodied and large-bodied fish. The inclusion of habitat measures that will benefit small-bodied fish is described in Section 8 of the revised FHOCP. After mining ends and the site is reclaimed, groundwater levels are predicted to return to pre-mining levels and pre-mining groundwater flow patterns will generally re-establish themselves. Smaller waterbodies that may have experienced changes in groundwater inflow will return to normal.
Draft EIS/EA Air quality	NWOMC identified that air quality has an intrinsic importance to the health and well-being of humans, wildlife and vegetation and that changes in air quality due to dust or dust suppressants may impact the perceptions of Métis harvesters resulting in avoidance of the Project area. NWOMC also said impacts on air quality could result in ecosystem impacts.	The Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2) and Section 6.2.5 of the EIS/EA have been updated and include an assessment of the construction phase activities, including the development of site infrastructure such as the aggregate areas, the construction of the transmission line, and the construction and operation of the mine access road. The predicted changes to dust have been carried forward into the assessment of potential water quality effects and quantitatively assessed. The results are included in both the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 4) as well as the HEHRA Modelling Report (Appendix R). Results of these models informed the assessment of potential effects from fugitive dust on surface water systems and included in Sections 6.6 through Section 6.9. The effects from atmospheric dust deposition on water quality is not predicted to be distinguishable from base case predictions (Appendix N-2). However, the potential effect of dust will be mitigated with a dust management plan, and erosion and sediment control plan that will be developed during the permitting phase. The Project has developed mitigation measures for air quality and has committed to a follow-up program that will be initiated during construction and will include particulate monitoring to allow a feedback loop between conditions and maintenance activities; this will confirm the efficacy of controls at the property line.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Birds	NWOMC requested further information on how the potential Project effects on birds may result in impacts to NWOMC values and interests.	Potential effects on birds, including migratory birds, are assessed in Section 6.12 of the EIS/EA. In addition, the potential effects on SAR birds are assessed in Section 6.16. In both sections, proven mitigation measures are proposed to eliminate and/or reduce potential effects on birds. As a result of the effectiveness of these measures, the effect on the use by Indigenous people is expected to be minimized as described in Section 6.21.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	NWOMC requested that FMG include information on how the accidents described could impact the health and safety of the Northwestern NWOMC citizens, and the ability of NWOMC citizens to harvest.	FMG recognizes that an accident or malfunction could result in an environmental effect that subsequently could impact traditional land and resource use. Engineering design features and mitigation measures will be implemented for the Project to eliminate or reduce the risk a potential accident or malfunction from occurring, and its potential for effects on the environment. Although not explicitly stated in the following sections, these engineering design features, and mitigation measures are intended to be protective of the environment and traditional land and resource use in the area can continue.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	NWOMC requested clarification for the country foods (e.g., wildlife species or plants) that were assessed.	Plants (blueberries and raspberries), fish (Lake Whitefish and Walleye) and wild game (moose, deer, hare and grouse) were the country goods selected for consideration in the HEHRA. The rationale for selection of country foods species considered is summarized in Section 4.3.2.1 of Appendix R, based on traditional land use information pertaining to important country foods species, and is disaggregated by Indigenous community.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	NWOMC requested that clarification be added within Section 6.24 as to how the assessment of country foods was completed (i.e., were only certain organs tested).	The baseline concentrations of POPC in plants, fish and wild game are included in the assessment of ecological and human health. Attachment A of the HEHRA (Appendix R), includes baseline sampling methodology and analytical results for plants and small mammals. With respect to the methodology for the small mammals sampling in particular, a total of 20 small mammals were trapped and submitted to the laboratory for chemical analyses. Fifteen of the small mammal samples were submitted for whole body analyses, while five of the samples had their kidney dissected and submitted for analysis separate from the rest of the body. A summary of baseline concentrations of POPC considered in the HEHRA and incorporated into the HEHRA model (including air, soil, sediment, water and country foods including plants, small mammals and fish) is also included in Attachment A of Appendix R. Where data was not available, a conservative approach was taken and concentrations of selected inorganic POPCs were modelled into plants and soil organisms, mammals and birds, and aquatic receptors using published uptake factors, for use in the country foods component of the human health risk assessment, and for use in the ecological risk assessment. Where possible for context, modelled concentrations in mammals and birds were compared against country foods concentrations reported from the Ecozone 1 region in the *First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study, Results from Ontario* (Chan et al, 2014). The baseline and predicted exposure point concentrations for POPCs (arsenic, cobalt, mercury and methyl mercury) in each media are summarized in Tables B-1-1 to B-1-4 in Attachment B of Appendix R.

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	NWOMC observed that contamination of water that could be beyond the Project area and have impacts on the health of the entire ecosystem, including human health, for multiple generations.	The development of the Project will be within a compact mine site to limit the areal extent of disturbance, and to limit the overall areas of site contact water that requires management. A 120 m setback will be maintained around the mine site, where practical. The CDF has been located on the most favourable geologic conditions at the Project site to support long term stability and effective seepage management. Further, a geosynthetic clay liner will be installed on the upstream side of the perimeter dam of the CDF south cell (specifically the south, west, and east sides) to mitigate seepage potential. During construction, an erosion and sediment control plan will be implemented to manage runoff water around disturbed areas. During all phases, an integrated water management system will be designed to collect and control contact water from the mine site area. Water collection ditches will be constructed and operated around the perimeter of infrastructure to collect overland flow and seepage and direct it to the integrated water management system. Collected contact water that is not recycled in ore processing will be treated at the ETP and the treat effluent will be discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake in accordance with permitting requirements. Non-contact water will be diverted away from Project components using ditches, diversion berms and other suitable measures. The changes in surface water quality have been predicted in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2), with the Project meeting stringent CWQGs during all phases as discussed in Section 6.6 to Section 6.9. Further, the changes in surface water quality have been incorporated into the HEHRA (Appendix R), which determined that the Project will not result in a change to human and ecological health.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	NWOMC requested that the change in ecological health within the PDA and RSA also be included this assessment.	The HEHRA (Appendix R) assesses risks from the Project outside the PDA. Assessing ecological health changes within the local study area (LSA) adjacent to the PDA is considered a worst-case assessment of potential Project effects on ecological health. The LSA encompasses the area adjacent to the mine site area of the PDA to capture the maximum predicted ground-level concentrations due to the Project and where air quality can be predicted or measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy. For the HEHRA, the LSA is defined as an area that extends approximately 10 km from the main Project emission sources (Section 6.24.2.3 and Appendix R, Section 3.1.1). During the active phases of the Project (i.e., construction, operations, and decommissioning and closure) access to the mine site area of the PDA will be controlled and not a high use area for wildlife and land users. As such, the potential ecological health effects on mammals and birds as a result of the Project are expected to be much lower than predicted in the ecological risk assessment (Appendix R, Section 5.6.2).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	NWOMC observed that the Project could introduce social changes including increases in drug and alcohol use and crime rates and the potential for human trafficking.	FMG has developed an Employee Health and Wellness Strategy as a result of engagement with local Indigenous communities with goals to support physical and emotional well-being and culturally safe workplaces, maximize the recruitment, employment and retention of northern and Indigenous people, and successfully integrate northern and Indigenous people into the Project workforce for the long-term.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	Through the draft EIS/EA consultation process, FMG was informed of the challenges that many communities and individuals face with mental health and addictions, and the various barriers to treatment and employment opportunities.	The draft Employee Health & Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3) looks at employee health and well-being through a proactive lens by embracing education, prevention and early intervention measures. From design to implementation, FMG provides a collaborative framework with opportunities for continual improvement input and guidance so that services and support offered will remain relevant throughout the life of mine.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Local and regional economy	NWOMC wants local Indigenous communities to be included in preferential employment opportunities by the Project. NWOMC observed that an influx of new workers and their families may provide an economic boom but also a decline when the mine closes.	The Project will give preference to local and Indigenous workers and businesses and participation will provide skills and experience for future opportunities. This will increase labour and business income directly and through spending of income at local and regional businesses. The skills and experience gained by participating in the Project will assist in gaining future employment and contracts.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	NWOMC requested an assessment of the project-related impacts on surface water quality within the north basin of Springpole Lake to allow for sufficient mitigation and monitoring to be identified and undertaken.	The potential effects to surface waters of the north basin of Springpole Lake are assessed quantitatively using predictive water balance (Appendix M-3) and water quality modelling (Appendix N-2 and N-3) using industry standard software and include predictions for a number of parameters including mercury (Appendices M-3, N-2 and N-3). The predictive modelling is used in the assessment of potential effects from the dewatering activities on the surface water of the larger north basin of Springpole Lake (Section 6.7.6.2). That is, while the isolated dewatered area within the north basin of Springpole Lake is not directly assessed in and of itself, the impacts of temporary dewatering activities in this area on surface waters of the remaining in the north basin are assessed. As the isolated portion of the north basin is targeted as a location for fish habitat offsetting / compensation (Appendix F), the specific dewatered area within the north basin is not subject to direct assessment of changes in water quality. It should be noted that the mercury evolution from bottom sediments coincident with planned dewatering activities in the north basin is not expected as existing surface water and sediment concentrations of mercury are very low (<0.000026 mg/L and <0.0002 ug/g, respectively), as described in detail in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) and the Baseline Aquatic Resources Report (Appendix O).

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC observed that Project activities will remove a portage route which provides a travel route for its members.	An assessment of the potential effects on water quantity due to the Project is provided in Section 6.8. The assessment determined that the expediting filling of the open pit basin at closure can be achieved while maintaining water levels with Springpole Lake well within the observed range of natural baseline conditions and is not anticipated to have an effect on navigation. Monitoring will be undertaken, and pumping will be adjusted as needed in real time to ensure there is no effect. An alternate navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be established and maintained by FMG through all Project phases. The existing portage route located at the exploration camp will be relocated during prior to construction of the Project to a historical portage route on the west side of the north basin of Springpole Lake that will be reestablished and maintained by FMG. The original portage route will be reestablished at post closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC noted that the location of harvest can, in some cases, be as important as the vegetation species. Places are taught and passed down generationally, may have cultural or spiritual significance, or may be a place that contributes to the overall well-being of harvesters out on the land by providing aesthetic appeal. NWOMC requested that the loss of wetland communities must be evaluated in relation to Métis rights and what this irreversible loss means for Métis harvesters accessing their territories in the exercise of their rights. NWOMC emphasized the importance of wetland communities.	Based on input received from NWOMC during engagement activities, FMG has updated the assessment of effects on wetland communities in Section 6.11 and evaluated the influence of potential groundwater changes on vegetation communities and wetlands during construction and operation of the Project. Opportunities for the creation of functional wetland habitat during closure has also been noted in the closure plan, as described in Section 5.19. Further, the assessment of the effects on traditional land and resource use has been updated in Section 6.21 to note that during closure activities, progressive and final rehabilitation of the mine site area will include a revegetation plan that will incorporate plant species of interest to Indigenous communities, where practical. Further, reclamation efforts carried out during closure will be guided by input from Indigenous communities and land use planning documents. The effect of these changes on Aboriginal and treaty rights is included in the assessment of effects on Indigenous people in Section 6.26.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC requested that the assessment of potential effects of the Project be informed by TK, and that the TK/TLU information be disaggregated by Indigenous community.	During the EA process, Indigenous communities have collected and shared TK/TLU information, and non-confidential information has been incorporated into the final EIS/EA. This information sharing is appreciated and important for Project planning. Additional opportunities for TK/TLU information sharing will occur throughout all phases of the Project. A list of the information sources is included in Section 6.21.2. The information was used to inform or validate baseline studies, validate the selection of VCs, assessment criteria and indicators, supplement the information used to understand the existing conditions of various valued components, consider alternatives for various project components, support the assessment of potential effects on VCs, identify mitigation measures and areas for follow up monitoring. Non-confidential information has been included in the description of the existing environment (Section 3) and the description of existing conditions in each VC (Section 6) and use to support the assessment of alternatives (Section 4) and the assessment of potential effects on biophysical VCs (Section 6.2 to Section 6.16), and human environment VCs (Section 6.18 to Section 6.24). Non-confidential TK/TLU information has been disaggregated by Indigenous community, where possible. Feedback received from Indigenous communities during engagement activities for the EA, and in particularly, the review of the draft EIS/EA has informed the final EIS/EA. Examples of how TK has been included in this final EIS/EA are shown in Table 6.21-1. Further details on the engagement activities are included in Section 2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC pointed out that its right to hunt, trap, fish, gather, or use cultural and spiritual sites goes beyond subsistence or occupation and may have an economic trade component. Métis harvesting includes harvesting resources as gifts or exchange with Aboriginal persons.	FMG will not affect harvesting in the RSA. No harvesting will be permitted in the mine site area during construction, operations, and active closure for safety. An access management strategy will allow continuation of traditional activities along the mine access road during construction, operations and closure.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC noted that herbicide spraying in the transmission line corridor could potentially contaminate wildlife, reduce the abundance of harvested plants, and contaminate fish which could impact the ability of NWOMC to harvest.	Mechanical vegetation removal practices will be used, when possible, as described in Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC observed that Project activities may result in Metis harvesters viewing the land as non-functional or less desired, resulting in avoidance during the exercise of harvesting rights including changes in air quality and dust, the loss of wetland habitat, fragmentation, and loss of wildlife habitat, effects of harvesting competition and scarcity of resources.	Project design and implementation of mitigation measure will reduce effects to resources that are harvested and plants and animals in the vicinity of the mine site will remain healthy posing no new risk for consumption. Country foods monitoring will take place periodically during operations.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC noted that sensory disturbance has the potential to result in increased avoidance behaviors of the Project area by Métis harvesters and identified the concern regarding whether the development of Project could result in displacement of traditional harvesters from the area.	The assessment of potential effects on TLU includes several indicators to assess potential change in traditional harvesting of wildlife, aquatic resource and plants. The indicators include: the quality of the experience associated with sensory disturbances such as altered viewscapes and changes in sound levels; and the quality of access to land where traditional harvesting activities occur. These indicators have been included in Section 6.21.1.4. Mitigation measures for potential effects on traditional harvesting are described in Section 6.21.4.

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC observed that impacts to animal populations, including dispersal from the Project area due to auditory stressors from initial Project activities could affect wildlife harvesting.	The change in wildlife distribution and the experience of harvesters due to sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. Fishing will be able to continue at both Birch Lake and Springpole Lake throughout all phases of the Project. Fish habitat features will be incorporated in to the design of the dikes supporting fishing opportunities, and the Closure Plan will enhance fish habitat in the restore open pit basin increasing Springpole Lake by 3.5% in surface area.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC consider potential impacts to fish, wetlands and wildlife could affect their ability to exercise their harvesting rights which could affect food security.	The change in wildlife distribution due to habitat loss and sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road, locating noise producing stationary equipment inside of buildings, the implementation of a revegetation plan that preferentially uses local vegetation sources and incorporates plant species of interest to Indigenous communities and wildlife habitat features, and uses mechanical vegetation removal practices. Further, an HEHRA (Appendix R) has been prepared for the proposed Project and concluded that there will be no change to human and ecological health from the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC noted that the mine employees and the increased access by the new road and transmission line may create competition for Métis harvesters and an increased scarcity of resources.	The key measures include prohibiting Project employees from hunting and fishing while on the Project site, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. The access management strategy aims to address Indigenous concerns regarding public access to TLU areas. The strategy will describe appropriate signage to advise the public of the road's intended use, safety communication protocol for traditional land users, and the establishment of a gatehouse/checkpoint towards the end of the Wenasaga Road to ensure unauthorized use does not occur. Further, the transmission line corridor portion of the Project footprint will be allowed to naturally regrow following construction to an extent that limits accessibility and therefore new access along the transmission line is not anticipated.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC identified that the Project will remove a portage route which provide contemporary modes of travel for the NWOMC.	The navigation route between Birch Lake and Springpole Lake will be maintained and the portage route at the exploration camp will be re-established at closure. An access management strategy will be developed and implemented to provide for improved access for traditional activities in the area of the mine site road.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC expressed concerns that impacts to fish, animals, and birds may impact harvesting. NWOMC also cited the potential for increased competition for harvested resources with mine employees and due to increased access via the new road and transmission line corridor.	With the exception of the mine site footprint, all other areas will remain available for TLU activities. The change in wildlife distribution and the experience of harvesters due to sensory disturbances will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measures as described in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration), Section 6.11 (Vegetation Communities and Wetlands), and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat). The key measures include: the development of a compact mine site will reduce the loss of habitat, and the development and implementation of an access management strategy to allow continuation of traditional land use practices by Indigenous peoples along the mine access road. The access management strategy aims to address Indigenous concerns regarding public access to TLU areas. The strategy will describe appropriate signage to advise the public of the road's intended use, safety communication protocol for traditional land users, and the establishment of a gatehouse/checkpoint towards the end of the Wenasaga Road to ensure unauthorized use does not occur. Further, the transmission line corridor portion of the Project footprint will be allowed to naturally regrow following construction to an extent that limits accessibility and therefore new access along the transmission line is not anticipated. The change in fish habitat supporting fisheries will be mitigated with measures outlined in the FHOCP (Appendix F) and described in Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat) which includes fish habitat enhancements to the lake-facing embankments of the dikes, enhancements and reclamation of the open pit basin, the creation of new fish habitat adjacent to the open pit basin, and the proposed reclamation of fish habitat at the abandoned South Bay mine. In addition, fishing and hunting will be prohibited within the controlled access portion of the PDA by Project personnel while working or residing on site, during all phases of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	NWOMC requested clarification on the potential effects due to the temporary construction camp, buildings, and onsite infrastructure as well as commissioning of the process plant. Notably that vegetation within the footprint of the temporary construction camp, buildings, and onsite infrastructure will be removed during the construction phase when site preparation activities occur and will not be revegetated until the decommissioning phase.	As a result, this loss of vegetation will extend until the end of the operations phase. The actual construction of these facilities would not result in further effects to vegetation. This has been clarified in Section 6.11.3.

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	NWOMC requested the percentage of direct loss of vegetation communities within the LSA rather than the RSA particularly as the vegetation community types within the LSA are referenced in relation to winter moose habitat, etc., which support harvesting.	Table 6.11-6 in the draft EIS/EA which includes the percent change in the LSA as a result of the Project has been provided. The percent of direct loss within the project development area is compared to the available habitat within the RSA, as this is the appropriate comparison to determine the significance of the residual effect. The table has been updated and includes the percent direct loss for all vegetation community types and ecosite at the LSA, and RSA scale.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	NWOMC requested clarification on the frequency of residual effects on vegetation communities.	The assessment of direct effects on vegetation communities conservatively assumes that all vegetation within the PDA will be completely removed during construction, and that these effects will continue until final rehabilitation is complete. As a result, there is no expectation that vegetation communities will be continually impacted throughout operations, once removed during construction. Therefore, the frequency of the residual effects due to direct loss will be once and is low (Level I). However, the frequency of the indirect effects related to the change in the quality and function of vegetation communities and wetlands will occur during operations and be reversible at closure. This has been included Section 6.11.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	NWOMC requested consideration of the potential effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat due to the operation of the mine access road, airstrip and other transportation activities and the subsequent effect on hunting and other land-based activities.	Section 9 includes an assessment of the potential effects on wildlife and SAR birds as a result of a potential spill, accident or malfunction from Project activities. Specifically, Section 9.12 considers vehicular accidents that could release materials, Section 9.13 considers the potential spill of cyanide, and Section 9.14 considers the potential release of products from containment and dispensing facilities. Key measures to mitigate the potential effects of a spill on the environment, including SAR birds, are outlined in Section 9 of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Local and regional, infrastructure and services	NWOMC noted that they have educational services that could contribute to the regional infrastructure and services including K-12 education support, post-secondary education, early learning and childcare, Métis employment programs, Métis training programs, and education and cultural camps. Further, NWOMC noted they also have social and health services, including healing and wellness supports such as mental health and addictions services, gaming and gambling awareness programs, victim services, justice programs, community wellness worker program, community support services program, Métis family wellbeing program, Métis healthy babies healthy children program, Canada pre-natal nutrition program, community action program for children, aging at home program, anti-human trafficking program, diabetes awareness strategy, cancer care, and health research initiatives & projects.	This information has been incorporated into Section 6.20.2 which includes information about educational supports and health services including those with Indigenous communities.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	NWOMC requested information on the notification of an emergency and the involvement of NWOMC in the potential clean-up or remediation afterwards.	Additional information on the spill mitigation and emergency response has been included in Section 9.12 and Section 9.13.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Human and ecological health	NWOMC requested that the mitigation in the final EIS/EA include measures to address potential effects on soil, overburden and vegetation.	The mitigation measures identified for the potential effects on air quality (Section 6.2.4) and surface water quality (Section 6.6.4, 6.7.4 and 6.8.4) will act to mitigate potential effects from dust deposition and runoff to soil, overburden and vegetation. These specific measures, in addition to other mitigation measures for potential effects on country foods, are summarized in Section 6.24.4, below. By implementing the mitigation measures for air quality and surface water quality, the potential effects on soil, overburden and vegetation will be mitigated by minimizing emissions, dust deposition and runoff to soil, overburden and vegetation which will in turn help to mitigate potential effects on fish and fish habitat and wildlife and wildlife habitat and country foods.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Surface Water Quality	NWOMC requested more information on flocculants that may be used and/or other means of mitigating elevated TSS in discharge.	During initial controlled dewatering, a barge is proposed to transfer lake water out of the open pit basin and back into Springpole Lake on the downstream side of the east dike. Dewatering will continue in this manner until the threshold concentration of TSS in the discharged water is reached (15 to 30 mg/L according to Schedule 4 of the MDMER and anticipated provincial permit limits). Once the TSS threshold is reached, this water will be directed towards the CWSP for additional settling prior to discharge back to Springpole Lake. The CWSP and related infrastructure will be set up early in the process to be available to receive the TSS-laden water when needed. The CWSP was selected as the preferred location to receive this water for additional settling given its large surface area and depth, which will provide operator flexibility during development of the open pit basin. The CWSP can support a dewatering rate of up to 2.6 m^3/s, which will be sufficient for average year hydrologic conditions. The settling pond size assumes that a 5-to-10-micron particle can be settled (the smallest particle size that can be settled by sedimentation alone). Flocculant or other means may be used in the CWSP if needed to help settle suspended sediments. The type of flocculant to be used has not been defined as yet. If a flocculant is expected to be required, it will be provided in the environmental permitting documents submitted to the province for review and approval prior to construction dewatering. This has been described in Section 5.7.1.2.

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Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Surface Water Quality	NWOMC further information on the monitoring that will be implemented to confirm that water quality guidelines will be met after two years of pit filling.	The closure monitoring program for the Project will be developed as part of the regulatory Closure Plan. Further, water quality will be regularly monitored throughout the closure phase as water in the open pit basin rises to verify water quality predictions and to ensure that regulatory guidelines are met. Monitoring during re-filling of the open pit basin will provide considerable time to identify and implement additional mitigation measures if needed (Section 4.4.5, Section 4.18.3). Further, the open pit basin will be maintained at a target level below the natural Springpole Lake elevation if needed. Once the water quality in the refilled basin meets, and is predicted to continue to meet, all requirements, the refilled basin will be hydraulically reconnected to Springpole Lake. The approach to monitoring water quality in the refilled open pit is further described in Section 5.19.3.1. It should be noted that Section 12.6 includes a description of the follow-up monitoring program.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC noted that plants are an important part of Métis culture and diet, and NWOMC citizens have insight on how plants are used and harvested which could help better target proposed measures.	Mitigation measures to be implemented to avoid or minimize the effects of the Project on vegetation communities have been identified in Section 6.11.4. Further, the effect on traditional harvesting of plants is assessed in Section 6.21. Revegetation trials will be conducted during the life of mine in preparation for closure. These trials will include community input and participation in implementation.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Vegetation communities and wetlands	NWOMC requested opportunities to be engaged in future monitoring of vegetation communities and wetlands.	FMG will offer to form Environment Committee(s) with members of proximate Indigenous communities. The Environment Committee(s) will provide a pathway for continued and constructive, transparent dialogue, interaction and information-sharing between First Mining and the leadership and members of the participating proximate communities regarding potential effects of the Project on the environment, traditional land use, human health and cultural values. It is anticipated that through this mechanism, opportunities to participate in revegetation trials that will occur during operations will be provided. These trials will evaluate such items as soil amendments, seed mixes to maximize the success of the final revegetation program.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Vegetation communities and wetlands	NWOMC requested clarification on the vegetation plans and that mitigations will be in place to stop the invasion of non-native species.	Section 6.11 has been updated to include species used in revegetation plans which will be further refined through life of mine based on their effectiveness in achieving the desired outcome and will include measures to mitigate the spread of invasive species. The development of the vegetation plans will take into consideration input provided by government agencies and Indigenous communities during the EA process. Revegetation trials will be conducted during the life of mine in preparation for closure. These trials will include community input and participation in implementation.
TK and TLU information	NWOMC requested that TK be disaggregated by Indigenous community.	A description of how TK was incorporated into the EIS/EA is provided in each VC section and in Section 6.21.1.2 of the final EIS/EA, including how the information is disaggregated by Indigenous community. Further, an assessment of the effects on Indigenous People is provided in Section 6.26 that includes the effects on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, socioeconomics, archaeology and cultural heritage.
TK and TLU Information	NWOMC requested that TK/TLU information be incorporated into relevant sections of the EIS/EA to inform the assessment, including the assessment of archaeological resources.	Following review of the draft EIS/EA, FMG provided the opportunity for NWOMC to undertake a supplementary TK/TLU Study which was completed and has been considered in this final EIS/EA. A description of information relevant to the assessment of potential effects on archaeological resources is provided in Section 6.22.2.3. The TK/TLU information is further described in Section 6.21.2 (Traditional Land and Resource Use VC).
TK and TLU information	NWOMC provided a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use report regarding the Project.	Information from this report was integrated into the assessments of biophysical VCs, the assessment of effects on traditional land and resource use, and the assessment of socio-economic VCs.
TK and TLU Information Traditional land and resource use	NWOMC requested clarification on how the TK/TLU information was used to inform the EIS/EA.	TK/TLU information received from Indigenous communities has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the VCs selected for assessment as shown in Section 6.21 (Table 6.21-12). In some cases, the assessment of a VC has been modified to include areas of interest expressed by Indigenous communities such as the inclusion of mental health and well-being in Section 6.19 and Section 6.20. In addition, the description of the existing conditions for each VC, includes a description of TKLU that is relevant to the VC, and is considered in the assessment and selection of mitigation and monitoring.
TK and TLU information Caribou	NWOMC emphasized the cultural and spiritual significance of Boreal Caribou, and their priority for Boreal Caribou conservation, especially protecting calving areas.	FMG acknowledges this and has integrated these values into the final EIS/EA. The draft EIS/EA was updated to include details from the community studies and other Indigenous Knowledge and Use and Socio-Economic Studies.
TK and TLU information Wildlife and wildlife habitat	NWOMC has shared valuable insights from their Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study, highlighting the importance of specific species to their community. This includes documentation of plant and animal species (abundance, distribution, and diversity) and their habitats found or likely to be found in the investigation area, with a focus on SAR or with special status that are of social, economic, cultural, or scientific significance, as well as invasive alien species and species used for traditional purposes by Indigenous groups.	These insights have been included in the baseline terrestrial resources report (Appendix P-1) and Section 6.12 of the final EIS/EA. They have suggested that a more comprehensive reflection of their values and interests, particularly the significance of wildlife to their diet and lifestyle, could enhance the current assessment. Recognizing the potential effects of the Project on wildlife harvesting, the NWOMC has expressed interest in further discussions. They have also raised concerns about potential habitat fragmentation and avoidance behaviours among wildlife. These insights underscore the opportunity for a more inclusive and comprehensive approach in the final EA, which would better reflect the NWOMC's values and interests. This has been included in Section 6.21 for the assessment of traditional land and resource use. Section 6.21 (Traditional Land and Resource Use) to assess the effects of the Project on the experience of traditional wildlife harvesting. In addition, the assessment of the potential effects on Indigenous people (Section 6.26) is informed by the results of the biophysical and human environment effects assessment as well as feedback received during engagement.

Table 2.6-10: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
TK and TLU information Wolverine	NWOMC noted that Wolverine are both culturally significant and are a highly successful predator that can lead to additional displacement of prey species and requested this be considered in the EIS/EA.	The non-confidential information from TK/TLU Studies provided by Indigenous communities has been reviewed and described in Section 6.14.2.1 for Wolverine. This information validates the selection of Wolverine as a VC and was considered in the assessment of potential effects and selection of mitigation measures and informs the monitoring programs for Wolverine.

2.6.1.8 Ojibway Nation of Saugeen

FMG initiated Project consultation with ONS in August 2018 and ONS and FMG have been engaging regarding the Project since. FMG has shared information with ONS on the EA milestones as described below, as well as incorporated feedback shared by ONS into the final EIS/EA from the community. FMG understands ONS is interested in business and contracting opportunities related to the Project and will continue these discussions as the Project moves forward. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to ONS organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and ONS up to June 30, 2024.

Table 2.6-11: Summary of Key Engagement with the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
December 16, 2019	Chief and Council Meeting	FMG met with ONS Chief and Council to provide an update on the Project, draft Terms of Reference, and to discuss how Chief and Council wished to be consulted.
August 2, 2022	Chief and Council Meeting	FMG met with to discuss updates on the draft EIS/EA, and the draft Community Consultation Plan.
October 2020 – September 2021	Document Review: Provincial Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference	FMG and ONS engaged in substantial discussions throughout the Terms of Reference process including meeting multiple times and ONS providing comments on the draft amended Terms of Reference which were considered.
May 31, 2021	Document provided for review: Baseline Studies	FMG notified ONS that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. FMG did not receive comments from ONS.
October 1, 2021	Document provided for review: Preliminary Alternatives Assessment	FMG provided ONS with a preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive written feedback from ONS on these tables.
December 3, 2021	Notice of Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
May – June 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies.
May 17, 2023	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS, to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an update on Project progress over the past year, including related to the CDF, water management, wildlife, and the FHOCP.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, Co-disposal facility Optimization, Environmental Assessment Progress, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
December 15, 2023	Document provided for review: Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples	FMG emailed ONS the Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. FMG did not receive feedback from ONS on this table and another opportunity to review will be provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.
February – August 2024	Document review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG received a letter from ONS on February 27, 2024, that expressed a willingness to collaborate with FMG on labor, supply, and contracting needs. FMG responded on March 20, 2024, and was further discussed during meetings held on March 14 and August 15, 2024.
May 1, 2024	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS regarding the Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment. FMG presented the following: FMG prioritizing communities and local businesses in its projects, work completed to date on the Project, the Project overview, and the revised transmission line route proposed for the final EIS/EA.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities related to ONS. This includes discussions related to potential preferred consultation approach; communications related to open calls for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions or other in-person engagement such as site tours.

On December 16, 2019, FMG met with ONS Chief and Council to provide an update on the Project, draft ToR, and to discuss how Chief and Council wished to be consulted.

The start of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 impacted in-person Project consultation and engagement, with FMG limiting communications during this period to respect community priorities.

On March 16, 2022, FMG provided ONS with the Consultation Plan and inquired if ONS had any questions or concerns regarding the Plan.

ONS Chief and Council and FMG met on August 2, 2022, to discuss updates on the draft EIS/EA, and the draft Community Consultation Plan. ONS requested a Community Information Session for the Project when the pandemic conditions within the community improve. Questions were received on the routing of the access road, the effects of spring runoff on the dikes and whether the land will be returned to pre-mining conditions. Following the meeting, on August 4, 2022, FMG provided ONS with the Consultation Plan with updated contact information for ONS's review.

On October 14, 2022, FMG emailed ONS to schedule a Project update and draft EIS/EA overview virtual meeting. FMG also offered an in-person meeting to present information in the draft EIS/EA report and receive input from ONS. FMG asked ONS if the consultation plan was ready for implementation. A meeting was held on November 29, 2022, with Chief and Council to review the draft Community Consultation Plan. FMG noted that it would resend the plan for ONS's review. FMG followed up on March 22, 2023, to request a meeting with Chief and Council to discuss the draft Consultation Plan and TK/TLU studies.

FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS on May 17, 2023, to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an update on Project progress over the past year, including related to the CDF, water management, wildlife, and the FHOCP. FMG played a video presentation to community members showing the Project mine site, mineral body, and the proposed Project features and components. FMG requested input from attendees regarding potential fish habitat compensation opportunities and provided comment forms. Three comment forms were filled out by community members during the meeting and comments received indicate interest in careers at the future mine.

On September 11, 2023, FMG invited ONS on a site tour at the end of the month; however, ONS did not reply.

On February 12, 2024, FMG emailed ONS providing the Consultation Plan and offered to address any questions about the plan. FMG provided a summary of engagement conducted with ONS to date. FMG followed up on its request for ONS to provide comments or questions on the draft summary of the assessment of potential effects on Indigenous people and requested a meeting to discuss the Project. FMG also offered to schedule another Community Information Session in 2024.

On February 27, 2024, ONS sent a letter to FMG. The letter outlined ONS leadership structure, articulated ONS viewpoints on mining industry activities within its traditional territory. This view incorporates support for mining and exploration activity in their area, to the extent that this activity mitigates accordingly the

impacts. ONS expressed a willingness to collaborate with FMG on labour, supply and contracting needs, and requested additional information employment and procurement, social impact mitigation, environmental effects from cyanide, and power. In follow-up FMG scheduled a meeting with ONS for March 14, 2024, to discuss prior to providing responses in writing.

FMG met with ONS on March 14, 2024, for a Project update and introduction with the newly elected Chief and Council. FMG gave a presentation that provided an overview of the Project, the draft EIS/EA, and consultation activities with ONS to date. ONS asked questions about Project infrastructure including access and power, water management, environmental baseline studies, business opportunities and procurement.

In response to the February 27, 2024, ONS letter, FMG provided a response letter on March 20, 2024. FMG provided responses to the comments regarding the employment and procurement, social impact mitigation, environmental effects from cyanide, and power. FMG committed to developing a Mental Heath and Wellbeing strategy for the Project as well as requested any information on existing partnerships that the Community may have with suppliers and/or contractors so FMG can consider that.

FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS on May 1, 2024, regarding the Project EIS/EA. FMG presented the following: FMG prioritizing communities and local businesses in its projects, work completed to date on the Project, the Project overview, and the revised transmission line route proposed for the final EIS/EA. FMG finished the presentation by explaining the EA process, how comments shared on the draft EIS/EA would help shape the final EIS/EA, how the FHOCP would take place, and next steps. A copy of the presentation and meeting notes is provided in Appendix D.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to ONS related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized using these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with ONS prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

ONS Chief and Council and FMG met on September 18, 2018, to present an overview of the proposed Project and discuss any questions or concerns. Questions were answered at the meeting and the presentation was provided.

ONS Band Manager and Head Councillor and FMG met on July 11, 2019, to provide an update on the Project, environmental baseline studies and employment opportunities.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to ONS via email on December 3, 2021.

On January 5, 2022, FMG and ONS discussed the status of the Project including the EA, construction timelines, and employment opportunities in the coming years.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

FMG and ONS engaged in substantial discussions throughout the ToR process, meeting a total of three times from the Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process in August 2018 and the submission of the draft amended ToR in April 2021 that resulted in updates to the ToR. ONS provided comments and FMG provided responses on the draft amended ToR.

On October 5, 2020, FMG emailed ONS to see if ONS was still interested in reviewing the draft ToR and noted that capacity funding is available to help with their review. On November 20, 2020, ONS and FMG had a phone call to discuss capacity funding for review of the draft ToR and ONS asked for FMG to send a list of consultants to assist with review of ToR. FMG followed up the same day with a list of consultants. On November 23, 2020, the Chief of ONS sent a letter to FMG regarding the ToR, which was later discussed during a Project Update meeting held on November 27, 2020, between FMG and ONS. On December 22, 2020, FMG provided a response letter to ONS. On December 7, 2020, ONS and FMG met to discuss the draft amended ToR review and capacity funding. FMG agreed to provide funding for ONS to hire a consultant to review the draft amended ToR.

Following FMG's email providing the draft amended ToR, ONS and FMG corresponded several times in January and February 2021 to discuss ONS's review of the draft amended ToR. On February 8, 2021, ONS confirmed that they have hired a consultant to undertake the review. On March 8, 2021, FMG followed up with ONS to see if the community had any comments on the draft amended ToR. On March 22, 2021, FMG had a phone call with ONS to follow up on draft amended ToR review comments. ONS indicated that their comments were prepared, and they were waiting for Chief and Council to review before sending to FMG.

On March 26, 2021, the MECP provided ONS's comments on the draft amended ToR to FMG, and the MECP subsequently provided FMG's responses to ONS on March 30, 2021. On April 22, 2021, ONS and FMG met to review ONS' comments the draft amended ToR and FMG's responses. FMG acknowledged an email from ONS the following day, which included a memo that outlined proposed wording to be included in the draft amended ToR regarding community-specific consultation plans. FMG stated that the proposed wording was acceptable and would be included in the draft amended ToR.

On June 28, 2021, FMG followed up on ONS's review of the draft amended ToR and the meeting held in April. ONS' consultant noted it did not have any new information on progress being made on a final review of the draft amended ToR and providing feedback to the MECP and understood that the comment deadline had passed.

On September 2, 2021, the MECP contacted ONS to re-state that ONS has not yet secured technical staff to undertake review of FMG's response to ONS on the draft amended ToR. The MECP also requested confirmation that the comments on the draft amended ToR were addressed and requested a specific date that the MECP can expect responses from ONS. FMG requested a meeting to discuss the status of the comments and responses and noted that all comments and responses had been satisfied and commitments added to the draft amended ToR. FMG clarified that it was waiting for a proposal from ONS outlining the support required going forward. FMG provided the purchase order issued to fund the work done for ONS to review the draft amended ToR and responses earlier this year.

On September 8, 2021, FMG contacted the advisor for ONS. FMG asked for ONS to clarify to the MECP that FMG provided funds in capacity support for the review of the draft amended ToR review and that all comments have been discussed and resolved. FMG also noted that the next steps are for ONS, in collaboration with their consultant to submit a proposal for the EA Review, should they be interested.

On September 9, 2021, FMG followed up with the MECP informing them that FMG met with ONS to clarify the funding provided by FMG for the draft amended ToR review. FMG explained that the next steps include ONS' consultant preparing a proposal for the capacity support for the EA process, should they be interested. FMG noted that the advisor for ONS would be confirming with ONS' consultant and would send an email to clarify that the draft amended ToR process is complete.

The MECP reached out to ONS on September 15, 2021 to set up a call with FMG and ONS to discuss the draft amended ToR. The MECP asked for confirmation on whether the March 26, 2021 comments on the draft amended ToR were addressed by FMG adequately, specifically one priority comment from the April 22, 2021, meeting between FMG and ONS. The MECP stated that FMG resubmitted the draft amended ToR on April 29, 2021, and the MECP would like confirmation that ONS is satisfied with FMG's responses.

On September 27, 2021, ONS responded to the MECP informing them that ONS's comments on the draft amended ToR were adequately addressed by FMG and that ONS was satisfied with FMG's responses and with the draft amended ToR. ONS included that the Chief of ONS was not available for the next few weeks for a phone call, but they would confirm when they would be available along with the Council. ONS included that Council were satisfied with the draft amended ToR and that process can proceed to what they understand would include an EA that would involve ONS undertaking a TK/TLU Study that would address certain threshold issues that arise from the EA process. ONS included that ONS looked forward to keeping regular contact with the MECP as the EA progressed. FMG inquired if a proposal would be submitted to FMG for the TK/TLU Study.

On November 9, 2021, the MECP shared a letter regarding the Project's ToR and the Notice of Approval with ONS.

Baseline Studies

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly community bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. As described in Section 2.6.1.1, On October 8, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

FMG did not receive feedback from ONS on the baseline studies.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

Throughout the EA process, FMG and ONS held conversations during which FMG encouraged the community to undertake TK/TLU studies, if interested, and FMG reached out through email and phone calls with ONS inquiring about their interest in conducting TK/TLU studies.

During a phone call with ONS on January 10, 2022, FMG informed ONS of its interest in supporting ONS to complete a TK/TLU Study for the EA. FMG inquired if ONS has a consultant available for the TK/TLU work. FMG agreed to send ONS a summary of the TK/TLU Study request. FMG followed up the next day with a summary of their conversation and provided a memo on the information typically included in a TK/TLU study.

FMG followed up with ONS several times throughout February, March and April 2022 inquiring about the community's interest undertaking the TK/TLU Study. FMG informed ONS that it would be providing capacity support for the studies, if interested.

FMG provided the community consultation plan and TK/TLU planning documents again to ONS on April 28, 2022. During a phone call on May 13, 2022, FMG confirmed that it would discuss the consultation plan and the TK/TLU studies during a meeting scheduled for May 24, 2022. This meeting was held on August 2, 2022 and is described in the Post-draft EIS/EA section below.

Assessment of Alternatives

On January 8, 2021, FMG circulated a draft list of VCs as part of the draft amended ToR. The preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment were also included in the draft amended ToR for review. The consultation that occurred through the ToR process, including related to the VCs, criteria and indicators, is described in the ToR Section above.

On October 8, 2021, FMG contacted ONS to identify that FMG had completed a preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components and methods and was seeking ONS's feedback. FMG also shared Project factsheets describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs, and reminded of the baseline reports available for review. FMG provided the link to the EA website where the assessments were saved. FMG also indicated that a series of videos were available that explain the baseline environment work in plain language.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to ONS related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the ONS after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

FMG emailed ONS on May 4, 2023, providing a hyperlink to the Springpole Project video with subtitles translated to Ojibway. FMG provided a reminder to ONS that draft EIS/EA documents are included in the same hyperlink. FMG once again invited questions or comments about the Project and offered to present the video at an in-person meeting.

FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS on May 17, 2023, to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an update on Project progress over the past year, including related to the CDF, water management, wildlife, and the FHOCP FMG played a video presentation to community members showing the Springpole mine site, mineral body, and the proposed Project features and components. FMG requested input from attendees regarding potential fish habitat compensation opportunities and provided comment forms. Three comment forms were filled out by community members during the meeting and comments received indicate interest in careers at the future mine.

ONS and FMG met on March 14, 2024, for a Project update and introduction with the newly elected Chief and Council. FMG gave a presentation that provided an overview of the Project, the draft EIS/EA, and consultation activities with ONS to date. ONS asked questions about Project infrastructure including access and power, water management, environmental baseline studies, business opportunities and procurement.

On April 5, 2024, FMG inquired about location details of the Community Information Session at ONS on May 1, 2024, and asked for clarification that community members have been informed about the Community Information Session. On April 8, 2024, ONS responded providing venue confirmation for the information session. ONS offered assistance for anything else that may be needed. On April 22, 2024, FMG provided the poster for the information session. On April 29, 2024, FMG emailed ONS providing an agenda for the information session and informed ONS of FMG's arrival time.

FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS on May 1, 2024, regarding the Project EIS/EA. FMG presented the following: FMG prioritizing communities and local businesses in its projects, work completed to date on the Project, the Project overview, and the revised transmission line route proposed for the final

EIS/EA. FMG finished the presentation by explaining the EA process, how comments shared would help shape the final EIS/EA, how the FHOCP would take place, and next steps. A copy of the presentation and meeting notes are provided in Appendix D.

Between March 1 and 8, 2024, FMG and ONS exchanged messages regarding additional information about supporting ONS with the IAAC funding stream process, a summary of funding opportunities for training and employment, the anticipated deadline for the submission of the final EIS/EA, a copy of the draft EIS/EA and clarification that FMG was conducting both a federal EIS and a provincial EA.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

ONS and FMG have been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. In June 2022, FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

ONS Chief and Council and FMG met on August 2, 2022, to discuss updates on the draft EIS/EA, and the draft Community Consultation Plan. ONS requested a Community Information Session for the Project when the pandemic conditions within the community improve. Questions were received on the routing of the access road, the effects of spring runoff on the dikes and the whether the land will be returned to pre-mining conditions.

FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS on May 17, 2023, to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an update on Project progress over the past year, including details about the CDF, EA methods, water management, wildlife and the FHOCP. A video was shown to community members by FMG, focusing on the Springpole mine site, mineral body, and the proposed Project features and components. Input was requested from attendees regarding potential fish habitat compensation opportunities—FMG provided comment forms. Three comment forms were filled out by community members during the meeting and comments received indicated interest in careers at the future mine.

On December 15, 2023, FMG emailed ONS a Preliminary Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples draft table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects as planned to be presented in the final EIS/EA. FMG requested that ONS provide any feedback on the draft table by February 15, 2024, so that FMG can fully consider it, and have necessary follow-up discussions, in advance of the final EIS/EA. FMG offered to arrange a meeting to discuss and review the draft table. Although ONS responded on February 27, 2024, there were no comments provided directly related to the draft table.

On February 27, 2024, ONS sent FMG a letter that outlined ONS leadership structure, articulated ONS viewpoints on mining industry. This view incorporates support for mining and exploration activity in their area, to the extent that this activity mitigates accordingly the impacts. ONS activities within its traditional territory, expressed a willingness to collaborate with FMG on labour, supply and contracting needs, and requested additional information on the draft ToR and FMG's approach to Project benefits. In response, FMG scheduled a meeting with ONS on March 14.

Between March 1 and March 8, 2024, FMG and an ONS representative exchanged messages regarding additional information about supporting ONS with the IAAC funding stream process, a summary of funding opportunities for training and employment, the anticipated July 2024 deadline for the EIS/EA, a copy of the draft EIS/EA and clarification that FMG was conducting both a federal EIS and a provincial EA.

FMG met with ONS on March 14, 2024, for a Project update and introduction with the newly elected Chief and Council. FMG gave a presentation that provided an overview of the Project, the draft EIS/EA, and consultation activities with ONS to date. ONS asked questions about Project infrastructure including access and power, water management, environmental baseline studies, business opportunities and procurement.

On March 15, 2024, FMG sent a summary of past engagement and consultation with ONS to the new Chief and Council as well as ONS's 2021 comments on the draft ToR and FMG's responses, a memo outlining wording proposed by ONS to be included in the final amended ToR regarding community-specific consultation plans, and FMG's ONS Community Consultation Plan. FMG also provided an overview of the ONS review process and links to documents on FMG's website, which also contained videos and plain language factsheets and encouraged ONS to distribute all the materials to community members.

In response to the February 27, 2024 ONS letter, FMG provided a response letter on March 20, 2024. FMG provided responses to the comments regarding the economy, social effects, environment and power. FMG committed to developing a Mental Heath and Wellbeing strategy for the Project as well as requested any information on existing partnerships that the Community may have with suppliers and/or contractors so FMG can consider that.

FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS on May 1, 2024, regarding the Project EIS/EA. FMG presented the following: FMG prioritizing communities and local businesses in its projects, work completed to date on the Project, the Project overview, and the transmission line route alternatives proposed for the final EIS/EA. FMG finished the presentation by explaining the EA process, how comments shared on the draft EIS/EA would help shape the final EIS/EA, how the FHOCP would take place, and next steps. A copy of the presentation and meeting notes are provided in Appendix D.

Baseline Studies (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

On May 17, 2023, FMG held a Community Information Session in ONS to present an update on the Project and draft EIS/EA, ongoing studies, and the FHOCP. FMG set up information boards detailing the Project, which highlighted results of the draft environmental assessment and mitigation strategies, and played a video showing the mine site, mineral body and the potential economic impacts. Feedback forms were submitted by members of the community, expressing interest in employment opportunities. The Chief of ONS inquired about a site tour.

Discussions between May 2023 and September 2023 between FMG and ONS were focused on updates related to the draft EIS/EA, ongoing studies, and the FHOCP; sharing of additional Project information including FMG's 2022 ESG Report and updates related to the IGTRB and CDF design. Additionally, ONS held an election during this period.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

On August 2, 2022, ONS and FMG met to discuss TK/TLU related to Springpole and the community. FMG noted that capacity support was available if ONS was interested in completing a study for consideration in the final EIS/EA.

On April 5, 2023, FMG requested a meeting to discuss potential TK/TLU Study funding with ONS.

A meeting was held on November 29, 2022, with Chief and Council to discuss TK/TLU related to the Project. FMG followed up on March 22, 2023, to request a meeting with Chief and Council to discuss TK/TLU studies. No response has been shared to date.

2.6.1.9 Pikangikum First Nation

FMG initiated Project consultation with PFN in August 2018 and FMG has continued to share information regarding the Project since. FMG has shared information with PFN on the EA milestones and provided opportunities for the community to provide comments and concerns as described below. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to PFN organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and PFN up to June 30, 2024.

Table 2.6-12: Summary of Key Engagement with Pikangikum First Nation

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
2019 - 2021	Document provided for review: Provincial Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference	FMG attempted to engage PFN throughout the environmental assessment process beginning in 2019, with opportunities to review the draft Terms of Reference and draft amended Terms of Reference. FMG did not receive a response to these attempts.
October 1, 2021	Document provided for review: Preliminary Alternatives Assessment	FMG provided PFN with a preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive written feedback from PFN on these tables.
October 8, 2021	Document provided for review: Baseline Studies	FMG notified PFN that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. FMG did not receive comments from PFN.
December 3, 2021	Notice of Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
May 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, Co-disposal facility Optimization, Environmental Assessment Progress, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
December 15, 2023	Document provided for review: Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples	FMG emailed PFN and provided the Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. FMG did not receive feedback from PFN on this table and another opportunity to review will be provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

Initially, FMG met with PFN Chief and Council to provide a Project overview.

FMG attempted to engage PFN throughout the EA process beginning in 2019, seeking interest for a TK/TLU study and opportunities to review and comment at each stage, including the draft ToR, draft amended ToR, baseline studies, and draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive a response to these attempts.

FMG continued to follow-up with PFN to provide Project information and opportunities for engagement throughout the EA process.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement specific to PFN related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with PFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On November 25, 2021, FMG emailed PFN to request a meeting with PFN the week of December 13, 2021, to discuss the Project.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to PFN via email on December 3, 2021.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

On August 27, 2019, FMG provided PFN with Notice of Commencement of the provincial ToR process.

FMG emailed PFN to request a time to present the draft ToR and discuss how the community would like to be consulted. On October 5, 2020, FMG followed up with PFN to see if the community was interested in reviewing the draft ToR and noted that capacity funding was available. On March 8, 2021, FMG informed PFN that it would soon be sending the draft amended ToR to the MECP and inquired if PFN had any comments on the draft amended ToR. FMG also inquired if it could schedule a time to meet and present the Project to Chief and Council. FMG followed up again on April 13, 2021. FMG indicated that it would be willing to describe to PFN the updates to the draft amended ToR and noted that FMG was required to submit the draft amended ToR to the MECP by April 29, 2021.

Baseline Studies

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly community bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. As described in Section 2.6.1.1, On October 8, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

FMG did not receive feedback from PFN on the baseline studies. FMG did not receive feedback from PFN on the baseline studies.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

Throughout the EA process, FMG and PFN held conversations during which FMG encouraged the community to undertake TK/TLU studies and FMG reached out through email and phone calls with PFN inquiring about their interest in conducting TK/TLU studies.

On January 13, 2022, FMG provided PFN with notice that the Project is undergoing an EA. FMG indicated it would like to work with PFN to learn about their TK/TLU, if interested. FMG noted that the typical TK/TLU information found in an EA was included in an attached example document. FMG indicated it would be like to discuss existing current PFN TK/TLU information and, if interested, fund the collection of additional information.

On February 8, 2022, FMG followed up again to request PFN's interest in undertaking a TK/TLU Study.

Additional efforts were made on October 14, 2022, to reach out to PFN to inquire if the community would be interested in undertaking and sharing TK/TLU study work in relation to the Project area and requested to set up a meeting to discuss.

Assessment of Alternatives

On January 8, 2021, FMG circulated a draft list of VCs as part of the draft amended ToR. The preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment were also included in the draft amended ToR for review. The consultation that occurred through the ToR process, including related to the VCs, criteria and indicators, is described in the ToR section above. Also, FMG shared Project factsheets describing VCs, available on the Project website.

On October 8, 2021, FMG contacted PFN to identify that FMG had completed a preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components and methods and was seeking PFN's feedback. FMG also shared Project factsheets describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs, and reminded of the baseline reports available for review. FMG provided the link to the EA website where the assessments were saved. FMG also indicated that a series of videos were available that explain the baseline environment work in plain language.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to PFN related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

General consultation activities with the PFN after the draft EIS/EA submission that were not related to a key EA milestone are described in Section 2.6.1.1.

FMG emailed PFN on June 18, 2023, providing details, and a letter with additional details, on the IGTRB for the Project optimization update on the CDF. FMG offered to address any questions.

On September 15, 2023, FMG provided a letter with an update on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and provided information on the three members, as well as next steps for the board. FMG offered to answer any questions but did not receive any.

On November 2, 2023, FMG emailed PFN inviting them to a series of webinars in November. The webinars would provide updates on the CDF, FHOCP, water management and treatment strategy, and alternatives assessment process. FMG provided links to the invitations for each webinar.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

FMG has been sharing information and attempting to engage with PFN regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to provide the understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

On October 14, 2022, FMG emailed PFN inquiring about whether a Project update and draft EIS/EA overview meeting could be scheduled virtually. FMG additionally offered an in-person meeting to present on the information in the draft EIS/EA report and receive input from PFN.

On December 15, 2023, FMG emailed PFN providing a Preliminary Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples draft table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. FMG requested that PFN provide any comments or questions on the draft table by February 15, 2024, so that FMG can fully consider it, and have necessary follow-up discussions, in advance of the final EIS/EA. FMG offered to arrange a meeting to discuss and review the draft table. FMG did not receive feedback from PFN on this table and another opportunity to review will be provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.

FMG phoned the PFN band office on March 13 and 28, 2024, to establish contact with the councillor/community representative responsible for handling matters related to mining. The calls were not answered, and voice mail was not accepted.

Baseline Studies (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

On February 8, 2023, FMG emailed Merin Forest Management Inc. (on behalf of PFN) requesting a meeting with PFN to discuss the Project and develop a consultation plan for sharing information related to Caribou telemetry study. No response was received by FMG.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

On October 14, 2022, FMG followed up with PFN to inquire if PFN would be interested in undertaking and sharing TK/TLU study work in relation to the Project area and requested to schedule a meeting.

On December 15, 2023, FMG reached out to engage and seek feedback from PFN as they worked on preparing the final EIS/EA. FMG noted that during the preparation of the draft EIS/EA document, available TK/TLU information along with extensive baseline environmental information collected for the Project was used to predict the potential changes to the environment from the Project which informed the assessment of potential effects on Indigenous people. A summary of the assessment of potential effects on Indigenous people was provided which included an outline of the potential effects to Indigenous people, proposed mitigation measures and an assessment of residual effects. FMG noted that as they are moving forward with preparation of the final EIS/EA, they were seeking feedback on the potential effects, proposed mitigation, and residual effects, and will use this input to inform updates to the work and help ensure that

mitigation measures are captured and best reflect measures brought forward by communities. FMG did not receive a response from PFN.

2.6.1.10 Wabauskang First Nation

FMG initiated Project consultation with WFN in December 2017 and WFN and FMG have been sharing information regarding the Project since. FMG has shared information with WFN on the EA milestones and provided opportunities for the community to provide comments and concerns as described below. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to WFN organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and WFN up to June 30, 2024.

Table 2.6-13: Summary of Engagement with Wabauskang First Nation

Date	Method of Engagement	Summary
December 24, 2017	Chief and Council Meeting	WFN and FMG held an introductory meeting with WFN leadership for FMG to present information about the Project
February 21, 2018	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in WFN to present an overview of the proposed Project and environmental work done to date.
January 24, 2019	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in WFN to present an overview of the Project and environmental assessment process.
May 22, 2019	Community Information Session	FMG held a Community Information Session in WFN to provide an overview of the Project and invited review and comment on presented materials.
August 2020 - 2021	Document provided for review: Provincial Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference	FMG attempted to engage WFN throughout the environmental assessment process beginning in 2019, with opportunities to review the draft Terms of Reference and draft amended Terms of Reference. FMG did not receive a response to these attempts.
October 1, 2021	Document provided for review: Preliminary Alternatives Assessment	FMG provided WFN with a preliminary alternatives assessment for key Project components. These preliminary assessment tables were intended to be high-level in detail to facilitate consultation. They provided a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process to seek feedback prior to submission of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive written feedback from WFN on these tables.
October 8, 2021	Document provided for review: Baseline Studies	FMG notified WFN that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs. FMG did not receive comments from WFN.
December 3, 2021	Notice: Commencement of the Provincial Environmental Assessment via Email	FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial environmental assessment process via email.
May 2022	Document provided for review: Draft EIS/EA	FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., fact sheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies.
June 2023 – October 2024	Community Bulletins	FMG developed monthly community bulletins starting in 2023 to provide environmental updates on specific topics related to the Project to be shared with community members. Community bulletins continue to be circulated regularly. The community bulletins to date have included the following topics: Baseline Studies Update, Co-disposal facility Optimization, Environmental Assessment Progress, Fish Habitat Offsetting, Final EIS/EA Site Plan, Water Management, 2024 Baseline Update, Training and Job Opportunities; and Transmission Line Route.
December 15, 2023	Document provided for review: Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples	FMG emailed WFN and provided the Preliminary Summary of the Assessment of Effects to Indigenous Peoples table that outlined the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, and an assessment of residual effects. FMG did not receive feedback from WFN on this table and another opportunity to review will be provided as part of the review process on this final EIS/EA.

Consultation Processes and Capacity

This subsection captures discussions and activities related to consultation and capacity building activities related to WFN. This includes discussions related to potential preferred consultation approach; communications related to open calls for participation in Project activities including environmental monitoring or business opportunities; as well as Community Information Sessions or other in-person engagement such as site tours.

The start of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 impacted in-person Project consultation and engagement, with FMG limiting communications during this period to respect community priorities.

On December 14, 2017, WFN and FMG held an introductory meeting with WFN leadership for FMG to present information about the Project. Another Project update meeting was held On December 12, 2018, with Chief and Council. On December 18, 2018, FMG followed up with WFN and provided the EIS Guidelines, Fish and Fish Habitat report, Animation and Project description.

FMG held a Community Information Session in WFN on February 21, 2018, to present an overview of the proposed Project and environmental work done to date.

A Community Information Session was held on January 24, 2019 to present an overview of the Project and the EA processes. This was followed by an attendance at a Career Fair on May 22, 2019, where community members had the opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the Project.

FMG held a Community Information Session in WFN on May 22, 2019, to provide an overview of the Project and invited review and comment on presented materials.]

On February 6, 2020, WFN Chief and FMG met to discuss the Project prior to submission of the draft ToR.

The start of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 impacted in-person Project consultation and engagement, with FMG limiting communications during this period to respect community priorities.

WFN Chief and Council and FMG met on June 25, 2021 and FMG provided an overview of the Project. FMG noted that there are socioeconomic benefits and opportunities for the First Nations, noted the other Indigenous communities FMG is working with and answered questions from WFN about the Project.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to WFN via email on December 3, 2021.

On February 24, 2022, FMG provided WFN an update on the engagement work FMG, and the STPN SEC are undertaking. WFN requested that in FMG's response, FMG outline the new team in place, the history of the SEC, and information on engagement work.

On June 29, 2022, the new VP of Exploration at FMG emailed WFN inviting them to discuss the exploration permit process and offered to present the draft exploration plans in a Community Information Session.

On February 18, 2022, WFN provided FMG with an update on their requested participation in the Project's EA study. WFN noted that it is important that they support the First Nations nearest to the Project. WFN requested an update on the relationship between FMG and SFN, LSFN and CLFN. WFN reported that if the Chief and Council of WFN are satisfied about the other First Nations, then they would discuss the Project with FMG. On March 2, 2022, FMG responded providing WFN with an update and informed WFN that it would like to work with WFN through the EA process.

On October 14, 2022, FMG followed up with WFN on inquiring about whether a Project update and draft EIS/EA overview meeting could be scheduled virtually. FMG additionally offered an in-person meeting to present on the information in the draft EIS/EA report and receive input from WFN.

WFN and FMG had a phone call on March 21, 2023; WFN informed FMG that they planned to follow the lead of the STPN and respect their guidance regarding the Project. WFN indicated that they did not wish to actively participate in the EA process. FMG requested WFN follow up with an email stating WFN's position on not participating in the EA process. FMG provided an update on the draft EIS/EA response schedule and offered to be available to answer any future questions WFN may have.

On March 27, 2023, FMG followed up with WFN confirming that WFN is deferring to the STPN regarding the Project and that direct consultation with WFN is not required. FMG stated to WFN that it would continue to include WFN on the mailing list, offer funding opportunities for a TK/TLU Study, and do community presentations on the Project and EA information should WFN's position change in time. Also, FMG stated that it would keep WFN informed on future employment opportunities at the Project site. FMG requested a letter from the WFN Chief and Council stating that this is the consultation strategy that WFN prefers.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to WFN related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with WFN prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 14, 2017, WFN and FMG held an introductory meeting with WFN leadership for FMG to present information about the Project. Another Project update meeting was held On December 12, 2018, with Chief and Council. On December 18, 2018, FMG followed up with WFN and provided the EIS Guidelines, Fish and Fish Habitat report, Animation and Project description.

FMG held a Community Information Session in WFN on February 21, 2018, to present an overview of the proposed Project and environmental work done to date. Another Community Information Session was held on January 24, 2019 to present an overview of the Project followed by FMG attending the WFN Career Fair on May 22, 2019, where community members had the opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the Project.

FMG held a Community Information Session on May 22, 2019, to provide an overview of the Project and invited review and comment on presented materials.

On February 6, 2020, WFN Chief and FMG met to discuss the Project prior to submission of the draft ToR.

WFN Chief and Council and FMG met on June 25, 2021 and FMG provided an overview of the Project. FMG noted that there are socioeconomic benefits and opportunities for the First Nations, noted the other Indigenous communities FMG is working with and answered questions from WFN about the Project.

FMG distributed the Notice of Commencement for the provincial EA process to WFN via email on December 3, 2021.

On February 24, 2022, FMG provided WFN an update on the engagement work FMG and the SEC are undertaking. WFN requested that FMG outline the new team in place, the history of the SEC, and information on engagement work.

On June 29, 2022, the new VP of Exploration at FMG emailed WFN inviting them to discuss the exploration permit process and offered to present the draft exploration plans in a Community Information Session.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

On August 17, 2020, FMG provided a hard and an electronic copy of the final ToR to WFN.

On September 14, 2020, FMG emailed WFN to offer capacity funding for ToR review. FMG followed up again on March 5, 2021, after submission of the draft amended ToR to see if the community had any comments. FMG informed WFN on March 8, 2021, that it would soon be submitting the draft amended ToR and inquired if WFN had any feedback. In addition, FMG offered to meet with Chief and Council to discuss the draft amended ToR. FMG followed up again on April 13, 2021, indicating that it would like to meet with WFN to describe the updates to the draft amended ToR and noted that FMG is required to submit the draft amended ToR to the MECP by April 29, 2021.

Baseline Studies

FMG has provided ongoing updates to Indigenous communities regarding ongoing baseline studies through the monthly community bulletins and newsletters. Additionally, FMG provided local Indigenous communities the baseline studies for the Project for their review and input. As described in Section 2.6.1.1, On October 8, 2021, FMG notified the communities that baseline studies for the Project were uploaded to the Project website for their review and input. FMG provided the 2021 technical workplans for upcoming studies to inform communities of the plans and methods for upcoming programs.

FMG did not receive feedback from WFN on the baseline studies.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

Throughout the EA process, FMG and WFN held conversations during which FMG encouraged the community to undertake TK/TLU studies and FMG had reached out through email and phone calls with WFN, inquiring about their interest in conducting TK/TLU studies.

In January 2022, FMG followed up with WFN inquiring about their interest in conducting TK/TLU studies. WFN confirmed on February 9, 2022, that they would present the TK/TLU Study opportunity at the next WFN Chief and Council meeting. WFN provided a TK/TLU study for the Project, which was considered throughout the draft EIS/EA, with details presented in Section 6.21. The referenced WFN study was completed for the access corridor. FMG has offered the opportunity for WFN to collect and share supplemental information.

Assessment of Alternatives

On January 8, 2021, FMG circulated a draft list of VCs as part of the draft amended ToR. The preliminary criteria and indicators for the assessment of alternatives and effects assessment were also included in the draft amended ToR for review. The consultation that occurred through the ToR process, including related to the VCs, criteria and indicators, is described in the ToR Section above. Also, FMG shared Project factsheets describing VCs, available on the Project website.

On October 8, 2021, FMG contacted WFN to identify that FMG had completed a preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components and methods and was seeking WFN's feedback. FMG also shared Project factsheets describing the EA process including the alternatives assessment, and VCs, and reminded of the baseline reports available for review. FMG provided the link to the EA website where the assessments

were saved. FMG also indicated that a series of videos were available that explain the baseline environment work in plain language.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to WFN related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the WFN after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

FMG emailed WFN on June 18, 2023, providing details, and a letter with additional details, on the IGTRB for the Project optimization update on the CDF. FMG offered to address any questions.

On September 15, 2023, FMG provided a letter with an update on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and provided information on the three members, as well as next steps for the board. FMG offered to answer any questions but did not receive any.

On November 2, 2023, FMG emailed WFN inviting them to a series of webinars in November. The webinars would provide updates on the CDF, FHOCP, water management and treatment strategy, and alternatives assessment process. FMG provided links to the invitations for each webinar.

FMG emailed WFN on May 28, 2024, providing a summary and details on the Project and on the EA process. FMG informed WFN that the final EIS/EA is on schedule for submission at the end of summer 2024. FMG informed WFN that an in-person discussion in Thunder Bay is an option to discuss the Project. FMG requested an opportunity to present the Project updates during the monthly Environmental Committee meeting. WFN replied informing FMG that WFN Chief and Council is deferring to LSFN, SFN, and CLFN in the Project consultation process with FMG. WFN informed FMG that WFN may participate in the consultation process when LSFN, SFN and CLFN express satisfaction with the consultation progress.

On June 3, 2024, FMG emailed WFN informing WFN of Project information sharing, updates, and engagement efforts. FMG informed WFN that FMG is expecting to submit the final EIS/EA between June-September 2024. FMG provided an overview of potential benefits of the Project and offered to answer further questions.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Review (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

FMG has been sharing information and attempting to engage with WFN regarding the draft EIS/EA and community participation since its release in May 2022.

While FMG provided the draft EIS/EA to WFN for review on May 21, 2022, WFN has not shared indication that the community would like further engagement on the draft EIS/EA review.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to provide the understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

Baseline Studies (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

WFN responded to FMG's email regarding the Caribou telemetry program on January 24, 2023, asking to be kept informed as the work progressed. FMG informed WFN on February 17, 2023, that the Caribou program had been completed. FMG requested a call during the week of February 27, 2023, to share the results of the program. FMG did not hear back from WFN.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information (post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment submission)

Throughout the EA process, FMG and WFN held conversations during which FMG encouraged the community to undertake TK/TLU studies and FMG had reached out through email and phone calls with WFN, inquiring about their interest in conducting TK/TLU studies. Following the draft EIS/EA circulation, FMG followed up again on October 14, 2022, to ask if WFN was interested in undertaking and sharing additional TK/TLU study work in relation to the Project area. WFN did not respond to FMG regarding interest in a TK/TLU study.

2.6.2 Consultation and Engagement with Provincial and Federal Government Agencies

FMG engaged government agencies early in the Project planning process to receive technical feedback that has helped to improve the Project. This engagement focused on consultation opportunities for a broad list of government agency reviewers at the EA milestones. Throughout the EA process, FMG met with representatives from federal government agencies and provincial government ministries to share information about the Project and receive feedback at each phase. FMG engaged government agencies to offer meetings to discuss the Project on topics such as baseline studies completed, VCs, assessment of alternatives, consultation with local Indigenous communities, Project optimizations, and the draft EIS/EA. During preparation of the draft and final EIS/EA, FMG took a collaborate approach to resolve regulatory and technical comments more focused and ongoing technical working group meetings with reviewers based on specific interests, areas of technical expertise, relevant regulatory jurisdiction or areas of concern. Numerous technical working group meetings have been held since the submission of the draft EIS/EA to ensure that agency and ministry feedback is sufficiently addressed and incorporated in the final EIS/EA.

2.6.2.1 Overview of Consultation and Engagement Common to Provincial and Federal Government Agencies

<u>Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission</u>

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with provincial and federal government agencies prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones.

Comments from provincial and federal government agencies on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-15 to Table 2.6-19 and Appendix C.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the provincial and federal government agencies prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

In March 2019, FMG provided overall Project updates including activities related to public and Indigenous engagement, baseline studies, regulatory timelines, approvals, and permitting, as well as coordination of the provincial and federal EA process with various agencies.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

General discussions with provincial and federal ministries throughout the remainder of 2019 and 2020 were largely focused on the submission and review of the draft ToR, coordination and updates on the 2020 hydrogeology program, and discussions regarding the upcoming draft EIS/EA and Indigenous consultation, which was submitted to the MECP on May 25, 2020. Additional agency-specific communications related to general Project information sharing prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other provincial and government agencies are outlined in Section 2.6.2.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

FMG engaged with federal and provincial agencies in extensive discussions throughout the ToR process. This included consultation with agencies on the VCs and EA methods during review of the Project description in 2018 and later, during the review of the ToR.

Between July 2019 and January 2020, FMG met with and communicated with MECP to discuss timelines, drafting and review of the ToR including on July 17, 2019, October 29, 2019, and January 1, 2020, until the ToR was submitted to the MECP on August 21, 2020.

On August 28, 2018, FMG distributed the commencement of the ToR phase of the EA process for the Project. Project milestones, and timelines related to the EA process were also discussed in October 2018.

Between September and November 2020, FMG and the MECP (as well as other provincial and federal agencies), Indigenous communities, municipalities, and the public provided comments on the draft ToR. In October 2020, FMG also met with the MECP to hold two meetings specific to the review of the draft ToR and request an extension to the review period to allow Indigenous communities additional time for input. Following this, FMG submitted the draft amended ToR (which incorporated feedback, comments, and review) to the MECP in January 2021.

FMG met with the MECP in October 2020, and on February 3, 2021, until FMG's submission of the amended ToR to the MECP on April 29, 2021. The amended ToR was approved on November 8, 2021.

Additional agency-specific communications related to the ToR (including VCs and criteria and indicators) prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other provincial and government agencies are outlined in Section 2.6.2.2 to Section 2.6.2.13.

Baseline Studies

In early 2019, FMG communicated with various provincial and federal government agencies regarding Project updates including related to an upcoming Caribou study, the proposed access road and the EIS/EA. Additionally, on March 26, 2019, FMG and provincial and federal government agencies held a kick-off meeting to discuss a Project overview, environmental baseline studies, access roads, community consultation and engagement, EA timeline and anticipated regulatory approvals and potential permits.

FMG provided baseline study reports, and the 2021 workplans for baseline studies to provincial and federal reviewers on June 1, 2021, and requested comments be provided by June 30. The reports provided included:

- 2018 Fish Community and Habitat Existing Conditions Report
- 2019 - 2020 Aquatic Resource Assessment Report
- Baseline Terrestrial Biology Report
- Winter Aerial Wildlife Survey Results
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Report
- Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
- Interim Baseline Air Quality Summary Report
- Geochemical Characterization Program Update Report
- Surface Water Quality Baseline Report
- Baseline Hydrology Report
- Sound and Vibration Baseline Report (Leaves-Off Program).

Following distribution of the baseline reports and 2021 baseline study workplans, between July 8 and 21, 2021, FMG held three meetings with federal and provincial representatives to present and discuss the terrestrial, atmospheric, surface water, and fish and fish habitat baseline studies. WSP presented a summary of the data collected to date, 2021 ongoing programs and answered questions from the government representatives. Throughout the fall of 2021 and early 2021, FMG responded comments and questions on the baseline studies as described in the agency-specific sections below. The baseline programs were adjusted moving forward as required based on the feedback shared. Key changes made to the baseline programs resulting from consultation with government agencies are provided in the Influence of Consultation subsection for each VC-specific chapter in Section 6.0 and Table 2.6-18 to Table 2.6-20.Throughout 2022, FMG worked with government agencies, specifically MECP (Section 2.6.2.6), IAAC (Section 2.6.2.7) and ECCC (Section 2.6.2.8) to develop the Caribou telemetry program which is described further in those agency sections below.

Field workplans for 2022 were shared with the MECP on May 2, 2022, and were shared with provincial and federal reviewers as part of the draft EIS/EA documentation on May 31, 2022. Feedback shared is described in the agency-specific sections below.

Additional agency -specific communications related to baseline studies prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other provincial and government agencies are outlined in Section 2.6.2.20 to Section 2.6.2.13.

Assessment of Alternatives

FMG consulted on the method for the alternatives assessment (and their criteria and indicators) during the ToR process, which included input from provincial government agencies, Indigenous communities and some federal departments/agencies.

On October 1, 2021, FMG circulated the preliminary alternatives assessment to the provincial and federal government (through the MECP EA branch and IAAC, respectively), with the understanding that this would be circulated amongst the various ministries and federal departments. FMG responded to comments and questions shared from the MECP and IAAC on the preliminary alternatives assessment as described in the agency-specific sections below.

Additional agency-specific communications related to the assessment of alternatives prior to the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other provincial and government agencies are outlined in Section 2.6.2.20 to Section 2.6.2.13.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to provincial and federal government agencies related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities common to several provincial and federal government agencies after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

Since submission of the draft EIS/EA, FMG provided overall Project updates including activities related to public and Indigenous engagement, baseline studies, EIS/EA updates, technical advancements, regulatory timelines, as well as coordination of the provincial and federal EA process with various agencies.

On January 31, 2023, FMG shared the new Project overview video which highlighted key features and an animation of the proposed Project. FMG noted that the video helps provide a better understanding of the Project and facilitate discussions at upcoming meetings in 2023. FMG also noted that it is expected that the concepts presented will continue to be refined and optimized based on feedback shared throughout the EA process.

General discussions with provincial and federal ministries were largely focused on the review of the draft EIS/EA which is described below.

Additional agency-specific communications related to general Project information sharing after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other provincial and government agencies are outlined in Section 2.6.2.2 to Section 2.6.2.13.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA. A copy of the comments and responses shared with FMG, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA, is provided in Appendix C. Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve questions prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-18 to Table 2.6-20). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

FMG consulted on the draft effects assessment and proposed mitigation during the circulation of the draft EIS/EA and sought feedback on those, as well as other aspects of the EIS/EA including alternatives, methods, criteria and indicators, baseline studies, cumulative effects, monitoring and malfunctions/accidents. Through subsequent meetings with reviewers, FMG undertook targeted consultation on these specific topics, for example meeting with the MECP EA branch to review the criteria and indicators for the alternatives, and the EA methods.

On June 7, 2022, FMG met with federal agencies to discuss the draft EIS/EA and next steps. FMG provided an overview of the table of contents and discussed how any gaps in baseline data have been filled over the past year. FMG noted the importance of receiving feedback from the agencies and incorporating that into updated modelling that will be done for the final EIS/EA. A discussion on setting up technical working group meetings took place and IAAC will help coordinate those.

As described in more detail in the IAAC section below, FMG submitted a request for an extension of the Project EA under CEAA 2012 to IAAC on June 27, 2022, which was approved by IAAC on August 19, 2022, and IAAC noted that participants in the EA process, including Indigenous groups, would be informed.

In July 2022, FMG met with various federal and provincial agencies to present and discuss the draft EIS/EA technical information regarding:

- fish and fish habitat;
- air quality, noise and vibration, and GHGs;
- terrestrial elements (vegetation and wetlands, Caribou, SAR bats and birds, and Wolverine);
- water resources (groundwater, and surface water systems); and
- human environment (archaeology, cultural heritage, TK/TLU, commercial land and resources, local and regional economy, local and regional infrastructure and services, and the general human environment).

In February and March 2023, FMG met with various federal and provincial agencies to discuss government reviewer comments on the draft EIS/EA regarding:

- hydrology;
- surface water;
- atmospheric environment; and
- fish and fish habitat.

On February 14, 2023, IAAC emailed federal and provincial agencies and ministries, copying FMG, to inform them of a series of technical meetings hosted by FMG to provide an overview of key responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA. IAAC indicated that FMG would provide reviewers in the various agencies with written responses a week before the relevant meeting topic.

On July 19, 2023, FMG provided many government agency representatives with a letter describing the process and schedule for the establishment of the IGTRB, in accordance with FMG's commitment in the draft EIS/EA. The role of the IGTRB is to provide independent review and oversight on the design, construction, operation, performance, and closure planning of the CDF. The letter provided the CV of the first identified board member. FMG offered to address any questions. On September 15, 2023, FMG provided a letter to government agency representatives with an update on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and provided information on the three members, as well as next steps for the board.

In 2023 and 2024, FMG held technical meetings with federal and provincial reviewers to provide updates and discuss outstanding comments and responses on the draft EIS/EA, including the following:

- optimizations and engineering advancements made since the draft EIS/EA related to the CDF;
- a geochemistry update;

- a technical briefing on fish and fish habitat and FHOCP measures. FMG provided an overview of the site plan, key studies, potential effects to fish and fish habitat, mitigation measures, and next steps. Discussion was held on the central water storage pond, the EIS/EA, fish and fish habitat, FHOCP measures, geochemistry, hydrology, Indigenous led assessment, Lake Sturgeon, Caribou, water quality, and TK/TLU;
- an update on Human and Ecological Health and Risk Assessment (HEHRA) methods since the draft EIS/EA submission. FMG provided information on what data was collected after the draft EIS/EA that included air quality baseline and modelling, surface water quality baseline and modelling, and wildlife surveys, surface soil quality baseline, country foods quality (berries and wild game) baseline, and additional aquatic habitat surveys and fish sampling. Updated HEHRA modelling methods and approaches were shared that include air quality, surface water quality, TK/TLU receptor area, and non-TK/TLU receptor areas. FMG provided explanation on exposure frequency/duration assumptions and sediment modelling since the draft EIS/EA. Lastly, FMG highlighted planned mitigation measures that focused on air quality and surface water quality;
- a technical update on wildlife and terrestrial environment;
- TK/TLU integration; and
- an update on the results of the Caribou assessment, data collection, and habitat compensation.

Further details are described in the agency-specific sections below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

Additional agency-specific communications related to the draft EIS/EA review (including VCs, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, and mitigation and monitoring) after the draft EIS/EA submission specific to other provincial and government agencies are outlined in Section 2.6.2.2 to Section 2.6.2.13.

Table 2.6-14: Federal and Provincial Government Agency Meetings on the Draft EIS/EA

Date	Attendees	Milestones/ Key Topics	Summary
June 1, 2022	MECP	Draft EIS/EA	FMG provided an update on the draft EIS/EA posting and distribution.
June 3, 2022	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA	FMG provided an update on the draft EIS/EA posting and distribution.
June 7, 2022	IAAC, ECCC, HC, DFO, TC, ISC, NRCan	Draft EIS/EA	Discussed the draft EIS/EA and next steps. A discussion on setting up technical working group meetings took place and IAAC offered to help coordinate those.
July 4, 2022	ECCC, DFO, HC, IAAC, ISC, MENDM, NDMNRF, MECP, NRCan	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, fish and fish habitat, groundwater, surface water, systems	Discussed the draft EIS/EA technical information related to the aquatic environment including fish and fish habitat, groundwater, and surface water systems.
July 6, 2022	ECCC, IAAC, NDMNRF, MECP, HC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, air quality, noise and vibration, GHGs	Discussed the draft EIS/EA technical information regarding atmospheric elements on the topics of air quality, noise and vibration and GHGs.
July 7, 2022	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA	Discussed the CEAA 2012 extension request and the draft EIS/EA.
July 13, 2022	IAAC, ECCC, NRCan, HC, MECP, MNRF, MINES	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, vegetation and wetland communities, SAR Caribou, SAR Wolverine, SAR Bats, SAR Birds	Discussed the draft EIS/EA technical information related to the terrestrial environment, including vegetation and wetlands, Caribou, SAR bats and birds, and Wolverine.
July 14, 2022	ECCC, DFO, HC, IAAC, NDMNRF, MENDM, MECP, NRCan	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, groundwater surface water systems	Discussed the draft EIS/EA technical information regarding water resources on the topics of groundwater, and surface water systems.
July 21, 2022	ECCC, HC, IAAC, ISC, NDMNRF, MECP, MTCS, NRCan, TC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, archaeology, cultural heritage, TK/TLU, commercial land and resources, local and regional economy, local and regional infrastructure and services	Discussed the draft EIS/EA technical information regarding the human environment on the topics of archaeology, cultural heritage, TK/TLU, commercial land and resources, local and regional economy, local and regional infrastructure and services, and the general human environment.
August 22, 2022	MINES	Draft EIS/EA, assessment of alternatives, CDF	Discussed progress on FMG's responses to comments from MINES on the draft EIS/EA.
September 8, 2022	TC	Navigation	FMG received guidance on the applicability of the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* to the Project.
September 21, 2022	MECP	General, draft EIS/EA, consultation	Discussed progress on the Project and setting up technical meetings and provided an update on engagement activities.
September 28, 2022	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA, consultation	Discussed progress on the Project and provided an update on engagement activities.
November 9, 2022	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA, consultation	Discussed IAAC's review of the draft EIS/EA and ongoing engagement.
December 14, 2022	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, consultation	Discussed the Project and ongoing engagement with local communities.
January 24, 2023	MTCS	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, noise and vibration, recreational and commercial activities	Discussed the draft EIS/EA as it pertained to MTCS comments requiring further discussion.
February 9, 2023	TC	Navigation	FMG received guidance on the applicability of the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* to the Project.
February 22, 2023	IAAC, DFO	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, fish and fish habitat	Discussed comments and responses to the fish and fish habitat section of the draft EIS/EA.
February 24, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, DFO, ISC, NRCan, MECP, MNRF, HC, TC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, groundwater, CDF	Discussed comments on the hydrogeology sections of the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an updated on recent technical optimizations to the CDF design prior to the discussion on the comments.
March 2, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, DFO, ISC, NRCan, MECP, MNRF, HC, TC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, surface water systems	Discussed comments and responses on the surface water sections on the draft EIS/EA.
March 3, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, NRCan, MECP, MNRF, MTCS, HC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, air quality, noise and vibration, GHGs	Discussed comments on the atmospheric environment sections of the draft EIS/EA, including related to air quality, GHGs, climate change, and noise and vibration. FMG provided an updated on recent technical optimizations to the CDF design prior to the discussion on the comments.
March 15, 2023	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, cumulative effects, consultation, alternatives assessment	Discussed comments from the MECP's Special Project Officer on the draft EIS/EA. The discussion focused on comments related to the non-VC sections of the draft EIS/EA including consultation, environmental setting, Project description, alternative assessments, and effects assessment methods, and cumulative effects.
March 16, 2023	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA, consultation	FMG provided an update on engagement with Indigenous communities.
March 23, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, DFO, ISC, NRCan, MECP, MNRF, HC, TC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, fish and fish habitat	Discussed responses to comments received from federal and provincial regulators on the draft EIS/EA related to fish and fish habitat.

Table 2.6-14: Federal and Provincial Government Agency Meetings on the Draft EIS/EA

Date	Attendees	Milestones/ Key Topics	Summary
April 14, 2023	IAAC, ECCC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, wildlife and wildlife habitat, SAR birds	Discussed comments on the draft EIS/EA related to migratory birds.
May 15, 2023	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, surface water systems	Discussed key follow-up comments shared from the MECP on the draft EIS/EA related to hydrology and surface water quality.
June 8, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, DFO, ISC, MECP, MNRF, HC, MTCS	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, vegetation and wetland communities, SAR Caribou, SAR Wolverine, SAR bats, SAR birds	Discussed comments on the draft EIS/EA related to terrestrial ecosystems including wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands.
July 5, 2023	ECCC, DFO, HC, IAAC, TC, ISC, MECP, MINES, MTCS, MNRF, NRCan	Draft EIS/EA, CDF, alternatives assessment	Discussed optimizations and engineering advancements made since the draft EIS/EA related to the CDF.
July 19, 2023	MECP, MNRF, MINES	Draft EIS/EA, CDF, alternatives assessment	Discussed optimizations and engineering advancements made since the draft EIS/EA related to the CDF and discuss comments received.
July 20, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, MECP, MNRF, NRCan	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, SAR Caribou	Discussed comments and responses on the draft EIS/EA regarding Caribou.
July 27, 2023	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, consultation, TK/TLU	Discussed federal responses to FMG's information requirement submissions, Indigenous community engagement and provision of TLU information.
August 29, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, ISC, NRCan, MECP, MNRF, HC, MINES	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, geochemistry	FMG presented a geochemistry update.
August 31, 2023	ECCC	Draft EIS/EA, CDF, alternatives assessment	Discussed comments on the draft EIS/EA related to the draft MWAA.
September 13, 2023	DFO	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, consultation, fish and fish habitat, FHOCP	Discussed the draft FHOCP and FMG provided a brief update on engagement with Indigenous communities.
September 15, 2023	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, consultation	Monthly check-in meeting to identify goals and priorities for upcoming monthly Project meetings, obtain feedback from IAAC on FMG's draft effects assessment table, discuss issues management approaches related to site access and post-closure seepage, and the STPN's Community Consultation Process.
October 25, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, DFO, NRCan	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, consultation, fish and fish habitat, FHOCP	FMG provided a technical briefing on fish and fish habitat and FHOCP measures.
November 2, 2023	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, consultation, alternatives assessment	Discussed FMG's responses to the MECP's special projects officer's comments on the draft EIS/EA and draft alternatives assessment updates.
November 14, 2023	TC	Navigation	Discussed TC's preliminary feedback on the draft navigability assessment.
November 28, 2023	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, noise and vibration	Discussed the MECP's feedback on FMG's responses to the MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA related to a noise assessment of the existing Wenasaga Road.
December 6, 2023	MNRF	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, consultation, fish and fish habitat, FHOCP	FMG provided an update on the FHOCP.
December 13, 2023	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA, consultation	FMG provided a general status update on the Project and associated Indigenous consultation.
December 18, 2023	IAAC, ECCC, MECP	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, SAR Caribou	Discussed draft EIS/EA comments regarding Caribou, FMG's approach to addressing the submitted comments, as well as field data updates, modelling methods/approach updates and habitat compensation updates.
January 9, 2024	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, consultation	Provided updates on consultation and engagement and discuss an annotated table of contents for the updated Section 2 (consultation) of the draft EIS/EA to address the MECP's feedback.
February 6, 2024	IAAC, HC, ISC, NRCan, MECP	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, human and ecological health	Provided an update on human and ecological health and risk assessment methods since the draft EIS/EA submission.
March 7, 2024	ECCC	Draft EIS/EA, CDF, alternatives assessment	Provided an update on the revised MWAA related to the central water storage pond and optimization of tailings deposition.
March 7, 2024	ECCC, DFO	Draft EIS/EA, CDF, alternatives assessment	Discussed the temporary storage of lake bed sediments and reclamation of the central water storage pond.
March 13, 2024	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, SAR Caribou	Discussed and received additional input from the on the proposed access road routing and alternatives for SAR Caribou presented in the draft EIS/EA and how the temporary winter access road should be presented and incorporated into the assessment in the final EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-14: Federal and Provincial Government Agency Meetings on the Draft EIS/EA

Date	Attendees	Milestones/ Key Topics	Summary
March 14, 2024	IAAC	Draft EIS/EA, consultation	Provided an update on consultation with Indigenous communities.
March 20, 2024	ECCC	Draft EIS/EA, CDF, alternatives assessment	Discussed draft EIS/EA comments and responses regarding the revised MWAA.
March 27, 2024	DFO, MECP	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, consultation, fish and fish habitat, FHOCP	On March 27, 2024, FMG met with DFO and the MECP to discuss the FHOCP.
April 16, 2024	IAAC, ECCC, MECP, MNRF	Vegetation and wetland communities, wildlife and wildlife habitat	Reviewed responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA related to wildlife and terrestrial environment (not including Caribou).
April 25, 2024	FMG, IAAC, DFO, ECCC, HC, NRCan, TC, MECP, MNRF, MTSC and IAFNER	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, consultation, TK/TLU	Discussed outstanding EIS/EA federal and provincial comments and responses regarding TK and TLU.
April 30, 2024	IAAC, ECCC, ISC, NRCan, MECP, and MNRF	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, SAR Caribou	Provided an update on the results of the Caribou assessment, data collection and habitat compensation.
June 3, 2024	IAAC, ECCC, ISC, MECP, MNRF, MTCS	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, SAR Caribou	Provided an update on the results of the Caribou assessment, data collection and habitat compensation, continued from April 30, 2024.
June 18, 2024	MECP	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, groundwater, surface water systems	Discussed outstanding EIS/EA provincial comments and responses regarding groundwater and hydrology.
June 19, 2024	MINES	Draft EIS/EA, baseline studies, FHOCP	Discussed partnership opportunities between FMG and the Province of Ontario on rehabilitation of the historical South Bay Mine as part of the FHOCP.

2.6.2.2 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

As described in Section 2.4.2, the MECP administers *the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and serves as the lead agency for the province through the process. MECP has acted as a liaison with other relevant agencies whose technical expertise and regulatory authorities intersect with components of the Project, including future permits and approvals that will be required.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the MECP in 2018 and have been engaging since as described above and below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by MECP into the final EIS/EA. In addition to the engagement summarized above common to various government agencies, this section provides a summary of engagement specific to MECP organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and MECP up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from MECP on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-18 and Appendix C.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with the MECP prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the MECP prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On April 18, 2018, the MECP provided a signed voluntary agreement letter to FMG allowing FMG to proceed with preparation of an Individual EA for the Project. On April 25, 2018, the MECP's EA and Permissions branch director provided FMG with the letter that was sent to the Chiefs of CLFN, LSFN, MON, PFN, SFN and WFN regarding consultation opportunities for the Project. The letter included the signed voluntary agreement between the MECP and FMG.

On June 13, 2019, the MECP forwarded a letter sent to CLFN regarding FMG's attempts to set up consultation opportunities with CLFN. The letter includes the MECP's recommendations under the ministry's *Code of Practice for Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process* for FMG to continue efforts to clearly communicate the provincial EA process to CLFN, including opportunities for consultation on the ToR. On July 16, 2019, FMG followed up with the MECP providing a draft copy of the Project Community Consultation and Engagement Plan. In July and August 2019, the MECP and FMG met and corresponded regarding the MECP's review of the draft Community Consultation and Engagement Plan; FMG noted that it would amend the Community Consultation and Engagement Plan based on the MECP's input.

On December 12, 2019, the MECP and met for FMG to provide an overview of the Project, the EA process, consultation requirements, and baseline work. The MECP and FMG discussed Project components, including the controlled dewatering process, transmission line, water management, environmental protections, and consultation.

On January 28, 2021, the MECP and FMG met for FMG to provide a Project progress update.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

Throughout 2019 to 2021, FMG and MECP engaged in extensive discussions throughout the ToR process which is described further in that subsection below.

On April 7, 2022, FMG met with the MECP to discuss next steps regarding the circulation of the draft EIS/EA. The MECP provided recommendations about the Distribution List for the draft EIS/EA on May 12, 2022. FMG acknowledged the comments from the MECP and indicated that the distribution list would be updated. The MECP and FMG met on May 18, 2022, for FMG to provide an update on the Project and engagement with Indigenous communities. FMG and the MECP discussed plans for distributing the draft EIS/EA and associated timelines for reviews. FMG noted consultation material to present the draft EIS/EA was being prepared and that there was not an expectation for all comments to be shared within the six-week time frame. FMG followed up on May 27, 2022, to provide an update on Indigenous consultation and informed the MECP that the draft EIS/EA documents would be uploaded to the FMG website.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

The MECP and FMG engaged in significant discussion regarding the ToR.

On June 13, 2019, FMG sent the MECP the Table of Contents for the draft ToR. On July 17, 2019, the MECP and FMG met to discuss the Table of Contents and timelines related to the ToR review process.

On October 29, 2019, FMG provided the draft ToR to the MECP for review. The MECP responded requesting a hard copy of the draft ToR. FMG dropped off a hard copy of the draft ToR at the MECP office on November 1, 2019.

On November 26, 2019, the MECP provided its preliminary review of the draft ToR. FMG responded the next day notifying the MECP that it would work on reviewing comments with a goal to submitting the final ToR by December 20, 2019. The MECP responded clarifying that the ministry's technical staff still need to provide their review of the draft and that based on previous discussions, it was their understanding that FMG had planned to address preliminary comments and submit a second revised version of the draft ToR for technical review.

On January 6, 2020, the MECP and FMG had a phone call to clarify the MECP's comments regarding method presented in the draft ToR. Following the meeting, FMG responded to questions on the draft ToR comments on January 8, 2020.

On January 27, 2020, FMG provided a copy of the updated draft ToR based on the MECP's preliminary comments. The MECP and FMG met on January 30, 2020, to discuss the MECP's comments on the draft ToR and FMG's responses to comments. FMG updated the MECP on progress made on the draft ToR and provided an estimated submission date of the draft ToR for further comments. The MECP emailed FMG on February 7, 2020, listing the number of hardcopies and electronic copies needed for the upcoming draft ToR review. The MECP also provided the master distribution list.

On February 27, 2020, FMG provided the MECP with a link to the draft ToR. FMG followed up on March 2, 2020, providing the MECP with the distribution list for submission of the draft ToR.

On April 2, 2020, the MECP provided an update on its review of the draft ToR. The MECP requested that FMG provide any comments that Indigenous communities had provided on the draft ToR in advance of their meeting on April 8, 2020, with IAAC to discuss Indigenous engagement. FMG responded on April 7, 2020, providing an update on any responses/comments provided from Indigenous communities reviewing

the draft ToR. FMG met with the MECP and IAAC on April 8, 2020, to discuss the environmental assessment process and Indigenous consultation.

On April 14, 2020, the MECP provided its comments on the updated draft ToR. FMG responded informing the MECP that it was in the process of providing responses to comments and requested a call to discuss the MECP's comments.

Throughout the ToR process, the MECP also provided comments on the draft ToR from the other provincial agencies which is described further in those agency-specific sections.

On May 5, 2020, the Director of the MECP's EA branch shared a letter with FMG in response to FMG's email proposing to submit the ToR for the Project on May 15, 2020. The letter advised FMG to delay submission of the ToR until further consultation occurred. FMG provided a response letter on May 12, 2020, noting that consultation had taken place, and the consultation processes had been followed. The MECP provided a response letter on May 14, 2020, thanking FMG for its willingness to work with MECP to advance the ToR. FMG responded the next day notifying the MECP of its planned submission date for the revised draft ToR on May 19, 2020. On May 19, 2020, FMG emailed the MECP notifying them that it had taken comments into account when revising the draft ToR and that FMG would provide a Concordance Table that outlines responses to the comments made by regulatory agencies. The MECP responded to FMG's proposed timelines for draft ToR submission and provided more context on the process once the revised draft ToR had been shared. On May 25, 2020, FMG provided the MECP with a link to the revised draft ToR and associated appendices, RoC, Concordance Table, and the Preliminary Economic Assessment.

On June 15, 2020, the MECP provided follow-up comments to FMG's responses to the MECP's comments on the draft ToR. On June 26, 2020, the MECP also provided comments from the MECP's technical reviewers.

On July 29, 2020, FMG notified the MECP that FMG would be submitting the draft Notice of Submission on July 31, 2020. FMG also confirmed that the official submission date for the ToR would be on August 21, 2020. The MECP replied on August 4, 2020, confirming the official submission date. On July 31, 2020, FMG provided the draft Notice of Submission to the MECP for review. The MECP responded on August 6, 2020, thanking FMG for submitting the draft Notice of Submission, draft distribution list and ToR Summary Form and requested a meeting. The MECP and FMG met the same day to discuss the comment period on the ToR. The MECP provided comments on FMG's draft Notice of Submission and the draft ToR Distribution List on August 7, 2020.

FMG emailed the MECP on August 7, 2020, requesting an extension on the review period to give the public and government agencies ample time to review the ToR recognizing delays due to COVID 19. On August 11, 2020, the MECP provided a response letter from the Director of the MECP's EA branch, acknowledging the formal submission date for the ToR and comment period extension.

On August 19, 2020, FMG provided a notice of submission of the ToR and a copy of the proposed ToR.

On August 25, 2020, the MECP and FMG met to follow up on the ToR submission. The MECP requested outstanding items to be provided to support the ministry's review of the ToR. FMG followed up the same day providing a copy of the letter to the director of the EA branch for ToR submission. On August 26, 2020, the MECP provided a letter acknowledging FMG's submission of the ToR as well as a copy of the email that was distributed to external government reviewers with a digital copy of the ToR.

Between August 28, 2020, and November 23, 2020, the MECP provided FMG with comments on the ToR from provincial and federal agencies, as well as members of the public. The MECP provided comments from the following provincial and federal agencies:

- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries (September 30, 2020);
- MENDM (October 6, 2020);
- MNRF (October 6, 2020);
- MEDJCT (October 6, 2020);
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries (Tourism Policy Unit) (October 9, 2020);
- HC (September 23, 2020)
- ECCC (September 23, 2020); IAAC (October 2, 2020); and
- ISC (October 5, 2020).

On September 3, 2020, FMG had a phone call with the MECP to discuss consultation requirements and expectations for the ToR. FMG had another phone call with the MECP on September 25, 2020, to provide an update regarding capacity support funding for Indigenous communities for the review of the ToR. Another phone call was held with the MECP on October 2, 2020, to provide an update on the items discussed the previous week, including capacity support funding for review of the ToR and requests for comment period extension. On October 14, 2020, the MECP notified FMG that it had started reaching out to Indigenous communities to offer teleconferences with the ministry and FMG to discuss the Project ToR. On October 19, 2020, FMG held a meeting with the MECP and NWOMC to discuss NWOMC's review and capacity support for the ToR.

In October and November 2020, the MECP provided FMG with comments from the following Indigenous communities: NWOMC (October 23), CLFN (November 20), and MON (November 23).

In October 2020, the MECP provided comments from the Municipality of Sioux Lookout (October 6, 2020) and the Township of Ear Falls (October 7, 2020).

On October 22, 2020, FMG met with the MECP to discuss the ToR extension request. On December 11, 2020, FMG held a meeting with the ministry's Indigenous Consultation Advisor to discuss the scoping of Indigenous community consultation and the extension request for the draft amended ToR. On December 17, 2020, FMG provided the MECP with details on the process that would be followed for the redline submission for the draft amended ToR. On January 21, 2021, the MECP and FMG met for FMG to provide an update on engagement progress with Indigenous communities.

On October 30, 2020, FMG emailed the MECP to provide FMG's responses to NWOMC's comments on the ToR and requested a meeting to clarify comments from the SAR branch. FMG held a meeting with the MECP and NWOMC on November 4, 2020, to discuss NWOMC's comments and FMG's responses to comments on the ToR. The MECP followed up the same day providing FMG with follow-up comments on FMG's responses to NWOMC's comments. FMG provided its responses to NWOMC's comments to the MECP on November 9, 2020.

On November 12, 2020, FMG provided a letter to the MECP with FMG's intent to amend the ToR. The MECP provided a response letter on November 19, 2020. The ministry recommended providing 30 days to allow

enough time for Indigenous communities and interested persons to review and respond to FMG's notice of the proposed amendments.

On November 16, 2020, FMG provided its responses to comments from the SAR branch on the ToR. FMG held a meeting with the MECP SAR branch on November 26, 2020, to discuss its comments and responses on the ToR.

On January 11, 2021, FMG provided the MECP with its responses to provincial and federal agency comments on the ToR shared in September and October for the MECP to circulate. Further information on the responses is described in the agency-specific sections.

On January 12, 2021, FMG provided the MECP with the draft amended ToR for review. On February 3, 2021, the MECP and FMG met to discuss the comments and responses on the ToR. On February 4, 2021, the MECP and FMG met to discuss consultation related to the ToR. On February 5, 2021, the MECP provided a memo and comments from the EA branch on the draft amended ToR.

On February 11, 2021, FMG provided the MECP with a letter requesting a ToR extension. On February 16, 2021, the MECP provided responses to FMG's request for a ToR extension.

On February 12, 2021, the MECP SAR branch shared comments with FMG on the draft amended ToR. FMG held a meeting with the MECP EA branch on February 17, 2021, to discuss comments on the draft amended ToR. Another meeting was held on February 26, 2021, to review comments from the MECP noise reviewer on the draft amended ToR. On April 8, 2021, FMG provided responses to outstanding MECP comments on the draft amended ToR from the EA branch, SAR branch, and Air Quality branch. On April 20, 2021, the MECP notified FMG that it was undertaking a review of the responses to the ministry's comments on the draft amended ToR. The MECP noted concerns previously identified that remained unaddressed. FMG responded providing a document that outlined commitments to address the MECP concerns that would be added to the amended ToR. On April 23, 2021, the MECP emailed FMG, providing additional comments from the MECP's noise reviewer. FMG responded clarifying that the text in the final amended ToR would be updated to reflect these comments.

On March 30, 2021, FMG provided the MECP with responses to MON's comments on the draft amended ToR and indicated that FMG would circulate responses to Indigenous communities directly.

On April 6, 2021, FMG emailed CLFN, SFN and the MECP requesting a joint discussion regarding the Project's timelines and amended ToR and indicated that FMG would contact the MECP about arranging this discussion. FMG suggested discussion regarding setting up the SEC in collaboration with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

FMG emailed the MECP on April 9, 2021, notifying them of its intent to submit the draft amended ToR for the Project on April 29, 2021, as per the mandatory submission date in the extension period. FMG noted its understanding is that the MECP will require one digital copy and one hard copy with a letter. In addition, FMG inquired if the submission should be circulated to any other agencies or Indigenous communities.

On April 29, 2021, FMG submitted the draft amended ToR to the MECP. On May 10, 2021, FMG requested the MECP to confirm if the draft amended ToR had been circulated to Indigenous communities and Government reviewers and the date for receipt of comments. The MECP responded confirming that the draft amended ToR had been circulated to those on the Government Review Team List and Indigenous communities for a 45-day comment period.

Throughout June to August 2021, FMG worked with the MECP to resolve comments from Indigenous communities on the draft amended ToR. Further context is provided in the community specific sections in Section 2.6.1. Details related to these discussions are described below.

STPN emailed the MECP on June 16, 2021, requesting an extension to submit their collaborative review of the draft amended ToR. On June 21, 2021, FMG contacted the MECP to inquire about receiving comments on the draft amended ToR from the MECP, as the comment deadline passed on June 20, 2021. The MECP responded on June 22, 2021, providing comments from MON and NWOMC on the draft amended ToR. The MECP provided more comments from NWOMC and MON on June 29, 2021. FMG responded with an update on the progress made on finalizing the approach for consultation on the EIS/EA for MON, NWOMC, and STPN.

On July 16, 2021, FMG emailed the MECP indicating its understanding that the STPN had completed their final reviews of the draft amended ToR and that comments are being submitted to the MECP that week. FMG requested confirmation of next steps from the MECP and the timeframe for the information to be sent to the Minister for approval. STPN provided their comments on the draft amended ToR to the MECP on July 16, 2021. On July 20, 2021, FMG met with the MECP to discuss updates to the draft amended ToR. Comments from and responses to the STPN were discussed as well as consultation plans and potential timelines for the draft amended ToR approval. The MECP also noted that it would like to see an updated RoC. On July 22, 2021, FMG emailed the MECP providing its responses to the STPN's comments on the amended ToR. The MECP requested an updated table of commitments and RoC. This was followed by a meeting on July 26, 2021, with the SEC to discuss the STPN comments on the amended ToR.

FMG responded to the MECP on July 27, 2021, explaining that the commitments made in the draft amended ToR are comprehensive and new commitments are not required. FMG would confirm this understanding internally and the STPN SEC would also confirm this understanding via email that week. On July 28, 2021, the STPN emailed FMG with proposed revisions to the Amended ToR. On July 30, 2021, FMG provided the updated RoC that covered the period since the draft amended ToR submission.

FMG contacted the MECP on August 18, 2021, to discuss concerns raised by CLFN to the MECP. FMG noted that the concerns are not specific to the draft amended ToR and requested a meeting with the MECP to further discuss the concerns. FMG also noted that there was a specific commitment in the draft amended ToR regarding the development of a consultation plan with ONS. In response, the MECP requested FMG to provide this commitment in writing to forward to senior management. FMG followed up the next day providing a summary of the commitment made in the draft amended ToR in consultation with ONS. The MECP contacted ONS on September 2, 2021, to confirm that ONS has not yet secured technical staff to undertake review of FMG's response to ONS on the Project's draft amended ToR. The MECP also requested confirmation that the comments on the draft amended ToR have been addressed and requested a specific date that the MECP can expect responses from ONS. FMG responded requesting a meeting to discuss the status of the comments and responses. FMG noted that all comments and responses had been satisfied and commitments had been added to the draft amended ToR. FMG clarified that it was waiting for a proposal from ONS outlining the support required going forward. The MECP responded on the same day agreeing to have a phone call about this matter and volunteered to set up the call. FMG responded to ONS on the same day noting that a separate call is needed between FMG and ONS to clarify. FMG provided the purchase order issued to fund the work that ONS's consultant has done to review the draft amended ToR and responses earlier this year. FMG had a phone call with the MECP on September 8, 2021, to discuss the status of ONS's comments. FMG also followed up with the MECP on September 9, 2021, to summarize a phone call with ONS's representatives regarding funding support for the draft amended ToR review.

On November 8, 2021, the MECP provided FMG with a letter from the Minister regarding the amended ToR decision and a copy of the Signed Notice of Approval. The MECP shared the Notice of Approval letter with Indigenous communities.

After submission of the Notice of Approval for the Project's ToR FMG emailed the MECP on November 12, 2021, to request a phone call to discuss next steps on the amendments outlined in the Notice of Approval. FMG also attached the draft Notice of Commencement and requested input from the MECP. On November 16, 2021, the MECP and FMG met; the MECP requested to review the existing text and amendments to ensure commitments in the amended ToR were carried forward in the evaluation tables. Discussions also included the assessment of alternatives summary tables, as the MECP requested confirmation if any ToR amendment resulted in updates to the evaluation tables. FMG noted that it would follow up with the MECP on this item. FMG followed up on November 19, 2021, sharing a red-line version of the amended ToR.

On December 3, 2021, the MECP provided FMG with a letter concerning the MECP's review of the updated Table of Commitments for the approved amended ToR. On December 16, 2021, FMG provided comments on the commitment tables and highlighted where commitments have already been included in the approved amended ToR commitment tables. FMG indicated that it would include the additional commitments to the approved amended ToR and post on the Project's website.

Baseline Studies

On January 1, 2020, FMG held a meeting with the MECP to discuss the Project and upcoming 2020 baseline programs to receive feedback prior to implementation. Another meeting was held with the MECP on January 16, 2020, to provide an update on the Project and the 2020 winter field programs. FMG and MECP met on February 7, 2020 to provide an update on the Project and the 2020 hydrogeology program. The MECP requested that FMG provide more detail on the water quality sampling program and following this, a meeting was held with the MECP on February 26, 2020, to discuss the 2020 hydrology program. FMG noted that it would follow up on methods, software, mixing programs and parameters. Another meeting was held on July 23, 2020, to provide an update on the 2020 hydrology program.

On March 3, 2020, FMG held a meeting with the MECP to discuss the baseline studies and Indigenous consultation to date. Additionally, FMG met with MECP on July 23, 2020, to provide an update on the 2020 hydrology program. Throughout 2020, the baseline programs continued and FMG and the MECP primarily engaged regarding the ToR and comments received on the ToR as described above.

Between March 2020 and April 2021, Project engagement focused on ToR discussion.

On April 15, 2021, WSP provided the MECP with the air quality monitoring plan that was proposed to be implemented as a continuation of the current baseline monitoring program. The MECP provided comments on the plan on May 26, 2021. The MECP comments were subsequently incorporated into the air sampling and monitoring at the Project site that commenced the week of July 5, 2021.

On June 1, 2021, FMG provided MECP with the baseline reports for the Project for review and feedback. FMG also provided the 2021 technical workplans for the upcoming studies for review. FMG requested that comments from the MECP on the reports be provided by June 30, 2021. On June 9, 2021, the MECP confirmed the baseline reports would be circulated internally to reviewers. On June 11, 2021, FMG held a meeting with IAAC and the MECP to discuss next steps for reviewing the baseline reports and determined that a series of meetings with technical reviewers would be scheduled to present an overview of the Project, baseline data and 2021 workplans.

FMG followed up on August 11, 2021, to inquire if any written comments were going to be provided from the provincial agencies on the baseline reports. The MECP responded on August 17, 2021, informing FMG that the MECP expects to provide FMG with feedback in mid-September 2021. On August 25, 2021, FMG informed the MECP that the Baseline Sound and Vibration (Leaves-On/summer) Report is posted on the Springpole EA Project portal and noted that the results are consistent with the leaves-off/winter report and provided the link to the EA Portal.

On September 29, 2021, the MECP provided FMG with provincial review team comments on the baseline reports including hydrogeology, hydrology, surface water, SAR, noise, waste, and air quality. This included comments from the MECP, MNRF and MNDM across the various technical reports. FMG provided responses to provincial government comments on November 12, 2021 and noted they were available to discuss. Following this submission of responses, on November 23, 2021, FMG requested information from the MECP that was referenced in two of the comments on the fish baseline reports. FMG noted it would be beneficial to discuss directly with the reviewer. The MECP noted it was reviewing the responses, including the two identified by FMG and will get back to FMG.

On December 13, 2021, the MECP provided follow-up comments from the MNRF and MNDM on the hydrology and surface water baseline studies. On March 1, 2022, the MECP provided FMG with a summary of the minimum information required to adequately characterize baseline conditions for groundwater, surface water and hydrology. The information was acknowledged by FMG the next day together with a request to meet with the MECP to review the information. On March 10, 2022, FMG provided responses to the follow-up comments shared from the MECP and the NDMNRF on the surface water and hydrology baseline studies. On March 16, 2022, FMG met with the MECP to discuss the groundwater, surface water quality and hydrology baseline dataset expectations for an EA. On May 17, 2022, the MECP provided additional feedback on the responses to the MECP comments from FMG related to the baseline studies for hydrology and surface water. On May 30, 2022, FMG acknowledged the additional feedback on the baseline studies and noted that additional information requested would be provided in the draft EIS/EA.

A meeting was held with the MECP on September 23, 2021, to discuss Caribou data. On October 22, 2021, FMG provided the MECP a memorandum regarding the Caribou RSA in support of the preparation of the Springpole EIS/EA, and associated approvals under the provincial ESA and *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, 1997 (S.O. 1997, c. 41) for the proposed Caribou telemetry program. On January 20, 2022, the MECP SAR branch provided comments on the Technical Memo submitted by FMG pertaining to the RSA for Caribou for the EIS/EA.

On May 2, 2022, FMG provided the MECP with 2022 baseline study workplans for their input and feedback on upcoming aquatic, terrestrial, air quality, groundwater, surface water quality, and hydrology programs.

Assessment of Alternatives

On October 1, 2021, FMG informed the MECP that a preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components and methods was available for review and feedback from government agencies. It was noted that the preliminary assessment included summary tables that provide a comparative analysis that focuses on the key differentiating factors in the decision-making process. FMG requested to receive comments before the end of the year to keep the Project on schedule. On December 8, 2021, FMG indicated that the alternative assessment would be adjusted to meet the requirements of the draft amended ToR as needed before inclusion in the draft EIS/EA. On December 23, 2021, the MECP provided FMG with comments on the preliminary assessment of alternatives. On January 17, 2022, FMG acknowledged the review comments from the MECP on the preliminary assessment of alternatives and confirmed that the draft EIS/EA would

aim to meet the requirements of the federal EIS Guidelines and the approved amended ToR. FMG noted that the preliminary assessment of alternatives was circulated as a high-level summary to support early consultation with Indigenous communities and government agencies prior to the assessment work having been completed to better understand the alternatives.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the MECP related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to the MECP after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On September 21, 2022, the MECP and FMG met to discuss progress on the Project and provide an update on engagement activities. The discussion included outlining next steps regarding the draft EIS/EA review and setting up technical meetings with the MECP reviewers.

On December 14, 2022 FMG met with the MECP to touch base on the Project and provide an update on ongoing engagement with local communities.

On April 18, 2023, FMG met with NWOMC, IAAC and the MECP to provide a brief overview of the Project, and an update on the draft EIS/EA review process. FMG noted a desire to continue meetings and engagement with the broader NWOMC members and readiness for engagement at any time.

On July 19, 2023, FMG provided the MECP with a letter describing the process and schedule for the establishment of the IGTRB, in accordance with FMG's commitment in the draft EIS/EA.

On September 15, 2023, FMG emailed the MECP providing a letter with an update on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and provided information on the three members, as well as next steps for the board. FMG offered to answer any questions but did not receive any.

Endangered Species Act Permitting

On November 10, 2021, FMG provided the MECP with the ESA 17(2)(b) permit application. WSP (on behalf of FMG) noted that the application considers previous comments shared from reviewers during the ToR process, and during the review of the baseline studies and alternatives. WSP also noted that FMG has begun discussions on the proposed program with Indigenous communities as well as the overall approach to monitoring Caribou. FMG indicated an interest to receive the necessary permits by February 1, 2022, so the proposed program could be completed during the required timing.

On December 17, 2021, FMG provided the MECP with responses to the MECP's comments and the updated ESA 17(2)(b) permit application. On January 7, 2022, the MECP provided FMG with follow-up comments on the updated ESA 17(2)(b) permit application. The MECP indicated drafting of the ESA 17(2)(b) permit could begin once FMG incorporated the comments into its application.

On January 12, 2022, FMG submitted an overview of the consultation undertaken on the ESA 17(2)(b) permit to the MECP and asked if any additional information is needed. The MECP requested clarification on what the data from the proposed Caribou program was intended to inform. The next day, FMG provided the MECP with responses to comments shared and submitted a revised ESA 17(2)(b) permit application. On January 12, 2022, FMG held a meeting with the MECP, IAAC and ECCC to discuss the proposed 2022 Caribou

telemetry program. On January 13, 2022, the MECP provided feedback from the SAR branch on the permit application. MECP noted that it had circulated the 2021 workplans to the Ministry Technical Reviewers to determine if additional feedback would be provided. On January 14, 2022, FMG provided the MECP with additional information requested. The MECP noted that several responses to the MECP comments from January 7, 2022 were outstanding along with an updated permit application. FMG submitted the revised ESA 17(2)(b) permit application along with responses to the outstanding comments. On January 25, 2022, the MECP provided FMG with a draft ESA 17 (2) (b) permit and requested comments from FMG.

After FMG had received a draft of the permit on February 1, 2022, the MECP informed FMG that the ESA 17(2)(b) permit had triggered the duty to consult with eight Indigenous communities and provided next steps for consultation; and due to this not being fulfilled by the MECP, the program would not be able to occur in 2022. FMG continued to work with the MECP to prepare for the program in 2023. The MECP provided the revised ESA 17(2)(b) permit to FMG on April 20, 2022. FMG followed up on June 6, 2022, to request an update on the ESA 17(2)(b) permit. The MECP responded on June 15, 2022, to confirm that Indigenous communities have been contacted regarding the proposed permit. FMG followed up on July 20, 2022, requesting an update on any feedback from the Indigenous communities regarding the ESA 17(2)(b) permit. The MECP responded on July 26, 2022, informing FMG that CLFN provided a response and the MECP had invited them to provide additional comments on the permit. The MECP requested that FMG attend an information session on August 11, 2022 with Indigenous communities to support discussions on the proposed program. FMG responded with available dates for the session. On August 11, 2022, the MECP held a Caribou Program Information Session for Indigenous communities, which FMG attended and provided information on the study. FMG provided hard copies of the presentation to the MECP and NWOMC after the session. On October 20, 2022, the MECP issued FMG with the Minister-approved ESA 17(2)(b) permit. FMG noted that the MECP would be kept updated on the field planning. On February 13, 2023, FMG informed the MECP that the program had been successfully and safely deployed.

On December 20, 2023, WSP (on behalf of FMG) emailed the MECP, providing the year end report for the Caribou Program and Aerial Survey and associated GPS track log Shapefiles as per ESA permit conditions for SAR.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments from the MECP and responses from FMG on the draft EIS/EA is as follows:

- Regional Environmental Planner
    - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
    - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
    - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.

  - June 2023 - FMG provided the MECP with responses to follow-up comments.
  - June 2023 - MECP provided additional comments and feedback on the second round of FMG responses.
- Senior Waste Engineer
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - June 2023 - FMG provided the MECP with responses to follow-up comments.
  - June 2023 - MECP provided additional comments and feedback on the second round of FMG responses.
  - June 2023 - MECP noted that the responses were satisfactory.
- Senior Wastewater Engineer
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - June 2023 - FMG provided the MECP with responses to follow-up comments.
  - June 2023 - MECP provided additional comments and feedback on the second round of FMG responses.
- Indigenous Advisor
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2024 – FMG provided the MECP with responses to follow-up feedback.
  - May 2024 - MECP provided feedback on FMG's follow-up responses.
- Ontario Parks
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - June 2023 - FMG provided the MECP with responses to follow-up comments.

- June 2023 - MECP provided additional comments and feedback on the second round of FMG responses.

- Regional Hydrogeologist
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - July 2023 - FMG provided its responses to follow-up comments.
  - August 2023 – MECP provided responses to FMG.
  - December 2023 - FMG provided its responses to follow-up comments with a supporting memo to help resolve outstanding comments.
  - January 2024 - MECP provided additional comments on FMG's responses and the memo.
  - May 2024 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the memo.
- Senior Noise Engineer
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - June 2023 - FMG provided the MECP with responses to follow-up comments.
  - July 2023 - MECP provided additional feedback to FMG's second round of responses to comments.
  - August 2023 - FMG provided additional responses to comments from the MECP.
  - October 2023 - MECP provided feedback on FMG's responses to the MECP's follow-up comments.
  - March 2024 – FMG provided responses to the MECP's questions regarding a noise assessment of Wenasaga Road.
  - April 2024 – MECP confirmed they have no further comments regarding the Noise Assessment and Wenasaga Forestry Road.
- Regional Surface Water Specialist
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2022 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - July 2023 - FMG provided its responses to follow-up comments related to surface water.

  - September 2023 – MECP provided feedback on FMG's second round of responses to the MECP's Surface Water comments on the draft EIS/EA. The MECP indicated that FMG's responses to comments were adequate, and no further responses would be required until outstanding comments were addressed in the final EIS/EA.

- Regional Hydrologist
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - August 2023 - FMG followed up on August 17, 2023, providing responses to the MECP's follow-up comments on hydrology.
- Regional Air Quality Analyst
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - November 2023 - FMG provided responses to the MECP's follow-up comments.
  - January 2024 - FMG provided responses to the MECP's additional feedback on FMG's responses to the MECP's follow-up comments.
- Climate Change Policy Branch
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - February 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - June 2023 - FMG provided the MECP with responses to follow-up comments.
- EA Branch - Special Project Officer
  - September 2022 – MECP provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - March 2023 - FMG provided responses to MECP's comments on the draft EIS/EA
  - April 2023 - MECP provided follow-up feedback to FMG's responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - May 2023 - MECP provided a table with additional feedback to FMG's responses.
  - September 2023 - FMG provided responses to the follow-up comments on the draft EIS/EA.
  - November 2023 - MECP provided a revised comment – response table with additional feedback.
  - February 2024 - FMG provided responses to MECP's follow-up comments on the draft EIS/EA.

- May 2024 - MECP provided follow-up comments on FMG's responses.

A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA, is provided as Appendix C. Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve questions prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-17). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

On June 3, 2022, FMG provided the MECP with copies of the notifications distributed to Indigenous communities regarding the published draft EIS/EA.

The MECP emailed FMG on June 23, 2022, asking FMG to provide shapefiles for the Project footprint, the LSAs, and RSA to aid in the MECP technical review of the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided the requested shapefiles on July 4, 2022.

The MECP emailed FMG on June 27, 2022, requesting an extension on the review timeline of the draft EIS/EA. FMG responded the next day confirming that an extension for comments is acceptable but requested that the MECP provide comments in early August. The MECP responded on July 14, 2022, confirming that technical comments would be submitted in mid-August. On August 30, 2022, FMG requested a status update from the MECP on the expected technical review comments on the draft EIS/EA.

On July 12, 2023, FMG provided the MECP and IAAC with two memos regarding the ongoing optimization of the engineering design for the CDF to be distributed to the provincial and federal review teams, as discussed in the Project optimization meeting on July 5, 2023. One memo described the proposed design optimization to the CDF south cell liner requirements and the other memo described the proposed design optimizations to the tailings production and placement in the north cell of the CDF, together with a summary of the resulting environmental and operational benefits. FMG followed up on July 19, 2023, to provide information on the establishment of the IGTRB for the Project and offered to discuss any further questions.

In response to an email from the MECP on September 21, 2023, FMG confirmed on September 29, 2023, that it would provide example updated alternatives assessment materials later that day in preparation for a meeting to discuss FMG's responses to the MECP's Special Project Officer's follow-up comments on the draft EIS/EA. The MECP thanked FMG for the update. FMG provided working example updated alternatives assessment materials to address the comments shared on the draft EIS/EA and requested availability from the MECP to schedule a meeting. The meeting was held on November 2, 2023.

FMG emailed the MECP SAR branch on October 30, 2023, providing data on telemetry collared Caribou mortalities and investigations, including a shapefile, for the ESA-B Permit.

In response to an email from FMG on December 13, 2023, the MECP emailed FMG on December 22, 2023, noting the MECP's intention of potentially discussing the existing Wenasaga Road with the MNRF before the MECP would be able to address comments regarding noise impacts along the road. The MECP requested records or information about FMG's interactions with the MNRF confirming the Wenasaga Road was approved as a Class 1 public road, and updated maps clearly showing the Project property boundaries.

On December 22, 2023, a member of CLFN sent a letter to the MECP in support of the Project. The CLFN member indicated to the MECP that FMG had completed the necessary steps to accommodate and address CLFN concerns about a portion of a trapline that would be occupied by the Project. The CLFN member informed the MECP that they believe the Project will bring economic opportunities to members of CLFN

and that FMG had treated the CLFN member respectfully and fairly. FMG emailed the MECP on January 3, 2024, providing the same letter.

On December 22, 2023, WSP (on behalf of FMG) emailed the SAR branch of the MECP, providing a Wolverine compliance report in relation to FMG's permit.

In response to an email from the MECP on January 3, 2024, WSP (on behalf of FMG) provided details on January 18, 2024, about the Wolverine compliance report requested by the MECP, as well as a shapefile containing the locations of the Wolverine stations, and which stations where had Wolverines had been detected. On February 5, 2024, FMG informed the MECP that the Wolverine stations for the 2024 program would be initiated the week of February 5, 2024. FMG requested a discussion about baiting at station #5 and requested that the MECP advise if there were any concerns about its location. On February 9, 2024, the MECP confirmed there were no potential concerns with Wolverine station #5 and provided additional details regarding FMG's proposed 2024 Wolverine program. FMG thanked the MECP for the information, and confirmed the program would proceed as planned.

On January 20, 2024, in response to an email from the MECP on January 18, 2024, FMG requested clarification on the MECP's review of FMG's responses to the MECP's SAR branch comments on the draft EIS/EA, seeking details on areas that require additional information to prepare for the upcoming meeting. FMG also requested additional meetings with the MECP SAR branch in February and March 2024 to discuss other priority areas including the mine access road, the transmission line corridor, and mitigation measures. The MECP responded on January 23 confirming that the MECP's SAR branch's comments on the draft EIS/EA indicate the additional information that the MECP's SAR branch is seeking and provided a copy of the comments, as well as a memo from September 2021 containing additional advice regarding SAR criteria for the EIS/EA. The MECP noted that the SAR branch is looking for FMG to present how FMG intends to address impacts to SAR in the final EIS/EA and provide detail on the scale of assessments and the identification of potential habitat for each SAR during the upcoming meeting. The MECP offered to help arrange additional meetings regarding other priority areas including the mine access road and the transmission line corridor, and mitigation measures. On February 6, 2024, FMG provided information on the EIS/EA, on the EIS/EA comment/response process between FMG and the MECP's SAR branch, and on the scales of assessment used in the EIS/EA. FMG provided copies of the presentations held on July 8, August 20 and December 18, 2023, together with FMG's meeting notes. FMG requested two separate meetings with the MECP's SAR branch: one to discuss the EIS/EA and the other to discuss the proposed mine access road.

The MECP emailed FMG on March 19, 2024, providing the ESA 2007 Assessment of the Project Impacts on Caribou report, and offered a meeting to discuss preparation of the final EIS/EA. Throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve questions prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-14). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

Record of Consultation

On February 28, 2023, FMG informed the MECP and IAAC that a draft updated summary of consultation is being prepared that includes information up to the end of 2022 and would be provided to IAAC and the MECP in March 2023. FMG provided the draft RoC for 2022 to the MECP and IAAC on April 24, 2023, for review and feedback. FMG followed up on June 20, 2023, requesting an update on the feedback from the MECP on the draft RoC. The MECP responded the next day noting that the RoC was being reviewed and feedback was anticipated to be provided in July 2023.

On August 30, 2023, FMG emailed the MECP requesting feedback on the draft RoC that had been requested by the MECP's Indigenous Advisor. The MECP replied to FMG providing confirmation that the MECP's Indigenous Advisor is aware of the updated draft RoC submission, and it is undergoing review. The MECP requested FMG provide confirmation of a meeting to discuss the comments and feedback on the updated draft RoC in mid-September to which FMG provided potential meeting dates. FMG informed the MECP that discussions on questions and clarifications on recent comments shared from the MECP's Indigenous Advisor could be had on the proposed mid-September meeting, as needed.

FMG emailed the MECP on December 19, 2023, providing an annotated table of contents for the consultation section of the final EIS/EA and requested input from the MECP. FMG requested a phone call with the MECP to discuss the annotated table of contents and a general status update on engagement activities.

FMG met with the MECP on January 9, 2024, to provide updates on consultation and engagement and discuss an annotated table of contents for the updated Section 2 (consultation) of the draft EIS/EA to address the MECP feedback.

On March 4, 2024, FMG emailed the MECP a link to a preliminary draft consultation Section of the final EIS/EA, along with details on the preliminary draft. FMG requested that the MECP review and provide feedback by April 1, 2024 if possible and offered to schedule a meeting to discuss.

On May 17, 2024, MECP emailed FMG providing feedback from the MECP's Senior Indigenous Consultation Advisor regarding FMG's February 2024 responses to the draft EIS/EA review comments from the MECP. The MECP inquired as to whether FMG wanted to schedule a phone call to discuss the feedback. On June 19, 2024 FMG responded indicating that FMG would review the MECP's comments and incorporate them into the final EIS/EA submission.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives Wildlife and Wildlife habitat	The MECP Species at Risk branch provided comments on the draft EIS/EA and in follow up meetings that an emphasis should be placed on minimizing new linear corridors.	Alternative 1 has been selected as the updated preferred alignment. In addition to selecting Alternative 1, the transmission line has been optimized to follow the mine access road more closely, thereby reducing the overall corridor width through this segment. Details on the transmission line are provided in Section 5.18.
Assessment of Alternatives	MECP provided feedback on the alternatives assessment approach during consultation on the draft EIS/EA.	Input on the alternatives assessment approach received during consultation on the draft EIS/EA from the MECP is detailed in Appendix D and was incorporated into the final EIS/EA. Key revisions to the assessment approach resulting from these comments include: • Additional text is provided in this final EIS/EA to clarify how a reasonable range of viable alternatives have been identified consistent with the *EA Code of Practice* (MOE 2014). • Rationale was provided for which alternatives were carried forward for assessment. • Sources of information that supported the alternatives assessment and information sources for individual indicators have been provided. • Two of the performance objectives were renamed to natural environment and social, economic, cultural and built environment. • Some modifications to rank approach and descriptions were completed to provide an evaluation of each criterion, verse just at the performance level. These modifications were made to the natural environment and social, economic, cultural and built environment performance objectives. • The three initial technical performance objectives were combined to provide greater focus on environmental performance objectives. • Alternative assessment tables were moved into the main body of the EIS/EA from the appendices. • Alternative assessment tables were provided for identified viable alternatives, including for tailings and mine rock. • A description of the baseline conditions was added to the alternative assessment tables to allow the reader to compare the no Project alternative (i.e. do nothing) against the changes resulting from the alternative means being assessed. • Indicator descriptions were revised to be measurable and quantifiable as reasonable, noting that quantifiable information is not reasonably available for many indicators, nor is it necessary to allow for a reasoned comparison of alternatives; there is no requirement for a quantitative assessment of alternatives under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* or the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. • Phases of the proposed Project (i.e., construction, operations and decommissioning and closure) were characterized within the alternative assessment tables and assessed for each indicator where applicable. • Rankings of preferred, partially preferred or not preferred are defined for each criterion for each alternative, requiring an alteration of the ranking descriptions for the natural environment and social, economic, cultural and built environment performance objectives. • Ranking for each alternative for each performance objective is provided in the alternative assessment tables, including key differentiating advantages and disadvantages. • Additional quantitative information is provided in the alternative assessment tables, where helpful to the comparison and reasonably available. • An assessment of alternatives related to tailings and mine rock using the approach described in Section 4.1 was completed and is presented in this section (Section 4.7), and in Appendix E following the required approach per federal regulations (MDMER). Where there is a material difference between the assessment of an alternative in the draft EIS/EA and final EIS/EA, additional explanation has been provided in this final EIS/EA text or related alternative assessment table.
Assessment of Alternatives	MECP provided comments during consultation and engagement on the assessment of alternatives.	These comments resulted in the following alternatives that were considered in the EIS/EA: • Potential use of renewable power sources (considered under power supply); • Dike locations; • Treated effluent discharge locations; and • Additional routing alternatives for the mine access road.
Assessment of Alternatives Surface Water Quality, Groundwater	The MECP requested clarification for how groundwater quality and quantity, surface water quality and quantity and long-term effects to surface water were evaluated in the assessment of alternatives.	The assessment of alternatives now includes surface and groundwater indicators under the potential effect on fish and aquatic habitat criteria and under the potential effect on public health and safety criteria.
Baseline studies Wolverine	MECP recommended that a wolverine monitoring program be developed to inform the baseline condition and support longer term monitoring, and monitoring program consider using the hair snag/camera trap study method to be consistent with other recent EAs.	25 run pole stations, using the hair snag/camera trap method, were deployed within the baseline investigation area in February 2023. Data were collected on two separate occasions in March and April 2023. Additional information on the methods and results are provided in Section 3.4.10.1 and Appendix P-1.
Baseline studies Wolverine	MECP recommended that a Wolverine-specific RSA be developed using the average Wolverine home range size.	A biologically relevant RSA was developed by applying a 50 km buffer to the LSA representing the male Wolverine home range of 1,600 square km^2, as described in the assessment of effects on Wolverine (Section 6.14).

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies	MECP requested clarification of whether the description of the existing environment addresses components of the environment (including natural, social, economic, cultural, built).	A comprehensive description of all components of the existing environment, including the natural, social, economic, cultural and bult environment is provided in Section 6.2 to Section 6.26, as outlined in Table 6.1-1. The description of the existing baseline conditions for each of these sections is supported by a detailed baseline report.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	MECP requested additional baseline data to support the assessment.	A full lake provincial standard BsM study was completed in 2022 (Appendix O). The BsM was used to calibrate a full lake hydroacoustic fish community study also completed in 2022. Lower trophic level (chlorophyll a, phytoplankton and zooplankton) studies (multi-year and multi-season) were completed throughout Springpole Lake and adjacent comparable locations in Birch Lake. Reviewers also requested additional habitat data for the nearshore areas of Birch Lake adjacent to the Project and therefore supplemental habitat characterization of nearshore areas of Birch Lake was completed in 2022. Further detail on this study is provided in Section 6.10.2.2.
Baseline studies Groundwater	MECP requested confirmation whether the structural features extend into metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks, and whether they impart a higher hydraulic conductivity to these rocks.	Additional information has continued to be collected since the draft EIS/EA, and the bedrock hydrostratigraphy model for the site has been included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.1.1). The data shows that a zone of unconsolidated granular material (i.e., the zone of highly altered/disintegrated rock; 'UGM') associated with the ore zone is surrounded by / adjacent to a zone of low RQD rock (together previously identified as the Portage Zone). These zones are surrounded by a more competent country/host rock. The UGM zone and low RQD zone would have a more substantial effect on groundwater flows around the pit than local structures, given their comparative volume, although the east-west trending structures may have some influence on interaction of the CDF with the open pit. These structures are planned to be tested in future programs as part of ongoing project engineering. As overburden is removed from the pit slopes during pit development and these structures are potentially exposed, a grouting program may be employed to seal these surficial expressions. Sensitivity analysis has been conducted to assess the potential effect of these faults and included in the Hydrogeologic Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 7).
Baseline studies Groundwater	MECP requested additional information on groundwater baseline data.	Groundwater baseline data was supplemented, resulting in a higher degree of confidence for the environmental assessment predictions. Supplemental data collected included: • Water level monitoring and hydraulic test data from 15 additional screened monitoring well installations; • Vibrating wire installations at ten new locations, and water level monitoring from 26 monitoring ports equipped with dataloggers; • Automated pressure transducers monitoring groundwater level fluctuations in 25 monitoring wells; • Packer testing at new drillhole locations, including 71 new unique measurements; • Hydraulic testing in 29 pre-existing monitoring well installations; • Additional stratigraphic boreholes and test pits from 2021 and 2022 investigations; • Bedrock outcropping mapping information from historical surveys; and, • Additional quarterly groundwater quality data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The results of these studies are discussed below under Existing Conditions (Section 6.5.2) with additional details included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1).
Baseline studies	MECP requested that a complete list of studies and/or reports prepared in relation to the proposed Project be included in the EIS/EA.	Table 3.3-1 has been added to the final EIS/EA and includes a complete list of studies and reports prepared for the final EIS/EA.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	MECP requested an additional in-stream sampling location near the discharge point of the small stream that originates from lakes L-3 and L-4, adjacent the SW-18 in Birch Lake.	The 2019-2020 Aquatic Resources Assessment Report (Appendix O-2, Section 3.1.1) conducted detailed fish habitat characterization studies within Stream 9 and utilized baseline data collected in the other stream habitat to define habitat types. Benthic invertebrate community and sediment quality data collected during the baseline studies are expected to represent existing conditions within the local area habitat types. However, an additional sampling location was added to the 2022 and 2023 field programs and included surface water quality and fish sampling (Appendix O-4, Section 3.2).
Baseline studies Air Quality	MECP recommended additional data be collected to establish background air quality concentrations.	The additional baseline data collected since submission of the draft EIS/EA, including sampling during the wintertime is included in the Baseline Air Quality Report (Appendix G-1, Section 4) and is sufficient to establish background concentrations.
Baseline studies Light	MECP recommended including baseline ambient light readings to inform the assessment of potential impacts from the Project and adjusting receptor locations to areas that are intrinsically dark (i.e., no anthropogenic light sources) for a conservative assessment of potential impacts.	The Ambient Light Assessment Report (Appendix J) includes additional information on the ambient light conditions, which has also been summarized in Section 3.4.12. Further, the Ambient Light Assessment Report includes further consideration of mitigation options to address anthropogenic light sources from Project.
Baseline studies Groundwater	MECP requested further information on the additional monitoring wells, including borehole logs and monitoring well details that have been installed since 2021.	The Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Appendix A) includes an updated compilation of borehole logs that contain geological descriptions, and borehole logs for installations since 2019. Numerous borings, hydraulic test locations, and groundwater monitoring installations have been located within or directly adjacent to the proposed CDF footprint, including shallow bedrock conductivity testing inside and around of the proposed footprint of the CDF.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Hydrology	MECP requested clarification on how the WSC stations and associated data was being incorporated into the baseline data.	The Baseline Hydrology Report for the draft EIS/EA, included a description of the methodology in which WSC flow data is used to characterize runoff conditions for the Project site, a summary of the pro-rated flows for the Springpole Lake catchment areas (F7-HS1 and F8-HS7), and a description of how the average annual runoff from the representative WSC station was used to estimate a natural ground runoff coefficient for the Project site. Further, the Report described the methodology in which WSC flow data was used to estimate low flow conditions for the Project site's catchment areas, provided low flow indices for the WSC stations considered and the estimated low flow indices for the Project site's catchment areas. This has been included in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 3.2).
Baseline studies Noise and vibration	MECP requested that the minimum hourly noise levels be provided for each period of evaluation and that arithmetic averages should not be considered. Further, the MECP noted that the applicable periods of evaluation are daytime (07:00 to 19:00), evening (19:00 to 23:00) and nighttime (23:00 to 07:00).	The baseline sound reports (Appendices H-1 and H-2, Section 5.1) have been updated accordingly and present the minimum one-hour noise levels for each period of evaluation and consider logarithmic averages when considering average noise levels over a period of time.
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	MECP requested further information on the adequacy of the sampling in Birch Lake and Springpole Lake to characterize baseline conditions.	The baseline surface water quality monitoring program has been ongoing since 2011 and is designed to be extensive and appropriate to inform the EIS/EA, encompassing a comprehensive network of sites strategically selected to capture spatial and temporal variations in water quality. This monitoring program will continue through life of mine and be adjusted as needed over time. To address the comments received, water quality monitoring continued through the submission of the draft EIS/EA resulting in an extensive baseline dataset covering and additional 3 years of data since the draft EIS/EA submission. More than 40 water quality stations have been monitored as part of the baseline program, with over 900 water quality samples having been collected. The monitoring program includes an extensive number of sites distributed across various water body types, including smaller sensitive lakes and tributaries and regional stations, to ensure representative sampling. These sites are carefully chosen to cover different ecological zones, flow regimes, and potential sources of interaction with the Project. Furthermore, the program accounts for seasonal variations by conducting sampling throughout the year, often monthly, capturing fluctuations in water quality associated with different hydrological conditions and climatic patterns. This approach allows to obtain a comprehensive understanding of baseline conditions to help assess potential impacts associated with the Project. Overall, the monitoring sites to characterize water quality spatially and temporally within the area is extensive. The updated baseline water quality samples have been included in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) and described in Section 6.6, Section 6.6.7, Section 6.8 and Section 6.9.
Baseline studies Air Quality	MECP requested clarification of the conservative assumption of particulate matter composition used to estimate background concentrations of metals.	The concentration of trace metals on the particulate matter were estimated using geochemistry data for mine rock and ore samples, specifically the 90th percentile concentration for each metal, as described in Section 2.1.5 of the Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2).
Baseline studies Air Quality	MECP requested information on baseline concentrations for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), including a discussion of the use of the onsite passive VOC monitoring data. IAAC also requested information on an assessment of health risks due to incremental ozone exposure, including a discussion on the potential for ozone formation from Project emissions of gaseous precursors.	The onsite VOC monitoring data used in the air quality assessment serve as a screening for the presence of target species and as a general comparison of VOC concentrations to background values from regional NAPS program stations. Where the detection limits are low, concentrations were compared to the relevant provincial AAQC by using the averaging time conversion method of the MECP (2016) *Air Dispersion Modelling Guideline for Ontario* (Version 3.0). Data from the NAPS regional background station in Simcoe have been used to establish background concentrations for the final cumulative effects assessments. Further, 7 additional samples were taken (for a total of 10 on site) for comparison with the regional NAPS data since the draft EIS/EA. Baseline information for VOCs and PAHs has been considered in the assessment of effects on Air Quality (Section 6.2.2)and is provided in the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1, Section 4.6), including a description of how the VOC data collected on site by passive sampling are used. The Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2, Section 5) and the assessment of effects on Air Quality (Section 6.2.6) of the EIS/EA include an assessment of PAH and VOC concentrations for all phases and a qualitative assessment of ozone formation. There are no sources of ozone associated with the Project. While the Project emits compounds that could be considered precursors for ozone (i.e., NOx and small quantities of VOCs that may react in the presence of heat and sunlight to photochemically form ozone), there is no expectation that the amounts emitted will cause an increase in ozone on either a local or regional scale. With respect to mercury, the total particulate sampling using a high-volume sampler included the analysis of filters for particle-bound mercury; the highest baseline mercury concentration measured was less than 0.01% of the MECP's AAQC.
Baseline studies Hydrology	MECP requested clarification on the hydrometric stations used to characterize baseline conditions.	This was addressed in the Baseline Hydrology Report for the draft EIS/EA and is included in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4). It includes information on monitoring parameters, monitoring frequency, the status and purpose of the monitoring stations, period of record, monitoring instrumentation, and catchment size.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Bats	MECP recommended identifying maternal roost habitat using ecosite type to serve as an indicator to quantify the potential effects.	As described in Section 3.5.1 of the Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P-1), snag surveys conducted for the Project on maternity roosting habitat include deciduous forests, as well as mixed forests. The ecosites surveyed in 2021, 2022 and 2023 included B024, B034, B049, B050, B052, B055, B065, B070, B088, B104, B119, B127, B128, and B140. The average snag density within all but three of these ecosites was well above 20 snags per ha. The remaining three (B088, B127, and B140) had average cavity tree densities of 20 snags per ha. This indicates that most deciduous or mixed forests in the investigation area have sufficient cavities to support bat maternity roosts. The sampling strategy has resulted in a suitable sampling effort at targeted ecosites and additional suitable ecosites. Most identified potential bat roosting features were in a Poplar species (64 % of identified tree species) followed by Spruce (20% of identified tree species) and Birch (12% of identified tree species), with lower numbers in Pine and Fir species. While deciduous trees expectedly occupied most of the identified potential cavity trees (74%), coniferous trees still composed a substantial portion of the identified suitable cavity trees (26%). Acoustic surveys indicate that bats occur in all habitats in the RSA, and these results suggest that most areas within the RSA, including coniferous forests, provide suitable maternity-roosting habitat. The range of ecosites identified as harbouring suitable roost tree densities spanned multiple forest types, including coniferous, deciduous / mixed, coniferous swamp and sparse treed forests. As such, all forested ecosites were mapped as bat maternity habitat.
Baseline studies Bats	MECP requested a description of the weather conditions when acoustic recording units were deployed to collect baseline data for bats, to determine the suitability of the data.	The average weather was calculated across the three stations to quantify the number of days when weather was favourable to bat activity (i.e., nights with temperatures above 10°C, no rain greater than 5 mm and low winds). The weather conditions observed during the 2021, 2022 and 2023 field programs is detailed in Section 3.5 of the Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P-1).
Baseline studies Hydrology	MECP requested further monitoring information at the outlet of the north basin of Springpole Lake and at the outlet of Springpole Lake to support the validation of predicted effects of changes in water levels at the outlet of the north basin of Springpole Lake due to refilling of the open pit basin.	A description of the water level monitoring for Springpole Lake for both the outlet of the north basin and Springpole lake is provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.3.1). Further, an assessment of potential changes in the outlet of the north basin of Springpole Lake due to the refilling of the open pit is provide in the Receiver Water Balance (Appendix M-3, Attachment A). This includes a dynamic wave routing model that describes the existing conditions, as well as the changes at this location during the construction, operation and closure of the Project, including during the pit filling period. During all phases, the changes in velocity and water level at this location are minor as a result of the relatively wide connection channel and are within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions.
Baseline studies Hydrology	MECP requested further information on the characterization of baseline water level in Springpole Lake, and how the Project may affect water levels in comparison to natural variation.	Hydrometric baseline data has continued to be collected since the draft EIS/EA to appropriately characterize baseline flow and water level conditions in Springpole Lake and is sufficient to determine natural variation. Water levels throughout Springpole Lake have been measure over the period between May 2021 to Oct 2022 and confirm that lake levels are consistent the entire lake. There has been more than two years of flow measurements conducted during three monitoring programs (2011 to 2012, 2020, 2021 to 2022) which validate the selection of WSC Sturgeon River at McDougall Mills as an appropriate reference station. In addition, a robust rating curve for the outlet of Springpole Lake has been developed and is used to determine natural variability in Springpole Lake levels. This information has been included in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.8).
Baseline studies Hydrology	MECP requested further information on the baseline flows for smaller watersheds for the Project.	Seven WSC gauges were considered with watershed areas ranging from 619 to 5,390 km^2. WSC does not typically monitor watersheds with 25 km^2 drainage areas. As described in the Hydrology Baseline Report (Appendix M-1), Sturgeon River at McDougall Mills was selected as a reference station after taking into consideration watershed size, period of record, proximity to site, and a comparison to monthly runoff yields from the Project site. Hydrometric baseline data collected from the smaller site watersheds (~10 km^2) over the 2021 to 2022 monitoring period has demonstrated a reasonable correlation to the WSC station on Sturgeon River. Hydrometric data collected over the 2021 to 2022 monitoring period is considered to be adequate in establishing site-specific flow data for the Project Site. The results from the ongoing hydrometric baseline program are described in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.5).
Baseline studies Hydrology	MECP requested further information on water level monitoring for Springpole Lake in order to establish the variation in levels, to support the assessment of potential effects from the dewatering of the open pit basin.	The Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.3.1) provides a description of the water level monitoring for Springpole Lake, and the variation observed. Water level monitoring on Springpole Lake has occurred since 2020 at eight stations. The water levels across the lake have remained relatively consistent. As such, Springpole Lake levels are understood to be outflow controlled, with no difference in hydraulic head across the lake under all observed water levels. Data from several Springpole Lake stations were combined to form a continuous time series for Springpole Lake water levels, which is considered reasonable due to the consistent water levels observed across Springpole Lake. Water levels in Springpole Lake varied by approximately 2.1 m during the period of record, with a peak water elevation of approximately 392.8 m amsl, and a minimum water level of approximately 390.70 m amsl. Dewatering of the open pit basin is described in Section 5.7.1.2, and the potential effects are assessed in Section 6.7.6.1. It should be noted that monitoring of lake levels in Springpole Lake during dewatering will be used to assess the changes to water levels or flow as a result of construction dewatering and other mining phases.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Local and regional economy	MECP requested information on how consultation with Indigenous communities informed the descriptions of existing socio-economic conditions and the potential impacts to Indigenous communities.	Information received from Indigenous communities through TK/TLU studies and other engagement activities during the environmental assessment process, including research activities conducted to prepare the baseline socio-economic report (Appendix S) to support the preparation of the draft EIS/EA, engagement opportunities such as in-person community meetings, the provision of TK/TLU studies, and additional feedback received from Indigenous communities through the review of the draft EIS/EA. The information has been incorporated into the final EIS/EA. Section 6.26 includes information regarding the socio-economic conditions for Indigenous communities and includes feedback received from each Indigenous community that was incorporated in the assessment of effects on Indigenous people. Section 2 provides information about the consultation activities that occurred to obtain this information.
Baseline studies Local and regional economy	MECP commented that the most recent available data should be used in the preparation of the EIS/EA.	Updated information from the 2021 Census data has been appended to the baseline socio-economic report (Appendix Q-1) and included in Section 6.20.2, although this has not changed the conclusions related to the local and regional infrastructure and services from the draft EIS/EA.
Baseline studies Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MECP recommended using updated FRI from both the Trout and Lac Seul Forests to identify potential habitat for SAR birds and bats.	Updated 2021 FRI data from the Caribou, Cat Lake, Lac Seul and Trout Lake Forest Management Units was provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in 2023 and was incorporated into the analysis of habitat, as described below in Section 6.15.5 and the Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P-1).
Baseline studies Wolverine	MECP requested further information on the baseline studies being conducted for Wolverine.	A dedicated Wolverine program was initiated in February 2023 and continued during 2024 to collect additional baseline information for inclusion in the EIS/EA and to support future permitting. Baseline data were collected on Wolverine demographics (including sex, age, structure), occupancy / population density, habitat use and dispersal and areas of concentration / activity centres. The Wolverine program used a tessellated hexagon approach (a pattern of repeating hexagons that fit together without gaps or overlaps) in which one station per subset of selected hexagons overlaid on the RSA is placed in the most suitable habitat within the hexagon (usually along a river / lake or ridge). The stations include dual cameras and hair traps, and collect information on Wolverine identification, sex and genotype. The cameras and hair traps can provide data on familial relationships, effective population size, dispersal patterns from DNA, survival rates in multi-year studies, lactation in females, centres of activity, population density using capture-recapture models, and behavioural information such as the association of individuals based on the date and time stamp on photographs. Further details on the Wolverine program methods and results are included in the Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P-1, Section 2.6 and Section 3.4, respectively). Figure 6.14-2 of the EIS/EA shows the observations of Wolverine during all baseline investigation programs.
Consultation processes and capacity	MECP requested clarification on how FMG engaged with interested persons and the public.	FMG has provided information and engaged with the public and resource users within the regional study area (for commercial land and resource use, and outdoor recreation VCs) through a variety of means including open houses that were advertised in the Sioux Lookout Bulletin, on local radio stations and through Facebook, displays at career fairs and community and industry events, sending Project bulletins, newsletters, and links to the Project website to the Project public contact list, and through emails and meetings with individuals and resource users. The details of the public engagement are presented in Section 2.7.4.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring Groundwater	MECP noted that assumptions made regarding capping of mine wastes must be clearly stated, to provided context to the assessment of changes to groundwater quality.	A description of the measures to be implemented for the CDF at closure are described in Section 5.19.3.2. These measures include: continuing to direct runoff from the north cell to the south cell; deposit NAG tailings over the entire north cell surface to fully cover the PAG mine rock and limit oxygen ingress; vegetate the tailings or, if necessary, place and grade an erosion protection cover over the entire north cell surface and direct all runoff to the south cell; deposit NAG tailings or other suitable soil cover on the south cell to remove excess pond capacity and provide cover over PAG tailings; construct an overflow spillway at the south cell perimeter dam to safely pass the Inflow Design Flood to environment; and, decommission perimeter collection ponds and allow runoff and seepage water to report to environment once water quality requirements are met.
Draft EIS/EA Project Description	MECP requested that additional information be provided about some of the Project components, (i.e., dikes, controlled dewatering of the open pit basin, open pit development, stockpiles, construction material, waste management, and airstrip).	Additional details have been added to Section 5.7 to 5.17.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and vibration	MECP requested that the change in sound levels from offsite transport trucks along the mine access road to the existing public Wenasaga Road, the transmission line, the process plant and the aggregate locations be included in the noise modelling.	Additional sources of noise (including the transmission line, the process plant and the aggregate locations) from the Project that are expected to change sound levels at offsite PORs have been included in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 3). The existing publicly accessible Wenasaga Road, from the E1C transmission line to the eastern end of Springpole Lake, was previously assessed through the provincial forest management planning process and, therefore, is not part of the Springpole Project EA process.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested additional parameters be included in the modelling, specifically cyanide concentrations in tailings seepage and effluent discharge during operations, and additional monitoring data to support the assessment.	Cyanide has been added as a parameter in the surface water quality modeling (Appendix N-2, Table 3.2) and includes the assessment of potential effects on surface water quality in Section 6.6, Section 6.7 and Section 6.8. Operational monitoring requirements for water quality parameters will be confirmed as part of the provincial environmental approvals process and are expected to be required to include cyanide based on other similar mining projects in Ontario.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested clarification in the final EIS/EA on the rationales for the study areas chosen for the EA process.	During the preparation of the draft EIS/EA, a preliminary study area was broadly defined for the Project to support the overall characterization of the existing surrounding environment for the Project. This preliminary study area (Figure 6.1-1) was further refined during the EA process, and separate study areas were defined for the assessment of potential effects from the Project for each of the biophysical and human environment VCs in the draft EIS/EA (Section 6.1.3). Considering the feedback received on the draft EIS/EA, the rationale for the final LSA and RSA for each VC are included in Sections 6.2 to 6.25.
Draft EIS/EA VCs	MECP requested clarification of how consultation with government agencies, Indigenous communities and interested persons informed the selection of valued components in accordance with the commitments in the approved amended ToR.	During the preparation of the provincial ToR, a preliminary list of VCs was included in the draft ToR. As a result of the subsequent engagement during the EA process, two additional VCs were added including: Noise and Vibration, and Commercial Land and Resource Use. Through ongoing engagement on the draft EIS/EA, feedback provided by Indigenous communities, government agencies and other stakeholders has been considered in the refinement of the VC list, as described in Section 2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse gas emissions	MECP requested the provision of Project GHG emission intensities and benchmarks for comparison.	FMG has calculated and presented the GHG emission intensities for the Project and included comparison benchmarks in the GHG Assessment Report (Appendix I-1, Section 6.1.1).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse gas emissions	MECP requested clarification for land use change emission estimates and provision of annual emissions.	FMG has provided further details on, and clarification of, land use change emissions in Appendix I. The assessment includes a more developed description on the fate of biomass cleared and associated GHG emissions. Appendix I-1 (Table 3-1 and Section 4.3.3) provide methodologies and assumptions related to biomass. Tables A5a, A5b, and A5c of Appendix I-1 provide the related calculations and Table A1 provides the summarized annual emissions related to biomass removal and foregone carbon sequestration.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse gas emissions	MECP requested additional detail and justification for the GHG calculation approach for the construction of the mine access road.	FMG has refined the calculation methodology used for the final EIS/EA, and the bottom-up approach uses an estimated construction fleet rather than a proxy project. The calculations for the mine access road are included in the Greenhouse Gas Assessment (Appendix I-1, Table A6), with the construction of the transmission line found in Appendix I-1, Table A7.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring Air Quality	MECP requested clarification on how a 95% control efficiency and a 3.9% silt content on the haul roads will be achieved. Further, IAAC requested that silt content and dustfall sampling be carried out along the haul roads during the construction and operations phases.	For the assessment of air quality, a 95% control efficiency was selected as the haul roads are along the northern Project property line, near waterbodies, and therefore will require highly effective dust control measures (including a robust fugitive dust management plan and monitoring program with continuous particulate monitoring to allow a feedback loop). Control efficiencies of 85% to 95% have been successfully applied to other mining projects in northern Ontario. Since multiple control methods can be implemented and reinforce each other, an overall control efficiency of more than 95% is justified where an effective dust management and monitoring plan is implemented. The rationale for this control efficiency has been added to the Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2) and considered in Section 6.2.5 of the final EIS/EA. The rationale for 3.9% silt content is supported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA 2006) *AP-42: Compilation of Air Emissions Factors from Stationary Sources, Chapter 13.2.2*, which provides a silt content range of 3.9% to 9.7% with a mean of 5.8% for Taconite (lean iron ore) mining and processing haul roads to and from the pit. It is feasible to maintain lower silt content levels using an onsite crusher and screening plant that can provide coarse aggregate product to an engineered specification with less than 3.9% silt for use as road surface. The rationale for the 95% control efficiency and 3.9% silt content has been added to the Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2) and considered in Section 6.2.5 of the final EIS/EA. However, considering the comments received, a sensitivity analysis using an 85% control efficiency, and 5.8% silt content, has been added to the Air Quality Assessment Report to provide a comparison. Although the geographic extent of the predicted air quality exceedances increases, the geographic extent remains localized and is predicted to occur for PM_{10} only 0.1% of the time (two days in a five-year period) during frozen conditions in November and December and no exceedances are predicted for $PM_{2.5}$. FMG has committed to a follow-up program that will be initiated during construction and will include particulate monitoring to allow a feedback loop between conditions and maintenance activities; this will confirm the efficacy of controls at the property line. Further, a detailed air quality monitoring program will be prepared during the permitting process and is anticipated to include particulate matter. An air quality monitoring program building on the baseline program is described in Section 12 of the EIS/EA and will be refined during the permitting process.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	MECP requested an additional node at L-10 in Birch Lake to support the assessment of water levels and flows. Further, MECP requested that the naming convention for the assessment nodes be clarified to avoid confusion with sampling locations.	Naming conventions for the assessment nodes have been revised such that water balance and water quality naming conventions are equivalent in this final EIS/EA. For Birch Lake, the potential effects to water flows and levels have been determined for assessment node 6 (SW-03 in the draft EIS/EA), node 7 (SW-24 in the draft EIS/EA) and node 8 (SW-04 in the draft EIS/EA) and have been supplemented with an additional node at L-10. This assessment node is included in the Receiver Water Balance Report (Appendix M-3) and results are discussed in Section 6.6.6.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested the identification of all alternatives in the relevant figures in Section 3, not only the preferred Project, to allow a better understanding of environmental conditions in relation to the alternative methods assessed.	Relevant figures in Section 3 have been updated to include the location of Project alternatives that were considered in Section 4.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring Air Quality	MECP requested further detail on the ambient air quality monitoring program for all phases of the Project.	Section 12.2 includes additional details of the follow up and monitoring program for air quality.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested that the description of the existing environment in Section 3 be organized by each component of the environment (natural, social, economic, cultural and built).	Section 3 was refined to provide a description of the existing environment under the broad components of the environment (natural, social, economic, cultural and built), which is further explained in Section 3.4.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	MECP requested additional information to demonstrate that the contact water collection system considered design standards for storms, and that sufficient space is available to manage the required water volumes during weather events.	Section 5.12 has been updated to clarify that although the short-term construction phase water management will use more frequent design events (i.e., 1:10-year), the operations phase water management facilities will be designed to accommodate and contain a 1:100-year, 24-hour storm event. Figure 5.12-1 has been created to show the water management plan infrastructure, including the perimeter seepage collection system.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	MECP commented that surface water quality can be affected by mine rock and tailings due to seepage.	Section 6.5.4 of the EIS/EA and Section 4.6 of Appendix V-1 include the CDF design measures addressing seepage mitigation. Section 6.5.6 of the EIS/EA includes an assessment of seepage from the CDF and ore stockpiles, and the results are carried forward into the assessment of surface water quality in Birch Lake (Section 6.6), and the north basin of Springpole Lake (Section 6.7). With the implementation of proposed mitigation measures, including tailings and mine rock management, highly favourable CDF foundation conditions, seepage capture with perimeter ditching around the CDF and the ore stockpiles, there are no exceedances of applicable water quality guidelines in the receiver.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse gas emissions	MECP requested further information on how Ontario's guide *Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process* was considered in the EIS/EA.	Section 8 includes an assessment of the effects of the environment on the Project including climate change. To support this section, the effects of the environment on the Project (Section 8) has been developed using the guidance provided by this document.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring Groundwater	MECP asked how seepage will be monitored to ensure that seepage is captured by the collection ditches before reaching surface water features, and what measures would be undertaken should seepage reach surface water features.	Seepage quality monitoring requirements will be established for the construction, operations and closure phases of the Project as part of the provincial approvals process in consultation with MINES, MECP, and Indigenous communities. The monitoring of seepage from the CDF will be primarily through regular sampling of groundwater monitoring wells that will be established between the CDF ditching and the surrounding environment. The foundation rock under the CDF is very competent with low hydraulic conductivity well suited for the CDF location, and in combination with the CDF design achieves highly effective seepage management and capture within the perimeter collection system. The potential presence of seepage in the monitoring wells will be determined by comparing results year after year to identify whether there are changes and/or trends in water quality that indicate the presence of seepage. Action will be taken if there are indications of potentially unexpected seepage in the monitoring well(s), beginning with an investigation to the cause and identification of mitigation measures if required. Contingency measures might include pump back wells whereby groundwater is pumped back into the CDF and/or grouting of bedrock to prevent seepage movement. Additional details on water monitoring have been included in Section 12.5.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring Surface Water Quality	MECP requested further information on the measures to collect and manage seepage from the CDF to reduce potential effects on Birch Lake water quality.	Since the draft EIS/EA, further engineering has advanced the design of an integrated water management system to collect and control contact water during the construction and operation phases of the Project from the stockpiles, CDF and plant site areas, and water from the open pit is to be recycled and used in processing. The collected contact water not re-used in processing will be treated at the ETP and discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake as needed to maintain the site water balance. Similar water management will continue after operations cease until regulatory requirements for passive discharge from the reclaimed site are met. In addition, the further engineering has been completed to optimize the design of the CDF and includes measures to collect and manage seepage (Section 4.6 of Appendix V-1). The water management measures have been updated in Section 5.10.1, and these measures are included in Section 6.6.4.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	MECP commented that the duration of residual effects to groundwater quality may need to be re-considered and requested further information to support the use of natural physical properties of the bedrock as opposed to a liner, a description of the mitigation measures and a description of the groundwater monitoring program.	Site hydrogeological characterization to date is advanced with over 220 measurements of bedrock hydraulic conductivity (excluding additional data from a long-term pumping test) as well as continuous groundwater level monitoring beginning in fall 2021. The current level of hydrogeological characterization and assessment of the Project is based on multiple lines of evidence that exceed the industry standard of assessment for this stage of Project development based on experience with environmental approvals and construction paths for similar projects. The hydrogeological characterization and assessment have been described in detail in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5) and the Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 3.2), and summarized in Section 6.5.2.1. The Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Appendix A) includes an updated compilation of borehole logs that contain geological descriptions, and borehole logs for installations since 2019. Numerous borings, hydraulic test locations, and groundwater monitoring installations have been located within or directly adjacent to the proposed CDF footprint, including shallow bedrock conductivity testing inside and around of the proposed footprint of the CDF. The bulk hydraulic properties (i.e., the combined properties bedrock fractures and the bedrock matrix on a per volume basis) which are determined by hydraulic tests (such as rising falling head tests in monitoring wells and packer testing) will govern the overall flux of seepage emanating from the CDF to the surrounding receiver waterbodies. Forty-six measurements of hydraulic conductivity have been acquired in the area of the CDF, with 30 of those being conducted in the upper 25 metres. This is more than sufficient for the determination of hydraulic conductivities that are used in the hydrogeological numerical modelling of the CDF. Further, the conclusions drawn from these measured data are consistent with observations of groundwater levels / fluctuations discussed below and provide further lines of supporting evidence. Given the relative difference between hydraulic conductivities of the shallow bedrock underlying the CDF (5.7×10^{-8} metres per second (m/s) for the upper 25 metres based on 30 measurements) and the value for tailings (approximately 10^{-7} m/s), flows will be primarily sub-lateral within the CDF and converge towards the perimeter embankments. This is supported by hydrogeological modelling as described in the Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 3.2). Data acquisition will, however, continue at site at various stages of Project development to meet requirements for detailed design, approvals, and permitting. As part of detailed engineering design of the CDF, a supplemental geotechnical investigative program will be developed for specific areas of the CDF to in inform subsequent design stages and further ensure the design criteria are met. The specific engineering controls to manage seepage will be implemented during construction and include bedrock grouting, where required. The seepage collection ditches have been included and their implementation described in the Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 6) of the EIS/EA. This also includes a discussion of their effectiveness in intercepting groundwater from the CDF. A supplemental hydrogeological characterization program is planned for 2024 based on feedback from the MECP. This program primarily focuses on the characterization of shallow bedrock hydrogeological conditions in the vicinity of the CDF as well as the establishment of additional long-term groundwater monitoring wells. A groundwater monitoring program including overburden and bedrock monitoring wells is established for the site and will be refined and supplemented prior to construction reflecting conditions of approval to verify the groundwater flow and quality outside of the seepage collection ditches during all phases of the Project. A description of this program is provided in Section 12 of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air Quality	MECP requested further information on the air quality assessment for the construction phase of the Project, including the construction and operation of the mine access road, the transmission line and aggregate areas.	The Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G 2, Section 5.1) and Section 6.2.5 of the EIS/EA have been updated and include an assessment of the construction phase activities, including the development of site infrastructure such as the aggregate areas, the construction of the transmission line, and the construction and operation of the mine access road. These activities are also considered as sources of dust and are similar in nature to those of the operations phase (e.g., diesel fleet and earth moving) with respect to the parameters emitted to the air.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air Quality	MECP requested that sample calculations for emission estimates be provided in the final EIS/EA.	The Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2, Section 3.51 and Attachment C) includes the emission calculation methods, emission factors used, and the associated calculations.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested that the criteria used characterize residual effects be described as attributes for clarity.	The criteria have been described as attributes in this final EIS/EA and are used to characterize the residual effects and support the determination of significance, as shown in Table 6.1-4.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested that a description of the environment within these geographical boundaries be provided, and an explanation of how spatial and temporal boundaries of the overall EA study area were determined.	The description of the existing environment within these geographic boundaries has been provided in Section 3.4. An explanation of how the spatial and temporal boundaries of the overall EA study area were determined is explained in Section 3.3.1 and Section 2.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring Groundwater	MECP inquired about the fate of water captured by the collection ditches during closure and any potential effects on water quality.	The ETP will continue to be used if needed during the initial decommissioning / closure phase or will remain available for contingency use. Additional details on water management and associated infrastructure have been included in Section 6.5.4 of the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested clarification on the use of the maximum potential effects to predict environmental effects expected to occur during any phase of the Project.	The maximum effect refers to the greatest potential effect that may occur on the VC due to the Project and is based on the conservative assumptions and approach used in the effects assessment. By using a conservative approach, effects may be overestimated, but this will provide greater certainty that the actual effects will be less than predicted and will also support flexibility to accommodate minor refinements in the design during detailed engineering. This is a common practice used during the EA phase of a Project. This additional information is included in Section 6.1.5.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air Quality	MECP requested the rationale for the selection of the ozone limiting method for the conversion of NO to NO_2, along with the associated supporting data and assumptions.	The ozone limiting method was used to model NO/NO_2 conversion from sources emitting NOx from internal combustion engines using diesel fuels and is a preferred method when chemical transformation is required. Further details on the supporting data and assumptions are included in the Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2, Section 3.5.2) of the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air Quality	MECP requested clarification on the assumptions used to assess the deposition of particulate matter and the rationale for the selection of parameters used to assess the deposition in the air dispersion modelling.	The particle size distribution and characterization used in this assessment is based on the available data derived from the US EPA documents for ore processing and mining processes (AP-42; US EPA 2006). The deposition parameters were determined based on the type of sources (e.g., unpaved roads, blasting, ore handling and crushing) and the associated activities. The Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2, Section 3.5.1) of the EIS/EA includes the calculations used to determine the equivalent diameter and the basis for the particle density for each source or source type.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse gas emissions	MECP requested clarification on the validity of GHG emissions as a VC and the reversibility of effects. A distinction was made regarding the reversibility of residual GHG effects, specifically between GHG emissions (the VC) and atmospheric GHG concentrations.	The Project's effects on atmospheric GHG concentrations are not fully reversible; however, it is recognized that this Project is not expected to have a measurable effect on these GHG concentrations. In contrast, the residual effects of GHG emissions are reversible as the emissions cease once the activities generating GHG emissions no longer occur. Additionally, GHG emissions are measurable at the Project level and both the federal and provincial governments have implemented initiatives to manage and mitigate GHG emissions.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested clarification on the purpose of Section 3 (Existing Environment) and noted that the section should sufficiently detail baseline information to support an assessment of the potential effects of Project alternatives.	The purpose of Section 3 has been clarified in the introduction to note that it represents a contextual description of the geographic area as a whole, focusing on what is reasonably expected to be affected by the Project and on related alternatives considered for the Project. The key baseline information is provided from the baseline reports prepared for the Project within the baseline investigation area over a period of more than 10 years. This baseline information is sufficient to understand the existing environment that is expected to be affected (directly or indirectly) by the Project, and the alternatives considered for the Project. This information supports the assessment of the potential effects from each alternative and has been used to evaluate and compare the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives. Additional details of the existing conditions for each VC are provided in Section 6 to support the effects assessment of the preferred Project, as requested by IAAC.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested that a refined overall EA study area be presented in the final EIS/EA that is representative of the geographical area that will be affected or might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the proposed Project and the alternatives considered.	The refined overall EA study area is presented in Figure 3.3-1 and described in the Existing Conditions Section (3.3.1).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	MECP requested further clarification and rationale on the selection of the runoff coefficients used in the mine site water balance.	The runoff coefficients applied to the water balance modeling were selected based on experience and involvement in numerous mining-related water balance models in the northern Ontario. Runoff coefficients were further informed by Project-specific groundwater modeling (infiltration rates) and gauged flow records. This has been clarified and rationale provided in the Mine Site Water Balance Report (Appendix M-2, Section 5.3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP recommended adding the following provincially regulated conservation reserves to applicable figures in the final EIS/EA: Harth Lake, Whitemud, Bruce Lake, Lac Seul Islands, Trout Lake, Brokenmouth River and Gull-Christina.	These have been included in Figure 3.2-1 and included in other applicable figures in this final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring Fish and fish habitat	MECP requested additional information on how the potential time lag between impact and the implementation of offset measures is addressed, considering that a large proportion of the offsetting and compensation relies on the reclamation of the open pit basin.	Through discussion with government agencies (DFO and the MNRF), fish biomass and surrogates to productivity will be used as the measure of impacts and the measure of offsetting success to allow consistent and readily made revisions to the total impact and total required offsets should a delay in reclamation occur. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators	MECP requested clarification of whether all Project interactions are considered in the assessment of potential effects to the environment.	As a result of Project optimizations, the table of interactions has been reevaluated and updated, as necessary to provide a comprehensive list of potential interactions. For example, it has been clarified that the construction of the mine access road considers the extraction and operation of the aggregate resource areas, the operation of the accommodations complex includes the management of domestic waste, and the operation and maintenance of mine site infrastructure includes the operation of the haul and access roads and other mine infrastructure such as the transmission line. Table 6.1-3 provides a list of Project components and activities during each phase of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators	MECP requested clarification of how the preliminary list of criteria, indicators and data sources in the approved Amended ToR were refined during the EA process, and how each criterion and indicator is considered in the assessment. MECP also requested a final list of the criteria, indicators and data sources be presented in the final EIS/EA. Further, MECP requested clarification on the relationship between the VCs, criteria, indicators and data sources used in the assessment.	During the preparation of the ToR, feedback received through engagement activities with Indigenous communities, government agencies and the public was used in the development of the list of criteria and indicators included in the approved Amended ToR. This list of criteria and indicators was used as the basis for the assessment of the related VCs in the draft EIS/EA. Based on feedback received from Indigenous communities and government agencies during the EA process, the criteria and indicators were refined, where appropriate. MECP identified additional criteria and indicators to be considered in the evaluation of Caribou, and MCM suggested that the Cultural Heritage VC be characterized as Built Heritage. Through the review of the draft EIS/EA, feedback received from Indigenous communities, government agencies and the public was considered in finalizing the list of criteria and indicators. For example, a key comment from Indigenous communities was related to mental health and well-being, which resulted in further consideration and inclusion of this in Section 6.19 and 6.20. It should be noted that the draft EIS/EA used the term "measurable parameters," which refers to the indicators identified in the approved Amended ToR, and this has been updated in the applicable VC effects assessment sections (Section 6.2 to 6.25). Data sources used include the baseline reports for the VCs that have been prepared for the Project and appended to the EIS/EA. These baseline reports relied on a combination of field studies, available TK, various government sources and other relevant sources related to the VC, consistent with the potential sources identified in the approved Amended ToR. A summary of the consultation is included in Section 2, and detailed responses to comments from Indigenous communities and government agencies regarding criteria, indicators and data sources are included in Appendix D-3. Table 6.1-2 includes a final list of criteria, indicators and data sources used for each VC in the EIS/EA. Based on the feedback received on the draft EIS/EA, an updated description of the relationship between VCs, criteria, indicators and data sources used in the assessment is provided in Section 6.1.2.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators	MECP requested that the characterizations of residual effects use the term attributes, for clarity.	The term attributes is used in this final EIS/EA to characterize the residual effects and support the determination of significance, as shown in Table 6.1-4.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators	MECP requested clarification on the screening process used for the assessment of potential effects from Project interactions.	To provide focus to the assessment of potential effects, the professional judgment of technical experts experienced with mining projects in Ontario as well as input from Indigenous communities, government agencies and the public informed the identification of those interactions that are likely to result in a pathway to a potential effect. The rationale for excluding project interactions from the assessment of particular VCs is provided with the screening and shown in the Project interaction table for each VC. Section 6.1.5 has been updated accordingly.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MECP requested additional rationale for the minimum setback proposed for the CDF.	The 120 m setback is defined for the Project in accordance with MNR shoreline surface rights reservation policy, as well as a best practice to minimize impacts to local waterbodies. Additional clarity regarding the proposed setback distance has been provided throughout the final EIS/EA as applicable, and in Section 5.7.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	The MECP requested clarification on the regulatory guidance and Project-specific information that was considered for this assessment of effects of the environment on the Project.	The MECP guide *Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process* (2021) was considered in the EA process, and information related to climate change has been incorporated into various sections of the final EIS/EA, including the existing environmental conditions in Section 3.3.1, the environmental effects of the Project on climate change in Section 6.4 and the effects of climate change on the Project (this section). The potential effects of climate change on the Project have been considered and incorporated in the planning and design of Project infrastructure, as noted in Section 8.5 and 8.10.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Bats	MECP requested the conclusions on residual effects be re-evaluated once updated FRI has been obtained, specifically related to maternal habitat for bats.	Section 6.15.6.1 includes updated calculations of maternity roosting habitat and a re-evaluation of the changes in the amount of this habitat to support the determination of significance. As a result, there is less than a 1% direct loss of maternity roosting habitat in the RSA, and there is a sufficient amount of suitable habitat to support roosting throughout the RSA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Caribou	MECP requested the evaluation of impacts, mitigation, and residual effects for all feasible alternatives for roads, transmission line corridors, and aggregate pits, not just the preferred ones.	An assessment of potential effects on SAR for all alternative routes for the mine access road, transmission line routes, and locations for the aggregate sources are described in Section 4 of the EIS/EA and supported with a detailed analysis in Appendix T using the criteria and indicators recommended by MECP.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	MECP requested further consideration for alternate methods to calculate the low flow condition, and to revise the calculation based on the smaller catchment area due to temporary dewatering of the open pit basin.	The application of a 7Q20 analysis to a lake system, as was done for the riverine sections has been reevaluated for the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.7). A review of methodologies to calculate the low flow condition is included in the analysis, and the most conservative method has been applied at riverine sections. Further, the 7Q20 analysis at the southeast arm of Springpole Lake has been estimated using regression analyses, to account for the reduced catchment area due to the temporary dewatering of a portion of the north basin of Springpole Lake.

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	MECP requested that the rating curve representative of the inlet of Springpole Lake be presented in the final EIS/EA.	The Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.8) includes the rating curves for Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested the inclusion of ammonia as a parameter of concern in the assimilative capacity assessment.	Ammonia has been included in the Surface Water Quality Model (Appendix N-2, Section 3.3) and the assessment of potential effects on the water quality of southeast arm of Springpole Lake (Table 6.6-5).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested clarification of the evaluation approach of treated effluent discharge mixing zone and assimilative capacity, for the worst-case scenario where discharge occurs with the maximum rated capacity of the ETP on a daily basis when the receiver is experiencing the 7-day average low flow over a 20-year period (7Q20). In addition, it was noted that the overprinting of the upper portion of the watershed by the project site was no accounted for in the evaluation.	Discharge of treated effluent from the Project will be protective of the receiving environment and will occur in accordance with federal and provincial approval requirements. The assimilative capacity assessment, including CORMIX modelling, considered multiple sensitivity scenarios to estimate the likely maximum extent of the mixing zone. As water management planning and associated engineering advances, the final maximum extent of the mixing zone and final effluent criteria for the Project will be refined as part of the environmental approvals phase and will follow the procedure outlined in ministry Policy B-1- 5. The Surface Water Quality Modelling (Appendix N-2, Section 3.4.2) includes a revised watershed area to account for the smaller watershed due to overprinting of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested a sensitivity analysis on the density of the treated effluent to better understand the how the mixing zone may be affected.	Due to the rapid mixing characteristics of the discharge location, it is not likely to be a notable impact on the estimated extent of the mixing zone, however a high-level sensitivity analysis on effluent density has been carried out and presented in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2, Section 4.3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested that the change in residence time for Springpole Lake due to the isolation of the open pit basin be quantified and the change incorporated into the assessment of changes in surface water quality.	Flow monitoring at the inflow of Springpole Lake via Cromarty Lake has taken place over more than two years, and the estimated change in residence time in Springpole Lake is 20 days resulting from Project-related effects. This is based on an average flow of 12 m^3/s (or 1,036,800 m^3/day), using a lake volume of 192 Mm^3 prior to construction which is estimated to have an existing residence time of 185 days. After construction of the dikes, the lake volume will be 172 Mm^3, and the residence time will be 165 days. The change in residence time has been considered in the assessment of changes in water quality in Springpole Lake as described in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2, Section 3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested further information on a contingency plan in the event that the water quality in the re-filled pit/previously dewatered area does not meet the proposed target.	Modelling of open pit basin water quality was conducted to predict the physical and chemical evolution of the water column during closure (Appendix N-3). The results show that all water quality parameter values remain below WQG PAL within approximately 4 to 5 years and is thus considered acceptable to report directly to the environment. The predicted water quality of the open pit basin at the time of reconnection to Springpole Lake is presented in Section 6.7.6.2. In post-closure, discharge from the filled open pit basin, runoff from the reclaimed mine site and seepage/contact water from the CDF also reports to the north basin. The predicted water quality of the north basin is below (i.e., better than) WQG PAL for all modelled parameters. Some parameters are estimated to be greater than baseline concentrations in post-closure, largely as a result of the reconnection of the open pit basin and conversative nature of the mass balance model. The greatest increases relative to baseline were generally estimated for sulphate, nitrate, antimony, and cobalt. Note, predicted concentrations of these parameters remain well below WQG PAL. This is further described in Section 6.7.6.2. A detailed monitoring plan will be developed during the environmental approvals phase and will be implemented during re-filling of the open pit basin. The time for refilling will provide considerable time to validate the model predictions, and identify and implement additional mitigation measures, if warranted. Model predictions supporting this contingency plan can be found in Appendix M-2 (Mine Site Water Balance) and Appendix N-2 (Surface Water Quality Model).

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested further analysis using a worse-case scenario if the pit filling period takes longer than anticipated due to lack of available flow.	Springpole Lake is part of a large system with a drainage area of approximately 1,289 km^2 at its inflow. Once mining concludes in approximately Year 10, the open pit basin will start to fill with water by direct precipitation and groundwater infiltration from the surrounding bedrock. Without enhancement, it would take decades (approximately 30 to 40 years) for the open pit basin to refill to the same level as Springpole Lake. To significantly reduce the filling time, supplemental water from Springpole Lake is planned to be transferred to the pit in a controlled manner while maintaining lake water levels within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions. To assess the pit filling time under various climate conditions, wet and dry sequences were developed based on pro-rated historical flow records from the Sturgeon River at McDougall Mills WSC Station (05QA004). The dry year sequence was developed based on data from 1975 to 1981 and represents a 1st percentile flow sequence over the period. The wet year sequence was developed based on data from 2007 to 2010 and represents a 99th percentile flow sequence over the period. The results indicate that during a 99th percentile wet flow sequence, the pit filling time would be reduced to 3.3 years. During a 1st percentile dry flow sequence, the pit filling time would be increased to 6.3 years. Water taking from Springpole Lake accounts for 95% of the inflows to the open pit basin during the pit filling period (direct runoff and groundwater inflows are quite low in relation to the Springpole Lake water takings. At this proposed active filling rate, the combined open pit basin and fish habitat development area would require three to five years to fill to the average natural elevation of Springpole Lake (elevation 391 m amsl), assuming average flow conditions during those years. Table 5.19-2 provides a range of years to fill for the open pit basin, allowing for average conditions as well as the very dry and very wet flow years. The proposed active filling rate would be adjustable to reflect up to 10% of the inflows to Springpole Lake. Based on guidance provided by the DFO's (2013) *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* and Locke and Paul's (2011) *A Desk-top Method for Establishing Environmental Flows in Alberta Rivers and Streams*, a 10% to 15% reduction in instantaneous flows is unlikely to have detectable ecological effects on downstream habitat. Using the more conservative DFO guidance and a proposed active filling rate of up to 10%, the combined dewatered open pit / fish habitat area basin would require three to five years to fill using the current average elevation of Springpole Lake (elevation 391 m amsl) under average flow conditions during those years. With isolation of the basin occurring in the first year of construction (Year -2) and filling beginning in Year 10, the basin can be filled and ready for reconnection to Springpole Lake in approximately Year 13 to Year 15 of the Project. The description of the final reclamation of the open pit has been updated in Section 5.19.3.1 and further described in Section 6.10.6.1. The assessment of potential effects on water quantity in Springpole Lake are described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested clarification on impact of hydraulically isolating the north basin during open pit refilling and the potential negative impact that site drainage and seepage could have on water quality at the outlet of the basin.	The potential effects on surface hydrology in the north basin of Springpole Lake and on downstream watercourses (i.e., the southeast arm of Springpole Lake) during the refilling of the open pit basin are presented in Sections 6.7.6.1. Based on this, surface water quality modelling (Appendix N-2) was completed and included water quality estimates for all these sources, including the outlet of Lake 16 flows, overland runoff / flow from the catchment reporting to the north basin of Springpole Lake, and in final closure also water from the refilled pit basin once it is reconnected to Springpole Lake. Water quality model results indicate that water quality parameters at the outlet of the north basin are less than the applicable water quality guidelines during operation and in final closure (when the pit basin is connected to the north basin of Springpole Lake). The assessment of these potential effects is described further in Section 6.7.6.2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested clarification for the mixing zone for the treated effluent discharge location given the predicted parameter values.	The Project discharge will be protective of the receiving environment and will occur in accordance with federal and provincial approval requirements. The Treated Effluent Discharge Mixing Study (CORMIX; Appendix N-2, Attachment 1) has been updated and indicates that effluent concentrations will meet benchmarks by the end of the mixing zone. The final effluent criteria for the Project will be determined in consultation with the MECP during the environmental approvals phase.
Draft EIS/EA Local and regional, infrastructure and services	MECP requested information on the quantities of domestic waste anticipated to be generated by the Project, the frequency of transporting nonhazardous waste and whether interim onsite storage was considered for the Project. Further, information was requested on the ability of local municipal landfills to accept Project waste.	The following information has been incorporated into the Project description section (Section 5.0) of the final EIS/ EA: A waste storage facility will be located onsite to allow for the nonhazardous waste materials to be collected and sorted appropriately as well as the storage of the hazardous waste materials. Hazardous waste materials will be appropriately handled, stored and segregated within this facility. It is expected that the Project will produce approximately 45,000 to 65,000 m^3 total through construction to closure. Demolition waste generated during the closure phase will be transported off-site to an approved landfill. Waste will be transported on a regular schedule, expected to be once or twice weekly during operations. In addition, the Municipality of Ear Falls has confirmed capacity and approval to accept non-hazardous wastes from the Project (Appendix D).

Table 2.6-15: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Local and regional, infrastructure and services	MECP requested additional information to support the assessment of effects from the Project on local and regional infrastructure, including a description of how municipalities were consulted, what feedback was provided and how comments were considered in the assessment of effects on local and regional infrastructure.	The local municipalities expressed many common interests that could be influenced by the Project. This included increasing the available electrical supply, access routes to the mine site, transportation logistics, and housing shortages. Sioux Lookout supports building an all-season road from Sioux Lookout to Cat Lake First Nation, encouraged the Project to use its municipal services and highlighted the recent expansion of its airport. Dryden described plans to expand its airport as well. Letters of support for the Springpole Project were sent to IAAC and MECP by the Township of Ear Falls (March 15, 2023), Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (May 1, 2023), the Municipality of Sioux Lookout (June 7, 2023) and the Municipality of Red Lake (January 30, 2024). Each letter of support stated the Springpole Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue. Additional information about engagement with local municipalities is included in this Section 2.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Air quality	MECP requested further detail on the dust management plan to mitigate potential effects to vegetation communities and wetlands.	Further details of the dust management plan have been provided in Section 6.2, which includes the application of water spray as needed and supplemented with approved dust suppressants, where required during construction, operation and active closure phases of the Project to mitigate dust emissions from Project roads and mineral stockpiles. The assessment of the effect of dust on vegetation is included in Section 6.11.7.2, using the methodology outlined in Section 6.11.5 and applies the relevant mitigation from the dust management plan in Section 6.11.4.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Groundwater	MECP requested clarification of the volume of seepage, and a description of the measures to manage seepage. Further information on the baseline conditions of water quality in the north basin of Springpole Lake was requested.	Section 6.5.4 describes mitigation measures for the siting of the CDF which include locating the facility on favourable geologic conditions to support long-term stability and effective seepage management. Further, a geosynthetic clay liner will be installed on the upstream side of the perimeter embankment of the CDF south cell (specifically the south, west, and east sides) to mitigate seepage potential during the operation and closure phases. The volume of seepage predicted during operation and closure is provided in Section 6.7.6.2 for the north basin of Springpole Lake and use to undertake the assessment of potential effects. Section 6.6.4 and Section 6.7.4 provide a description of the mitigation to address potential effects to water quality. It includes an integrated water management system will be designed to collect and control contact water during the construction and operation phases of the Project from the stockpiles, CDF and plant site areas, and water from the open pit to be recycled and used in processing. The collected contact water not used in processing will be treated at the effluent treatment plant and discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake as needed to maintain the site water balance. Similar water management will continue after operations cease until regulatory requirements for passive discharge from the reclaimed site are met. Seepage collection, perimeter ditching, and the associated ponds will be designed during the detailed engineering phase in support of environmental approvals. As described in Section 6.6.1.2, and Section 6.7.2, the extensive baseline surface water quality and aquatics program has been implemented over the last 10 years and as it meets / exceeds best industry standards for a Project at this stage.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Hydrology	MECP requested further information on the design criteria for site water management infrastructure to minimize the potential impacts of storm events.	Seepage collection, perimeter ditching, and the associated ponds will be designed during the detailed engineering phase in support of environmental approvals. It is anticipated that the mine site runoff collection systems will also be designed to contain a 1:100-year flood event during operation, and a 1 in 25-year event for the construction phase will be the design basis for these features, based on experience with other mining projects in northern Ontario. Section 5.12.1 provides further detail on the design criteria for site water management infrastructure.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Surface Water Quality	MECP requested additional information and assurance that contact water could be collected and managed to appropriate design storms and that sufficient space was available to contain the required volumes.	Additional analysis was completed in 2024 for the design of seepage and runoff collection systems. As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified. Section 9.9 has been updated to clarify that although the short-term construction phase water management will use more frequent design events (i.e., 1:10-year), the operations phase water management facilities will be designed to accommodate and contain a 1:100-year, 24-hour storm event. A summary of the additional analyses to support the design criteria has been added to Section 9.10. The assessment of the effects of the environment on the Project (Section 8.6) has also been updated to include additional information that describe the resiliency of the overall water management system to extreme rainfall events, including the ability to use the open pit for additional storage in the event of an extreme precipitation event.

2.6.2.3 Ministry of Natural Resources

As described in Section 2.4.2, the MNR administers legislation related to natural resources and forestry, including the Ontario *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* (S.O. 1994m c. 25). FMG has consulted with the MNR regarding sustainable resource management in mining projects, overseeing environmental protection, forestry practices, and land use planning. Advice from the MNR has included topics related to responsible/environmental conscientious resource development in the province to ensure the conservation of natural resources.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the MNR in 2018 and have been engaging since as described below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by MNR into the final EIS/EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to MNR organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and MNR up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from the MNR on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-19 and Appendix C.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the MNR related to the key EA milestones prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by these milestones. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the MNR prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

The MNRF and FMG met on May 11, 2018, to discuss FMG's participation in the Cat Lake/Slate Falls Land Use Planning Committee process. FMG noted that it would check back with the Chiefs to see how they see FMG and the Land Use Planning group engaging moving forward.

On August 26, 2021, the MNRF provided FMG with a letter regarding the Project in relate to its mandate of natural resources management to assist FMG in structuring its efforts during the EA process.

FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies on December 3, 2021.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

On June 2, 2020, FMG provided responses to the MNRF's comments on the draft ToR.

On October 6, 2020, the MECP provided FMG with the MNRF's comments on the ToR. On January 10, 2021, FMG provided responses to the MNRF's comments on the ToR to the MECP to circulate.

Baseline Studies

On October 10, 2018, FMG held a meeting with the MNRF to discuss the ESA in preparation for baseline studies. On January 4, 2019, FMG provided an update to the MNRF regarding the Caribou study on the proposed access road.

The MNRF and FMG had a phone call on November 13, 2018, to discuss trapline holders near the Project site.

The MNRF and FMG had a phone call on April 30, 2021, to discuss the Project's hydrology program including the installation and removal of flumes and weirs. On June 8, 2021, FMG provided the MNRF with a document containing additional information on the flumes and follow up with advice shared by DFO on July 8, 2021. On December 6, 2021, the MNRF confirmed its support for FMG's proposed plan and FMG provided the memorandum documenting the removal of the flume structure on August 8, 2022.

On November 30, 2021, FMG requested clarification from the MNRF regarding Lake Sturgeon in rivers in the Project vicinity. WSP noted that its data do not identify Lake Sturgeon in Springpole Lake or Birch Lake, nor does WSP Broadscale Monitoring data. The MNRF responded on December 7, 2021, clarifying the inclusion of Lake Sturgeon due to records of the species in waterbodies near the Project site. The MNRF included a shapefile with local observations.

On September 21, 2021, WSP inquired if the scientific collectors permit for inland lakes had been processed. The MNRF responded on the same day noting that it was in progress and asked WSP to provide a map of the inland lakes that would be sampled. WSP provided the requested map. On March 22, 2022, WSP provided the MNRF with the scientific collection licence application for the spring 2022 baseline aquatic studies and noted it would be submitting the summer 2022 application shortly. The MNRF requested clarification on March 29, 2022. FMG responded on April 6, 2022, providing clarification and a comment-response table with additional information. The MNRF responded on April 12, 2022, providing additional information. FMG responded the next day providing a second round of responses to comments. The MNRF approved the application on May 9, 2022.

On September 2, 2021, the MNRF provided FMG with information on a boat cache program in the Northwest Region. The MNRF provided the application for FMG to return upon completion. On October 19, 2021, FMG provided the MNRF with four completed applications for the boat cache program. FMG followed up on April 4, 2022, to inquire about the status of the applications.

On September 29, 2021, the MECP provided FMG with comments on the baseline reports from the MNRF. On November 11, 2021, FMG provided the MECP with responses to MNRF comments on the baseline studies. On December 13, 2021, the MECP provided additional feedback from the MNRF on the baseline studies based on FMG's responses to comments. FMG provided responses to the follow-up comments on March 10, 2022. The MNRF followed up on March 22, 2022, requesting clarification related to its request for data on the Cat Lake-Slate Falls Community Land Use Plan. FMG responded on April 5, 2022, providing clarification on the data it was looking to obtain from the Cat Lake-Slate Falls Community Based Land Use Plan. FMG noted it understood that the STPN of CLFN, SFN and LSFN Springpole Environment Committee was having difficulty gathering geographic information systems files from the NDMNRF and were looking to support them in obtaining the files.

Assessment of Alternatives

Consultation with the MNR related to the Assessment of Alternatives is described in Section 2.6.2.1 and in the Post-draft EIS/EA section below.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the MNR related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

Baseline Studies

On August 21, 2022, WSP provided the MNRF with an update on the Springpole Lake Broadscale Monitoring Program including catch data, number of nets and a graph. FMG also provided the MNRF with species-specific catch results and details regarding the BsM Studies. WSP indicated that additional BsM updates would be provided going forward. The MNRF responded on August 23, 2022, providing written approval to exceed the fish mortality limit specified in the licence for the BsM program. The MNRF indicated to WSP that an official amendment to the licence would be provided shortly. WSP responded the next day providing the MNRF and DFO with summarized field data. WSP indicated that the annual study report would be forthcoming. The MNRF acknowledged receipt of the data. On August 31, 2022, the MNRF provided an official amendment to the fish licence and provided details on the type of fish sampled in the new amendment. WSP provided the MNRF with a signed copy of the amended licence the same day.

On August 29, 2022, the MNRF Wildlife Animal Care Committee reviewed and approved WSP small mammal sampling protocol for the Project baseline studies. The MNRF then provided details for WSP regarding additional submission requirements for its licence renewal for 2023. On September 6, 2022, the MNRF notified WSP that the application for a Wildlife Scientific Collector's Authorization for the Projects baseline studies was approved. WSP responded the next day providing the signed permit and conditions documents, as well as its anticipated work timeline. On September 15, 2022, FMG provided the MNRF with a Wildlife Animal Care Committee licence to be updated for deploying collars on Caribou. The MNRF responded asking for the new dates for the Caribou Program. FMG responded providing the timeline. On September 16, 2022, the MNRF provided WSP with a form and instructions to indicate that no work was been done in 2022 regarding telemetry collars on Caribou. In response, WSP returned the completed form to the MNRF. On October 1, 2022, the MNRF emailed FMG, copying the MECP, informing them that the MNRF Wildlife Animal Care Committee reviewed and approved FMG's amended Caribou telemetry protocol.

On April 4, 2023, FMG emailed the MNRF informing them that WSP (on behalf of FMG) has completed an additional review of anomalous data points presented in the 2019-2020 Aquatic Resources Assessment and the 2021 Aquatic Resources Baseline Report as a follow-up to a comment shared by the reviewer on the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided hyperlinks to the two updated appendices where corrections to the data were made.

On May 30, 2023, WSP provided the MNRF with the January 26 to February 6, 2023, Caribou Program and Aerial Survey Interim Report/Technical Memo and associated data as per ESA permit conditions for SAR. The MNRF acknowledged receipt of the report the following day. On June 15, 2023, the MNRF confirmed approval of the Caribou program protocol. The MNRF also provided additional details about the protocol approval and provided a document that outlines the recommended handling guidelines which should be followed.

On July 27, 2023, FMG provided the MNRF with a Work Permit Application package regarding the proposed construction of the temporary winter access road between the Wenasaga Road and the Springpole exploration camp. FMG noted that the potential Land Use Permit application for a gate would be presented later, after the completion of the consultation process. The MNRF confirmed that it would review the package as well as proceed with the Category C EA process.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources

(e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments from the MNR and responses from FMG on the draft EIS/EA is provided below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

- August 2022 – The MNRF provided its comments on the draft EIS/EA to FMG.
- March 2023 – FMG provided responses to the MNRF's general comments on the draft EIS/EA and comments related to fish and fish habitat.
- April 2023 - FMG provided responses to the MNRF's comments related to terrestrial wildlife and habitat.
- July 2023 - The MNRF confirmed that it did not have any additional comments.

Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve questions prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-14). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

Efforts to notify holders of Bear Management Areas, Bait Harvest Areas and traplines, as well as outfitters that are within the Project's RSA have been made by FMG, as recommended by the MNRF in its draft EIS/EA comments.

On January 4, 2023, FMG requested contact information for the holders of Bear Management Areas, Bait Harvest Areas, and traplines that overlap with the Project to notify them of the Project, as recommended by the MNRF in the draft EIS/EA comments. FMG provided the baitfish and bear management areas for which it would like contact information to inform the final EIS/EA. On January 6, 2023, the MNRF provided contact information for the baitfish and bear management areas and noted that it was happy to support FMG with sending out an information package to the trappers in preparation of the final EIS/EA. FMG emailed the MNRF on January 17, 2023, requesting that the MNRF distribute EA progress update letters to trapline holders in the Project area on FMG's behalf. FMG noted the intention to mail pre-package individual envelopes with the information letters and postage to the MNRF and provided a list of applicable trapline areas. FMG followed up on January 31, 2023, requesting the MNRF to distribute a notice to trapline holders in the Project area regarding an upcoming Wolverine study on behalf of FMG. The MNRF responded notifying FMG that it would send the notice but provided instructions for future distribution of notices. FMG responded on February 27, 2023, informing the MNRF that another notification would be made to the trapline holders and requested that the MNRF share the contact information for one of the outfitters. The MNRF responded providing the contact information for the outfitter, and FMG responded informing the MNRF that it anticipated having the letters and envelopes ready over the next week for the MNRF.

On September 15, 2023, FMG emailed the MNRF providing a letter with an update on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and provided information on the three members, as well as next steps for the board. FMG offered to answer any questions but did not receive any.

In response to an email from the Ministry of Northern Development dated November 27, 2023, FMG advised the Ministry on December 18, 2023, that FMG can provide information on any topic of interest upon request. FMG also encouraged the ministry to visit FMG's website to review the draft EIS/EA and provided a link to

the website. WSP (on behalf of FMG) emailed the MNRF on January 31, 2024, providing a written report (Wolverine study) aligned with Condition 3 of Schedule A to Wildlife Scientific Collector's Authorization #1102533 and offered to address any questions. On February 5, 2024, FMG emailed the MNRF providing a list of trapline holders and requested that the MNRF confirm if the list is still current. FMG had a phone call with the MNRF on February 12, 2023, and the MNRF confirmed it had mailed out the Trapper Notification Letters on FMG's behalf. On February 16, 2024, in response to an email from FMG on February 5, 2024, the MNRF provided up-to-date information on trapline holders to FMG.

On February 22, 2024, WSP (on behalf of FMG) emailed the MNRF providing a letter detailing updates to the FHOCP, including information about the current fish habitat offsetting objectives, for the MNRF's consideration. WSP offered to schedule a call to discuss if required. A meeting to discuss the FHOCP was held with the MNRF on March 27, 2024.

FMG emailed the MNRF on March 18, 2024, requesting a copy of WFN's TK information from the MNRF permitting process for consideration in the final EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-16: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives	MNR provided comments during consultation and engagement on the assessment of alternatives.	These comments resulted in the following alternatives that were considered in the EIS/EA: • Potential use of renewable power sources (considered under power supply); • Dike locations; • Treated effluent discharge locations; and • Additional routing alternatives for the mine access road.
Assessment of Alternatives Mitigation and Monitoring, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested further information on the evaluation of impacts, mitigation and residual effects of all feasible road, hydro corridors, and aggregate pit alternatives in the effects assessment, not just the preferred alternative.	An assessment of alternative routes has been prepared for the mine access road, transmission line routes and locations for aggregate sources as required by the Federal and Provincial legislation, and in accordance with the Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines (Appendix B-1 for the final EIS/EA) and the approved Amended Terms of Reference (Appendix B-3). The assessment of these Project components is found in Section 4.
Assessment of Alternatives Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested clarification on how the removal of terrestrial habitat, mortality, invasive species and habitat for bat prey were evaluated in the assessment of alternatives and noted an interest in evaluating negative effects from removing habitat, where there are marked differences. MNR also requested clarification on the analysis of changes in wildlife movement and the attraction of nuisance wildlife resulting in mortality.	These items are addressed with indicators in the assessment of alternatives in Section 4.0 under the potential effect on terrestrial species and habitat criteria. Where these specific items are material to the evaluation of these indicators, additional explanation is provided in the assessment of the specific alternative in the alternative assessment tables.
Baseline studies Birds	MNR requested surveys for EWPW be conducted in person and with ARUs to identity locations of bird use, as well as suitable habitat, particularly inland at the site footprint and along preferred linear corridors.	Baseline surveys for EWPW for the Project have significantly expanded the baseline knowledge for EWPW in both distribution and abundance of this SAR in this region of Ontario. Prior to these baseline survey efforts, there were no confirmed records of EWPW in this region. Given the lack of detections up to 2021 and the uncertainty associated with the prevalence and distribution of this SAR in the boreal region of Ontario. As a result of this input, EWPW surveys were expanded in 2021 in both spatial extent and sampling effort to attempt to detect this species. Survey efforts were expanded in 2022 across a suite of suitable habitat types and were conducted in accordance with the *Draft Survey Protocol for Eastern Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus) Ontario* (MNRF 2014a). The ARUs were used in 2022 due to their success in 2021, and as recommended by ECCC, as this recording method allows the deployment and detection of species in areas during times when point counts could be difficult, un-safe or impractical for human observers to conduct. In addition, EWPW habitat has been modelled using data from the vegetation and habitat surveys in 2022, as well as a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) model that was developed in conjunction with the MNR (prior to the MECP adopting the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* [SO 2007, c. 6] program) for linear corridor EAs in northwestern Ontario. The details and resultant model surface pertaining to this HSI for EWPW is provided in the updated Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P) and Section 6.16. This HSI is used to identify the distribution of all suitable habitat for EWPW in the baseline investigation area, irrespective of whether the species has been confirmed in all locations with quality habitat.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested additional baseline data to support the assessment of fish and fish habitat.	A full lake provincial standard BsM study was completed in 2022 (Appendix O). The BsM was used to calibrate a full lake hydroacoustic fish community study also completed in 2022. Lower trophic level (chlorophyll a, phytoplankton and zooplankton) studies (multi-year and multi-season) were completed throughout Springpole Lake and adjacent comparable locations in Birch Lake. Reviewers also requested additional habitat data for the nearshore areas of Birch Lake adjacent to the Project and therefore supplemental habitat characterization of nearshore areas of Birch Lake was completed in 2022. Further detail on this study is provided in Section 6.10.2.2.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested clarification regarding statements that Lake Sturgeon are absent from Springpole Lake or are in extremely low abundance within the Birch River / Cat River system.	A full lake BsM and hydroacoustic survey was completed in Springpole Lake in 2022 (Appendix O). To gather more data on Lake Sturgeon, a targeted large mesh netting in Springpole Lake coupled with a two-season (spring and summer) eDNA metabarcoding sampling program in Springpole Lake, Birch Lake and regional stations (Cat River) was completed in 2022. Additional targeted eDNA quantitative polymerase chain reaction sampling of historical observations and spawning areas was completed within Springpole Lake, Cat River, Lake St. Joseph outflow, Birch Lake and Birch River in 2023. The studies confirmed that the deep basins within Springpole Lake and Birch Lake were similar in fish species composition and lower trophic conditions concluding that temporary isolation of one deep basing will not alter the ability of the remailing 94 % of Springpole Lake to maintain all resident fish species. Further detail on these studies is provided in Section 6.10.2.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested that a BsM study be conducted to determine the status of the fish community in Springpole Lake.	A full BsM program was completed in 2022 on Springpole Lake following standardized provincial protocols (Appendix O) and modified to address the request from the MNRF to reduce the number of deep-water net sets in the 12-metre (m) to 35 m strata and to increase the number of net sets in the 1 to 12 m strata.

Table 2.6-16: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested clarification and further information on the fisheries and aquatic baseline reports, specifically the methods applied to the fish habitat surveys, fish community surveys and fish tissue analysis.	Supplementary studies were conducted for Springpole Lake during 2022, including the north basin where controlled dewatering is proposed. The studies included a full lake BsM program, ongoing lower trophic level studies, a lake-wide hydroacoustic fish community survey, and multiple eDNA metabarcoding surveys. The BsM program was completed on Springpole Lake following standardized provincial protocols but was modified to address the request from the MNR to reduce the number of deepwater net sets in the 12 m to 35 m strata and to increase the number of net sets in the 1 m to 12 m strata. Subsequent discussion with DFO lead to additional deep strata nets sets added back into the program. The additional data collected from these studies, in combination with previously collected aquatic data, supports the previous descriptions of fish communities provided in the draft EIS/EA and further enhances the understanding of fish abundance and distribution throughout the Springpole Lake. The results from the BsM program and the hydroacoustic program have been updated in the Baseline Aquatic Resources Report (Appendix O-4) and summarized in Section 3.4.8.
Baseline studies Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested clarification on the sufficiency of mercury reporting to support the assessment of potential effects on the fish communities in Springpole and Birch lakes.	Additional mercury sampling during an index netting program was recommended to provide a more representative sample. Considering this feedback, additional fish tissue sampling was completed during the 2022 BsM program on Springpole Lake (Appendix O-4).
Baseline studies Hydrology	MNR requested consideration for the establishment of levelloggers outside Springpole Lake, and the inclusion of information on drainage areas and elevations.	The 2021 hydrology field program included the installation of lake levelloggers in Birch Lake, L-1, L-19 and Dole Lake. The field data includes drainage area, and the maximum, minimum and mean elevations, and is presented in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.3).
Baseline studies Surface Water Quality	MNR requested further detail on the surface water quality sampling methods used for the field program, including guidelines and/or protocols followed for sampling and, QA/QC methods.	The Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 2.3) includes the description of the methods used and including QA/QC measures.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested clarification and further information on the vegetation species list collected during the period of 2011 to 2019.	The results for the vegetation surveys in 2019, and subsequently in 2021 and 2022, are more robust and as a result have been emphasized in this final EIS/EA. The historical data obtained in 2011 and 2012 were used to provide context to inform species presence in species lists. Ground-truthing vegetation surveys have been extensively undertaken since 2019, including 90 plots in 2019, 111 plots in 2021 and an additional 288 plots in 2022. This information has been used to further refine local levels of detail per ecosite and is included in the updated Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P), Section 6.11 and Section 3.4.9 of the final EIS/EA. Further, the mapping used in the draft EIS/EA included ecological land classification / forest ecological classification / wetlands and has been subsequently updated in this final EIS/EA.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested clarification on the information used to characterize and assess wetlands.	Wetland evaluations have been updated in this final EIS/EA and the information used is based on data collected from the 2021 to 2023 field surveys, as described in the updated Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P). The conclusions relative to wetland significance have been subsequently updated and include a re-evaluation of wetland categorizations based on the 2021 to 2023 data. This has been clarified in Section 3.4.9 and Section 6.11.
Baseline studies Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested clarification on methods used in terrestrial baseline studies and further information on inconsistencies in reporting.	The historical data obtained in 2011 and 2012 were used to provide context to inform species presence in species lists, and to avoid confusion, the final EIS/EA will not include these results. The supplemental field studies conducted since 2021 have been used to update the Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P) and are summarized in Section 3.4.9. As a result, inconsistencies between Section 3, Section 6 and Appendix P have been addressed.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR commented on the use of Far North Land Cover Classification vegetation data. MNR also recommended that updated FRI data be used for the vegetation assessments.	Updated 2021 FRI data has been received from MNRF that has increased the spatial coverage within the RSA for the final EIS/EA. The 2021 FRI data has been used in the Baseline Terrestrial Report (Appendix P) and in the assessment of potential effects on vegetation communities and wetlands for the final EIS/EA.
Baseline studies Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested clarification on the time of year that wetland evaluations were completed.	A detailed summary of the methodology and timing of the wetland evaluation has been incorporated into the baseline terrestrial report (Appendix P).

Table 2.6-16: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR noted that wildlife observations (including Wolverine) should be shown in more of the RSA in applicable figures in the EIS/EA.	A dedicated Wolverine program was initiated in February 2023 and continued during 2024 to collect additional baseline information for inclusion in the EIS/EA and to support future permitting. Baseline data were collected on Wolverine demographics (including sex, age, structure), occupancy / population density, habitat use and dispersal and areas of concentration / activity centres. The Wolverine program used a tessellated hexagon approach (a pattern of repeating hexagons that fit together without gaps or overlaps) in which one station per subset of selected hexagons overlaid on the RSA is placed in the most suitable habitat within the hexagon (usually along a river / lake or ridge). The stations include dual cameras and hair traps, and collect information on Wolverine identification, sex and genotype. The cameras and hair traps can provide data on familial relationships, effective population size, dispersal patterns from DNA, survival rates in multi-year studies, lactation in females, centres of activity, population density using capture-recapture models, and behavioural information such as the association of individuals based on the date and time stamp on photographs. Further details on the Wolverine program methods and results are included in the Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P-1, Section 2.6 and Section 3.4, respectively). Figure 6.14-2 of the EIS/EA shows the observations of Wolverine during all baseline investigation programs.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested further consideration of the FMP for FMZ 4 for the management of potential effects on recreational fishery opportunities.	The potential loss of fish productivity for Birch Lake and Springpole lake due to the Project is assessed in Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat) and Appendix F (FHOCP) and takes into consideration the FMP for FMZ 4. The potential loss of access to recreational fisheries is discussed in Section 6.18.6.1. With Project mitigation measures, there are no anticipated effects on fish productivity or access to recreational fisheries.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested clarification on potential effects to the food web / primary productivity.	Detailed investigations and studies have been completed for the Project and provide comparison of lower trophic data and fish community data for Springpole lake and adjacent Birch Lake sufficient to assess the potential effects of the isolated open pit basin. Results show comparable primary resources in the six deep water sample stations in Springpole Lake and two stations in Birch Lake, and a high degree of similarity between the three most northern stations in the north basin of Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested additional information on how the isolation of the basin and removal of fish from the isolated areas would occur.	Additional detail of the isolation procedure including methods, timing and other mitigation measures has been added to Section 5.6.1.2, Section 6.10.4 and the FHOCP (Appendix F, Section 5.2.3). Detailed discussion on controlled dewatering rates and procedure for the isolated basin has been added. Additional description of the fish removal (mitigation) is also provided, including a strategy suggested by DFO where isolation of the basin during the spring may reduce the number of Lake Trout and Walleye entrained in the basin.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested clarification on the resource management plan identifying the management of Lake Trout.	Section 3.4.8 was clarified to note that Springpole and Birch Lakes are listed as naturally reproducing Lake Trout lakes on the provincial List of Lakes Designated for Lake Trout Management. However, MNR noted that dispositions under the Mining Act are exempt from the Lake Trout policy.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	MNR requested clarification on the fate of seepage from the CDF, particularly during closure.	Seepage is conservatively assumed to report directly to Birch Lake, Lake L-16 and the north basin of Springpole Lake. The potential influence of seepage on surface water is conservatively modelled as a mass balance and does not account for any attenuation of concentrations along the seepage flow path. No surface water quality parameters are projected to occur at concentrations greater than water quality guidelines in post-closure. This has been described in the Mine Site Water Balance (Appendix M-2, Section 5), including inputs for seepage based on the closure design concept. Water quality results are provided in Section 6.6.5. Additional technical discussion and modelling details are provided in the Receiver Water Balance (Appendix M-3, Section 3) and the Surface Water Quality Modelling report (Appendix N-2, Section 3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Outdoor recreation	MNR noted that the assessment on outdoor recreation did not appear to consider the changes in navigation at the outlet of Springpole Lake, which includes a series of Class I and II rapids, that may be impacted by changing water levels during the controlled refilling of the open pit at closure.	Section 6.8 provides an assessment of the potential effects on water quantity (including flows) due to the Project. The maximum potential reduction in water level for an average year during the period when the open pit basin is being refilled would be within natural variation at approximately 13 cm (Appendix M-1). This change is well within the observed range of existing water levels (0.9 to 2.0 m) during the summer period (June to October) and is not anticipated to have an effect on navigation.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Outdoor recreation	MNR commented that the term measurable parameter suggests the use of quantitative assessments whereas some identified parameters were qualitative.	The term has been changed to indicators, as illustrated in Section 6.18.1.4.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Outdoor recreation	MNR noted several Indigenous hunting and fishing camps on the shores of Springpole Lake, south of the exploration camp, in which there may be changes to access due to the Project.	Available information regarding Indigenous land and resource use and potential impacts on those uses is addressed in Section 6.21.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested a summary and assessment of significant wildlife habitat likely to be present in the vicinity of the Project.	The updated Baseline Terrestrial Resources Report (Appendix P) includes an assessment of candidate and confirmed significant wildlife habitat using provincial guidelines. A summary of the results has been included in Section 3.4.10.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Commercial land and resource use	MNR requested further information on the number of Bear Management Areas (BMA) within the applicable study areas and requested clarification on the measures used to mitigate the potential loss of access for the holders of the BMAs.	The numbers of identified BMAs have been updated in Section 6.18.2.1. The mitigation measures outlined for potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat in this final EIS/EA, and prohibition of hunting within the controlled access portion of the Project area will reduce potential effects on BMAs.

Table 2.6-16: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	MNR asked for more details about Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measures and additional documentation and data to describe species absence and the likely cause of Lake Sturgeon absence.	The Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measure has been revised to a two-step measure: 1) collect additional data and information and 2) implement reintroduction / enhancement measures. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested further details on how the reclaimed basin will provide habitat similar to existing conditions for Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish and, where possible, examples of similar reclamation activities.	Additional examples of successful fisheries established in former open pits are provided in this final EIS/EA along with more detailed plans for the fish habitat development area and reclaimed basin. Drawings and descriptions of the grading and surface treatments including habitat features have been added to the FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested additional rationale for the strategic stocking and micro hatchery measure, as well as assurance that it would not unbalance natural communities.	Several comments from Indigenous communities and government agencies indicated a lack of support for this measure, and as a result, it has been removed from the preferred offsetting and compensation measures detailed in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Outdoor recreation	MNR requested further information on the navigability of waterbodies in the Project development area and measure to mitigate adverse effects on the portage route between Springpole and Birch Lake.	A summary of potentially navigable water bodies is included in Table 6.18-4. Additional information on measures to mitigate changes in the portage route between Springpole and Birch Lake has been included in Section 6.18.6.4.
Draft EIS/EA Commercial land and resource use, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested further information on the number of BMAs within the applicable study areas and requested clarification on the measures used to mitigate the potential loss of access for the holders of the BMAs.	The numbers of identified BMAs have been updated in Section 6.18.2.1. The mitigation measures outlined for potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat in this final EIS/EA, and prohibition of hunting within the controlled access portion of the Project area will reduce potential effects on BMAs.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators	MNR commented that the term measurable parameter suggests the use of quantitative assessments whereas some identified parameters were qualitative.	The term has been changed to indicators, as illustrated in Section 6.18.1.4. Further, the MNR noted several Indigenous hunting and fishing camps on the shores of Springpole Lake, south of the exploration camp, in which there may be changes to access due to the Project. Available information regarding Indigenous land and resource use and potential impacts on those uses is addressed in Section 6.21.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators, Birds	MNR requested further information on the rationale for the zone of influence.	Section 6.16.1.3 describes the LSA as the area intended to capture potential direct effects from the Project (such as habitat loss) and indirect effects (such as sensory disturbance) which could extend beyond the PDA. The zone of influence is the area between the spatial footprint of an activity and the extent of the activity's effects on the surrounding habitat, and includes consideration for changes in air quality, noise and groundwater as described in Section 6.16.5.
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested clarification on the zone of influence used for the assessment of potential effects on Wolverine and other wildlife species.	The LSA is intended to capture potential direct effects from the Project (such as habitat loss) and indirect effects (such as sensory disturbance) resulting from the Project. Direct effects could only occur within the PDA; however, indirect effects could extend beyond the PDA. As a result, the area within the LSA is considered for the maximum zone of influence and is refined based on available literature and direction received from the MECP. This is further described in Section 6.14.5.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	MNR requested clarification to the terms used to describe study areas in the draft EIS/EA.	Study areas used for the baseline reports have evolved based on previous results, optimization of the Project and input provided by Indigenous communities and government agencies. The baseline investigation areas include all combined study areas used during the baseline studies. In terms of the study areas used for the assessment of potential effects, three study areas are defined Section 6.14.1.3. This has also been clarified in Section 6.1.3 of the EIS/EA, and the terminology has been used throughout the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Bats	MNR requested further clarification on the study area used for the assessment of indirect effects on bats.	The LSA is intended to capture potential direct effects from the Project (such as habitat loss) and indirect effects (such as sensory disturbance) resulting from the Project. Direct effects could occur only within the PDA; however, indirect effects could extend beyond the PDA. As a result, the LSA will be considered instead of a zone of influence. This has been clarified in Section 6.15.1.3.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Bats	MNR requested further analysis of the effects on food sources for bats that may be linked to the loss of aquatic habitat that supports aerial insects with an aquatic larval stage.	Section 6.15.6 below provides an assessment of the direct loss and indirect effects on foraging habitat for SAR bats. Given the relatively small area of foraging habitat directly lost (0.4% of the RSA) and the availability of alternative foraging habitat adjacent to the Project, residual effects on foraging habitat are not predicted.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Birds	MNR requested further clarification on the suitability of the study area for the assessment of effects at the regional scale to evaluate cumulative effects on the populations of SAR birds.	The LSA for SAR birds is described in 6.16.1.3and is defined as a 2km buffer from the PDA, which includes consideration of direct overprinting of habitat, as well as indirect effects associated with sensory disturbance. Based on recommendations from ECCC to consider watersheds and patterns in land cover, the RSA has been redefined and includes consideration for the use of ecologically defined boundaries
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Birds	MNR requested clarification on the assessment of SAR bird mortality associated with the decommissioning phase as it could result in the loss of nesting habitat by some species.	Habitat supporting SAR birds is conservatively assumed to be removed from within the PDA during the construction phase. As a result, the likelihood that these species would continue to use these areas during operations and closure is reduced, and therefore the risk of mortality during closure would be lower. The risk of mortality for SAR birds is assessed in Section 6.16.6 and it has been determined that with the implementation of mitigation measures such as buffers, speed limits, timing windows for vegetation clearing, and pre-construction nest surveys, the potential effects would be mitigated and there would be no residual effects.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Birds	MNR requested further analysis of the impacts on SAR birds, mitigation and residual effects from controlled dewatering and water management activities within the open pit basin associated with the Project.	The changes in the surface water catchments as a result of these activities, including applicable mitigation measures, have been included in the assessment of potential changes in vegetation communities and wetlands, as described in Section 6.11.6 of the final EIS/EA, and the results of these changes have been carried forward into the assessment of potential effects on SAR birds.

Table 2.6-16: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Caribou	MNR requested the evaluation of impacts, mitigation, and residual effects for all feasible alternatives for roads, transmission line corridors, and aggregate pits, not just the preferred ones.	An assessment of potential effects on SAR for all alternative routes for the mine access road, transmission line routes, and locations for the aggregate sources are described in Section 4 of the EIS/EA and supported with a detailed analysis in Appendix T using the criteria and indicators recommended by MECP.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	MNR requested further information on the potential effects of flooding on adjacent land/water basins as a result of the construction of the dams to facilitate dewatering be considered.	Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin is expected to take approximately six months to complete, based on continuous (24-hour, 7-day per week) pumping at a rate that is able to maintain Springpole Lake water levels within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions. The volume of the proposed open pit basin within Springpole Lake ranges is approximately 18 Mm^3, consistent with the bathymetric survey. Water flows and levels have been monitored over a period of 2.5 years, and have shown an average monthly inflow to Springpole Lake ranging from 21.3 m^3/s in June to 5.0 m^3/s in March, with an observed annual natural variation in flow of 16.3 m^3/s. Further, the average water level of Springpole Lake ranges from 391.78 m amsl in June to 390.79 m amsl in March, showing a maximum natural variation of 2.1 m (Appendix M-1). Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin will be completed in a manner to mitigate potential environmental effects by managing and monitoring flow rates. The six-month timeframe has been determined based on the receiving capacity of Springpole Lake to accept an increase in flow, limited to 10% of the instantaneous natural flow through Springpole Lake. The 10% threshold has been applied as a mitigation measure and is consistent with the DFO guidance document *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* (DFO 2013). Within the framework, DFO provides a national technical guidance that cumulative flow alterations of less than 10% in amplitude of the actual (instantaneous) flow relative to a "natural flow regime" have a low probability of detectable impacts to ecosystems. During the dewatering activities, a continuous flow monitoring station at the inlet and outlet of Springpole Lake will be used to provide a running average flow that will be used to inform the actual dewatering rate consistent with anticipated permit conditions. This has been described in Section 5.7.1.2. The potential effects of dewatering are described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	MNR requested that the change in residence time for Springpole Lake due to the isolation of the open pit basin be quantified and the change incorporated into the assessment of changes in surface water quality.	Flow monitoring at the inflow of Springpole Lake via Cromarty Lake has taken place over more than two years, and the estimated change in residence time in Springpole Lake is 20 days resulting from Project-related effects. This is based on an average flow of 12 m^3/s (or 1,036,800 m^3/day), using a lake volume of 192 Mm^3 prior to construction which is estimated to have an existing residence time of 185 days. After construction of the dikes, the lake volume will be 172 Mm^3, and the residence time will be 165 days. The change in residence time has been considered in the assessment of changes in water quality in Springpole Lake as described in the Surface Water Quality Modelling Report (Appendix N-2, Section 3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested further rationale on the size of study areas for vegetation surveys, provincially significant wetland and wildlife surveys, noting that distances appear to be arbitrary and not reflect research on zones of impact or home range sizes.	Baseline investigation areas have evolved over the period during which field programs have occurred, based on specific valued components being studied, the examination of alternatives, comments received during the preparation of the EIS/EA, and optimizations made to the Project. The relevant baseline investigation areas are defined in the baseline terrestrial report (Appendix P) of the draft EIS/EA. In terms of the study area used for the assessment of potential effects, Section 6.1 provides a description of how these areas are determined. The LSA for each valued component (e.g., wetlands and vegetation communities, wildlife) is based on geographic extent of the potential direct and indirect Project effects. The RSA is based on the maximum geographic extent or zone of influence in which the potential effects are assessed and used to provide regional context to the valued component. These have been further refined in the effects assessment for each valued component. The rationale for the RSA for the vegetation communities and wetlands has been updated based on feedback received from Indigenous communities and government agencies during the review of the draft EIS/EA and is described in Section 6.11.1.3. The RSA is based on the quaternary watershed boundaries, which considers patterns in land cover where assemblages of vegetation and wetlands occur relative to distinct environmental conditions.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR recommended that an indicator for invasive species be included in the assessment of potential effects to vegetation communities and wetlands.	Additional consideration of invasive species in the relative abundance and diversity of vegetation community indicator as noted in Section 6.11.1.4. Further, measures to mitigate the introduction of invasive species into the PDA have been included in Section 6.11.4.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested clarification on the footprint for the mine access road corridor within the PDA.	The corridor width was conservatively increased to 30 metres, which has been updated in Section 5.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested the percentage of direct loss of vegetation communities within the LSA rather than the RSA particularly as the vegetation community types within the LSA are referenced in relation to winter moose habitat, etc., which support harvesting.	Table 6.11-6 in the draft EIS/EA which includes the percent change in the LSA as a result of the Project has been provided. The percent of direct loss within the project development area is compared to the available habitat within the RSA, as this is the appropriate comparison to determine the significance of the residual effect. The table has been updated and includes the percent direct loss for all vegetation community types and ecosite at the LSA, and RSA scale.

Table 2.6-16: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested clarification on the evaluation of impacts, mitigation and residual effects for Wolverine and other SAR for other alternative routes and locations for the mine access road, the transmission line and the potential aggregate sources.	The assessment of alternative routes for the mine access road, transmission line routes and locations for aggregate sources has been completed as required by the federal and provincial legislation and in accordance with the EIS Guidelines (Appendix B-1 of this EIS/EA) and the approved Amended ToR (Appendix B-3 of this EIS/EA). The assessment of alternatives for the mine access road is found in Section 5.21, the transmission line routes in Section 5.26 and the aggregate source areas in Section 5.28. These are informed and supplemented by a dedicated assessment of alternatives for SAR in Appendix T.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested further clarification on the suitability of the study area for the assessment of effects at the regional scale to evaluate cumulative effects on wildlife and their habitat.	There are two wildlife LSAs as described in Section 6.12.1.3 one for Large Mammals and one for all other wildlife categories. LSAs include consideration of direct overprinting of habitat, as well as indirect effects associated with sensory disturbance. Based on recommendations from ECCC to consider watersheds and patterns in land cover, the RSA has been redefined and includes consideration for the use of ecologically defined boundaries.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wolverine	MNR requested that the change in prey populations and habitat for Wolverine be considered in the assessment of potential effects.	An assessment of the change in prey availability has been included in the assessment of potential effects on Wolverine, particularly as it relates to changes in the risk of mortality. This is described in further detail in Section 6.14.5.3.
Draft EIS/EA Fish and fish habitat, Local and regional economy	MNR noted that the trapline licence holders, holders of bait harvesting areas (BHA) and outfitters within the very broad Regional Study Area should be notified of the Project even if there no potential effects on their operations.	As described in Section 2, FMG sent out multiple letters notifying of the draft EIS/EA to trapline holders, bait harvesting areas holders, outfitters and license holders for bear management areas and invited comments and questions on the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Bats	MNR requested that mitigation for bats should consider a set back distance around potential hibernacula, as opposed to relying upon confirmation of hibernacula.	A set back distance of 200 m around potential hibernacula has been included as a mitigation measure in this assessment.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Local and regional, infrastructure and services	MNR requested clarification on reclamation measures that will be implemented at closure.	Section 5.19 provides a description of the conceptual closure plan, that will be further developed during the permitting phase.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested further information on the risk of invasive species and mitigation measures to prevent further introductions.	An assessment of the potential effects from the Project introducing non-native and invasive plant and wildlife species, has been included and used as the basis for the selection of appropriate mitigation measures in Section 6.11.4 and 6.11.5.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested information on rehabilitation measures including a revegetation plan and the associated composition of native vegetation species mixes to be used rehabilitation.	Rehabilitation measures will be included in the filed Closure Plan including further information on a preliminary revegetation plan, which will be refined during the operation phase based on an evaluation of soil amendments and seed mixes to maximize the success of the final revegetation program. This has been included in the Conceptual Closure Plan in Section 5.19.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Vegetation communities and wetlands	MNR requested further information on minimizing clearing of vegetation along the mine access road corridor.	It is anticipated that between 3 and 10 m on each side of the mine access road will be cleared of woody vegetation depending on the need to maintain sight lines at corners, with low lying vegetation maintained during construction, operation and active closure of the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested clarification on the mitigation measures for habitat loss or the risk of mortality, including measures intended to mitigate noise, fragmentation and habitat alteration; control invasive species; and regenerate habitat.	The change in habitat availability and effectiveness, and the change in the risk of mortality for Wolverine, is assessed in Section 6.14.6.1 and Section 6.14.6.3, respectively. The assessment takes into consideration the mitigation measures identified in Section 6.14.4 and Table 6.14-4. The mitigation is segregated by criteria and includes specific measures for noise, fragmentation, habitat alteration and reclamation measures. Specific measures to mitigate the potential effects of invasive species are included in Section 6.11.4. Monitoring programs will be implemented to verify the accuracy of the predicted effects and assess the effectiveness of the implemented mitigation measures and may be further optimized in response to monitoring data. A description of the monitoring program for wildlife is included in Section 12.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	MNR requested further information on the mitigation measures for wildlife habitat loss and mortality.	The direct and indirect loss of SAR bird habitat as well as the potential changes in the risk of mortality is assessed in Section 6.16. The assessment takes into consideration the mitigation measures identified in these sections and has determined that the residual effects are not significant, and therefore no further mitigation is required. Monitoring programs will be implemented to verify the accuracy of the predicted effects, assess the effectiveness of the implemented mitigation measures, and may be further optimized in response to monitoring data.
Draft EIS/EA Outdoor recreation	MNR noted that the assessment on outdoor recreation did not appear to consider the changes in navigation at the outlet of Springpole Lake, which includes a series of Class I and II rapids, that may be impacted by changing water levels during the controlled refilling of the open pit at closure.	Section 6.8 provides an assessment of the potential effects on water quantity (including flows) due to the Project. The maximum potential reduction in water level for an average year during the period when the open pit basin is being refilled would be within natural variation at approximately 13 cm (Appendix M-1). This change is well within the observed range of existing water levels (0.9 to 2.0 m) during the summer period (June to October) and is not anticipated to have an effect on navigation.

Table 2.6-16: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Outdoor recreation, Fish and fish habitat	MNR requested further consideration of the FMP for FMZ 4 for the management of potential effects on recreational fishery opportunities.	The potential loss of fish productivity for Birch Lake and Springpole lake due to the Project is assessed in Section 6.10 (Fish and Fish Habitat) and Appendix F (FHOCP) and takes into consideration the FMP for FMZ 4. The potential loss of access to recreational fisheries is discussed in Section 6.18.6.1. With Project mitigation measures, there are no anticipated effects on fish productivity or access to recreational fisheries.
Draft EIS/EA Surface Water Quality	Comments were received from MNR related to the proximity of the Project features such as the CDF and the ore stockpiles to adjacent waterbodies.	In response, additional engineering details have been advanced since the draft EA providing additional setback for the CDF where possible with the setbacks being between 120 and 300 m from Birch Lake and Springpole Lake, which provides for the application of contingency engineering measures during life of mine. And the entire perimeter contact water collection system has been designed to demonstrate its feasibility and effectiveness. These additional design considerations and information regarding potential failures of the open pit, the CDF and the stockpiles have been added to Sections 9.5, 9.7 and 9.9. Additionally, it is noted that many mines across Canada have infrastructure located in equal proximity to waterbodies without issue, and further design measures have been advanced to demonstrate the safeguards associated with the Project.
Draft EIS/EA Traditional land and resource use, Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes	MNR requested further information on the navigability of waterbodies in the Project development area and measure to mitigate adverse effects on the portage route between Springpole and Birch Lake.	A summary of potentially navigable water bodies is included in Table 6.18-4. Additional information on measures to mitigate changes in the portage route between Springpole and Birch Lake has been included in Section 6.18.6.4.

2.6.2.4 Ministry of Mines

As described in Section 2.4.2, MINES administers legislation related to mining in the Province of Ontario, including the *Mining Act*. Advice from MINES has included topics related to regulatory guidance and expertise for mining projects, focusing on responsible resource development, land management, and addressing mining-related concerns to ensure the mining industry's sustainable growth and compliance with relevant regulations in the province.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with MINES in 2019 and have been engaging since as described below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by MINES into the final EIS/EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to MINES organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and MINES up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from MINES on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-20 and Appendix C.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with the MENDM (now MINES) prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the MENDM prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On March 5, 2019, FMG held a meeting with the MENDM, IAAC and the MECP to provide an overall Project update. They discussed coordination of federal and provincial EA process for the Project and FMG provided an update on activities related to public and Indigenous engagement.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

On May 1, 2020, the MENDM provided comments on the draft ToR. The MENDM followed up on May 27, 2020, to request clarification on NWOMC rights and interests with respect to the Project. FMG responded on June 29, 2020, providing clarification.

On October 6, 2020, the MECP provided FMG with the MENDM's comments on the ToR. On January 10, 2021, FMG provided responses to the MENDM's comments on the ToR to the MECP to circulate.

Baseline Studies

On September 29, 2021, the MECP provided FMG with comments on the baseline reports from the MENDM. FMG provided responses to comments on November 11, 2021. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

FMG had a phone call with MINES on July 31, 2023, regarding the potential for FMG to partner with the provincial Mineral Development branch to clean up the South Bay Mine. The Mineral Development branch

is currently developing a plan for the clean-up. The clean-up of the South Bay Mine is being considered as a fish habitat offsetting measure for the Project.

Assessment of Alternatives

Consultation with MINES related to the Assessment of Alternatives is described in Section 2.6.2.1 and in the Post-draft EIS/EA section below.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the MENDM related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to the MENDM after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 4, 2023, MINES emailed FMG providing files related to the South Bay Mine.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments from MINES and responses from FMG on the draft EIS/EA is provided below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

- September 2022 - MINES provided comments on the draft EIS/EA to FMG.
- March 2023 - FMG provided responses to comments from MINES on the draft EIS/EA.

Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve comments prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-14). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

On June 12, 2023, FMG requested to directly engage with MINES technical representatives regarding the CDF. MINES responded the same day with another MINES contact to be included in discussions. FMG responded the next day to set up a discussion. FMG followed up on July 6, 2023, to inquire whether there were any specific areas of interest or questions to elaborate on in the presentation regarding the Project optimization update planned for July 19, 2023. FMG also provided MINES with two memos describing the ongoing engineering for the CDF on July 12, 2023. One memo described the proposed design optimization to the CDF south cell liner requirements and the other memo described the proposed design optimizations to the tailings production and placement in the north cell of the CDF, together with a summary of the resulting environmental and operational benefits. The meeting was held on July 19, 2023, with MINES, the MECP and the MNRF. FMG discussed comments shared on the CDF design.

FMG emailed MINES on August 9, 2023, inquiring about opportunities for creating a FHOCP. FMG expressed interest in learning more about the contamination associated with the historical South Bay Mine and requested to schedule a meeting to discuss. FMG followed up on October 12 with a phone call and email about who they can contact for the South Bay Mine for the FHOCP. On October 18, 2023, FMG conducted a phone call with MINES regarding the rehabilitation of the South Bay Mine. FMG provided an overview of the Project, the EIS/EA and the draft FHOCP. FMG also noted that FMG is seeking fish compensation opportunities in the surrounding area. FMG requested for MINES to provide additional information on the South Bay Mine rehabilitation plans and on fish habitat rehabilitation. On November 3, 2023, FMG emailed MINES to follow up to a phone call with MINES on October 18, 2023, FMG requested recent water quality and/or fish data regarding the lakes associated with the South Bay Mine to inform the FHOCP.

On September 15, 2023, FMG emailed MINES providing a letter with an update on the IGTRB, noting that it had now been established, and provided information on the three members, as well as next steps for the board. FMG offered to answer any questions but did not receive any.

FMG called MINES on November 9, 2023, to request access to the South Bay Mine site from November 20 to 24 for the Lake Sturgeon eDNA study. MINES informed FMG that there are no site access restrictions and that it would provide FMG with a map of site hazards. In an email sent of the same day, MINES noted that it would look into FMG's request for recent water quality data, fish data, and hazard areas associated with the South Bay Mine. In response to an email from MINES sent December 8, 2023, FMG requested on March 8, 2024, information related to proposed reclamation activities for South Bay Mine. On March 12, 2024, FMG acknowledged receipt of the information on the South Bay Mine.

On December 4, 2023, MINES and FMG had a phone call where FMG was following up on its request for information on the South Bay Mine regarding plans on fish habitat rehabilitation (originally sent via email on October 18, 2023).

In response to an email from MINES dated November 27, 2023, FMG advised on December 18, 2023, that FMG can provide information on any topic of interest upon request. FMG also encouraged the MINES to visit FMG's website to review the draft EIS/EA and provided a link to the website.

In April and May 2024, MINES and FMG communicated regarding the South Bay Mine and fish habitat restoration.

Table 2.6-17: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Mines

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives	MINES provided comments regarding the use of dry filtered tailings in a CDF being a potentially new design concept with potential challenges to being able to co-deposit dry tailings and mine rock.	Additional engineering trade-off assessments were carried out, resulting in the optimization of the CDF. Optimizations include the production of a thickened pumpable NAG tailings (instead of the filtered tailings) that can be hydraulically transported and placed in a manner that improves operational and environmental performance of the CDF. Thickened tailings provide a more robust operation for co-mingling with mine rock, reduced energy consumption and reduced air emissions, including GHGs. The optimized CDF designs were subsequently presented and discussed during follow-up meetings with reviewers and the IGTRB. An IGTRB has pro-actively been established for the Project and is composed of three external experts. The purpose of the IGTRB is to provide independent oversight on the design, construction, operation, performance and closure planning for the CDF, with the objective of long-term safety and environmental protection. Additional details on the optimized design of the CDF are summarized in Section 5.9.3 and provided in Appendix V.
Assessment of Alternatives	MINES commented that other acceptable alternatives to the design and placement of the CDF should be presented.	A detailed and comprehensive assessment of tailings alternatives following ECCC guidelines for the assessment of alternatives for mine waste disposal was completed for the draft EIS/EA and has been updated in Appendix E. The assessment used a stepwise approach and multiple accounts analysis to demonstrate that the preferred location and technologies proposed for tailings and mine rock are defensible according to environmental, social, technical and financial considerations. ECCC determined that the CWSP would also be subject to Schedule 2 of the MDMER (SOR/2022-222) and require assessment following the ECCC guidelines. Accordingly, a comprehensive assessment and analysis of water storage alternatives has also been included in the updated assessment in Appendix E.
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	MINES requested that cyanide be included in routine surface water monitoring to provide a consistent database prior to mining activity.	Cyanide was added to the 2021 surface water program and the results are discussed in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	MINES commented that because the north cell is not lined, groundwater may be affected via seepage.	Additional information has been included in Section 5.10.3 to describe the management of seepage. More clarification or detail was requested regarding the co-disposal of tailings and PAG mine rock, and how metal leaching and acid rock drainage would be minimized.

2.6.2.5 Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

As described in Section 2.4.2, the MCM administers legislation related to cultural preservation, tourism development, and heritage appreciation in the vicinity of mining cites, contributing to the cultural enrichment and economic growth of the region, including the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the MCM in 2020 and have been engaging since as described below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by MCM into the final EIS/EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to MCM organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and MCM up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from MCM on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as and FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-20 and Appendix C.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with the MCM prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the MCM prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

On December 31, 2021, the MTCS informed FMG that it was reviewing the Notice and would provide a response the week of January 10, 2022. FMG thanked the MTCS for its update. The MTCS provided comments on the Notice of Commencement on January 12, 2022.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

The MTCS provided its comments on the draft ToR on April 15, 2020. FMG provided its responses to the MTCS comments as an attachment to the updated draft ToR on June 2, 2020.

On September 30, 2020, the MECP provided FMG with the MTCS comments on the updated draft ToR. The MTCS Tourism Policy Unit provided additional comments on October 9, 2020. On January 10, 2021, FMG provided responses to the MTCS comments on the updated draft ToR to the MECP to circulate.

Baseline Studies

On January 20, 2022, the MTCS informed FMG that it had reviewed the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and Cultural Heritage Resource Evaluation Report and that it is compliant with Ministry requirements for archaeological fieldwork and reporting. FMG responded on September 8, 2022, inquiring if further comments should be expected on the archeology studies. The MTCS provided its timeline for review of the assessment. On December 19, 2022, the MTCS confirmed that both archaeological assessment reports were entered into the Ontario Public Register.

Assessment of Alternatives

Consultation with MCM related to the Assessment of Alternatives is described in Section 2.6.2.1 and in the Post-draft EIS/EA section below.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the MCM related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

General Project information sharing with MCM is described in Section 2.6.2.1 and in the Post-draft EIS/EA section below.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA.

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments from MTCS and responses from FMG on the draft EIS/EA is provided below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

- August 2022 – the MTCS provided comments on the draft EIS/EA.
- December 2022 – FMG provided responses to comments from the MTCS. The MTCS informed FMG that they have no further comments on the Heritage Planning Unit section of the draft EIS/EA.

Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve comments prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-14). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

Table 2.6-18: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives	MCM provided comments during consultation and engagement on the assessment of alternatives.	These comments resulted in the following alternatives that were considered in the EIS/EA: • Potential use of renewable power sources (considered under power supply); • Dike locations; • Treated effluent discharge locations; and • Additional routing alternatives for the mine access road.
Baseline Studies Archaeology	MCM requested clarification on the regulatory requirements for this Project's archaeological assessments, including whether the archaeological assessments for the Project have been prepared in accordance with federal requirements.	As noted in Section 6.22.1.1, the regulatory framework related to archaeology is outlined for both the federal and provincial processes. Further, requirements outlined in the federal EIS Guidelines have been met, as described in the concordance table (Appendix B-2).
Draft EIS/EA Local and regional economy	MCM requested clarification of how a changes in visual aesthetics at remote locations is considered in the assessment of potential effects on tourism.	The assessment of commercial land and resources (Section 6.17) and outdoor recreation (Section 6.18) includes an indicator for changes in viewscapes to describe the potential effects on tourism at remote locations. This is supported by a detailed Visual Aesthetics Desktop Baseline Study and Assessment (Appendix U). MCM requested that the cultural heritage VC acknowledge both built heritage and cultural features. The VC for cultural heritage resources has been renamed built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes (Section 6.23) to better reflect the assessment as noted by MCM.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air quality	MCM requested further description of the type of PORs in the draft EIS/EA.	The PORs consist of residences, Indigenous points of interest identified through traditional land and resource use studies and engagement, and potential recreational, cabin, lodge and camp sites identified through a review of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Land Information Ontario geographic datasets. In some cases where a land use covered a large area, representative points were selected. The selection of PORs is described in Section 6.2.5 of the EIS/EA, and specific PORs are described in Figure 6.2-2 of the EIS/EA and further detailed in the Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G-2, Attachment D).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Archaeology	MCM commented that there may be potential direct linkages with other VCs associated with archaeology, including cultural heritage and Traditional Land and Resource Use.	The introduction to Section 6.22 includes direct linkages associated with archaeology from or to other VCs, including both Traditional Land and Resource Use and cultural heritage (i.e., built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes	MCM recommended renaming "cultural heritage resources" in this section and the effects assessment section to "built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes" and revising the definition of cultural heritage assessments.	Section 3.4.16 and Section 6.23 were updated as requested.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and vibration	MCM requested clarification on how blasting noise was considered.	The Blasting Assessment Report (Appendix H-4, Section 2) includes a description of how blasting noise was assessed for the EIS/EA, and it follows the method outlined by the *Health Canada Noise Guideline* (Health Canada 2017), as described in Section 6.3.5.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and vibration	MCM requested clarification on how noise propagates over water.	The Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 6.1) includes a ground absorption value of 0 for waterbodies, meaning a waterbody surface is a noise-reflecting surface.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Outdoor recreation	MCM requested clarification of how a changes in visual aesthetics at remote locations is considered in the assessment of potential effects on tourism.	The assessment of commercial land and resources (Section 6.17) and outdoor recreation (Section 6.18) includes an indicator for changes in viewscapes to describe the potential effects on tourism at remote locations. This is supported by a detailed Visual Aesthetics Desktop Baseline Study and Assessment (Appendix U). MCM requested that the cultural heritage VC described to acknowledge both built heritage and cultural features. The VC for cultural heritage resources has been renamed Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes (Section 6.23) to better reflect the assessment as noted by MCM.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Outdoor recreation	MCM requested additional clarity on camps in the final EIS/EA to determine whether they were commercial camps or may have been private cabins or camps used by Indigenous communities.	Additional studies have been completed for three candidate cabins, which were considered to be private cabins not used by Indigenous communities (Appendix S). The status of the remaining cabins has been clarified in Section 6.23 and Section 3.4.16.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Mitigation and Monitoring, Archaeology	MCM requested that relevant conclusions from the archaeological assessments conducted for the Project be included as mitigation measures for the assessment of potential effects on archaeology.	The conclusions have been reviewed and the recommended Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessments have either been undertaken since the draft EIS/EA or are planned to be conducted prior to construction. Stage 1 archaeological assessments for the mine access road and transmission line, north of the southeast arm of Springpole Lake, were undertaken in 2023 (Appendix S-7), and Stage 2 archaeological assessments are planned prior to construction for areas along the transmission line preferred route that may have archaeological potential. The Stage 1 archaeological assessment for the transmission line alternatives has been re-evaluated and a supplemental gap analysis has been prepared to refine areas of potential archaeological potential (Appendix S-8). The mitigation measures discussed in Section 6.22.4 are consistent with the recommendations from the archaeological assessment reports for the Project.

Table 2.6-18: Comments, Questions and Responses from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Mitigation and Monitoring, Archaeology	MCM requested further clarification on the steps that will be undertaken if archaeological resources or human remains are encountered.	In the unlikely event that archaeological resources are detected, the relevant Project work will cease, the MCM will be notified, and an archaeological assessment will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. In the event human remains are encountered, Project activities will cease, and the local police and coroner will be contacted, as well as the MCM. These measures have been included in Section 6.22.4.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Mitigation and Monitoring, Commercial land and resource use	MCM requested further information on the number of BMAs within the applicable study areas and requested clarification on the measures used to mitigate the potential loss of access for the holders of the BMAs.	The numbers of identified BMAs have been updated in Section 6.18.2.1. The mitigation measures outlined for potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat in this final EIS/EA, and prohibition of hunting within the controlled access portion of the Project area will reduce potential effects on BMAs.
Draft EIS/EA VCs Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes	MCM requested that the cultural heritage VC described to acknowledge both built heritage and cultural features.	The VC for cultural heritage resources has been renamed Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes (Section 6.23) to better reflect the assessment as noted by MCM.
Draft EIS/EA Commercial land and resource use, Outdoor recreation	MCM commented that the proximity of the proposed road and transmission corridors to existing outfitter camps should be considered in the assessment.	Section 4.19 of the EIS/EA includes an assessment of the mine access road alternative routes and Section 4.25 includes an assessment of the transmission line alternative routes, which both include consideration for tourism and recreational opportunities such as outfitters. The preferred routes for the mine access road and the transmission line corridor have no outfitter camps in the project development area and this has been updated in Section 6.17.2.4.
Draft EIS/EA Commercial land and resource use, Outdoor recreation	MCM suggested working with local outfitters to minimize access-related impacts from the Project. FMG has consulted with outfitters in the area (as described in Section 2) and will continue communications throughout the Project.	FMG has undertaken efforts to contact and share information with outfitters in the area of the mine site and in several cases, for a variety of reasons, outfitters expressed interest in selling their business, which FMG supported through purchase arrangements.

2.6.2.6 Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation

As described in Section 2.4.2, IAFNER administers legislation related to engagement with Indigenous communities in mining projects to assist with addressing concerns and supporting the promotion of mutual benefits, this includes legislation such as the *Far North Act, 2010* (S.O. 2010, c. 18) and the *Mining Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. M.14). IAFNER works to support consultation facilitation and collaboration; agreements between mining companies and Indigenous communities; and the promotion of Indigenous rights, interests, and sustainable resource development to assist with supporting reconciliation in the province.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with IAFNER in 2021 and have been engaging since as described below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by IAFNER into the final EIS/EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to IAFNER organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and IAFNER up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from IAFNER on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Appendix C.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to IAFNER related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to IAFNER after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provide a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies.

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments from IAFNER and responses from FMG on the draft EIS/EA is provided below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

- September 2022 - IAFNER provided its comments on the draft EIS/EA and noted that a comprehensive RoC is needed in advance of submitting the final EIS/EA.
- February 2023 - FMG provided its responses to comments.
- April 2023 - FMG provided the draft RoC for 2022.

Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve comments prior to submission of

the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-14). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

2.6.2.7 Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

As described in Section 2.4.2, the IAAC administers legislation including the *Impact Assessment Act* (S.C. 2019, c.28, s.1), CEAA 2012, and other relevant legislation. IAAC plays a central role in evaluating the environmental, social, and economic impacts of mining projects, as well as conducts comprehensive impact assessments to ensure that mining activities are conducted sustainability and in compliance with regulatory standards. The IAAC has served as the lead federal agency and acted as a liaison throughout the Project, to assist with coordinating other relevant federal agencies/provincial ministries, which has assisted FMG with obtaining technical expertise, permitting, and approval support.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the IAAC in 2018 and have been engaging since as described below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by IAAC into the final EIS/EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to IAAC organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and IAAC up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from IAAC on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-14 and Appendix C.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with IAAC prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the IAAC prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

Between April and November 2018, FMG held three meetings with the MECP and IAAC to discuss EIS Guidelines, Indigenous consultation, and the federal EA process. On July 31, 2018, IAAC provided an update to FMG regarding Indigenous engagement requirements for the federal EA for the Project.

On February 6, 2020, IAAC emailed FMG requesting information on studies and Indigenous engagement completed to date and timelines and scope for future studies and engagement, as well as an update on the Project's progress through the provincial process. FMG held a meeting with the MECP and IAAC on April 8, 2020, to discuss Indigenous consultation.

On April 8, 2020, IAAC and FMG met to discuss the draft EIS/EA and Indigenous consultation and on May 18, 2021, FMG sent a Project Description Changes Comparison document to IAAC.

In May 2021, FMG held a meeting with IAAC to provide an update on and discuss next steps for the EIS. Key items that were discussed included re-engaging the federal technical review team on the Project, the process for a CEAA 2012 timeline extension request, and Section 5(2) assessment scope. Following this, FMG sent IAAC an updated technical issues table and a key messaging document that can be used to inform IAAC's Indigenous outreach. FMG expressed willingness to participate in the potential agency re-engagement.

On July 27, 2021, IAAC informed FMG that no further amendments to the EIS Guidelines are necessary based on the information presented and provided comments on additional updates required for the Project Description before it can be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. On August 16, 2021, FMG provided responses to IAAC's comments regarding the Project description and provided the updated Project description on August 23, 2021. On August 24, 2021, IAAC acknowledged receipt of the Project description update, and confirmed it would review and follow up with any questions or clarifications if needed. On September 22, 2021, IAAC emailed FMG requesting clarification on the proposed transmission line alternatives in the Project description update. FMG responded the same day confirming that all four alternatives being considered are within the corridor. On September 23, 2021, IAAC confirmed acceptance of the Project description and that IAAC would keep FMG apprised on posting to the Registry.

On November 1, 2021, IAAC and FMG met to discuss the proposed method for the EIS.

On November 30, 2021, IAAC and FMG had a phone call to discuss the EIS/EA schedule, ongoing engagement efforts with Indigenous communities, and scheduling of a government review team regarding Caribou studies. FMG also provided a summary of meetings held over the past few months and other ongoing engagement efforts. On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

On February 14, 2022, FMG provided IAAC with notice it was working on a draft of the CEAA 2012 extension request based on the IAAC's direction and would welcome input from IAAC. On March 11, 2022, IAAC provided a notification letter with attachments to FMG regarding the Registry posting for the Amendment to the EIS Guidelines and the Update to the Project Description Update.

On May 3, 2022, FMG held a meeting with IAAC to discuss the upcoming draft EIS/EA submission. IAAC stated that the workplan included in the extension request must have a detailed timeline. FMG confirmed it would like to work with IAAC on another draft prior to finalizing.

On May 5, 2022, FMG informed IAAC that it had communicated with Indigenous Nations about the draft EIS/EA and would issue a formal notice after a meeting with STPN. FMG also inquired about the function and timing of the funding to support Indigenous communities in their review of the draft EIS/EA. On May 12, 2022, IAAC informed FMG that it would distribute the draft EIS/EA to federal experts and that IAAC would offer limited bridge funding to support Indigenous communities in their review of the draft EIS/EA.

On May 18, 2022, IAAC and FMG met to discuss the Project and engagement with Indigenous communities. IAAC and FMG discussed plans and timelines for distribution and posting of the draft EIS/EA. IAAC inquired about consultation and engagement on the draft EIS/EA and FMG informed them that it had started to produce materials and was planning technical presentations and meetings. On April 24, 2023, FMG emailed IAAC providing a draft of the RoC that covers up to the end of 2022. On June 20, 2023, FMG requested feedback from IAAC on the draft RoC. On June 21, 2023, IAAC confirmed that IAAC's feedback on the draft RoC would be included within the first set of comments on FMG's responses to federal comments on the draft EIS/EA by the end of the following week.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

On February 13, 2020, FMG held a meeting with IAAC to provide a Project update and to discuss the draft ToR.

On October 2, 2020, the MECP provided comments from IAAC on the ToR to FMG. On January 10, 2021, FMG provided responses to IAAC's comments on the ToR to the MECP to circulate. On February 5, 2021, IAAC provided comments on FMG's responses to IAAC's first round of comments on the ToR to FMG.

On February 4, 2021, FMG held a meeting with IAAC to provide an update on the Project, the draft amended ToR, and engagement with Indigenous communities.

Baseline Studies

On March 3, 2020, FMG held a meeting with IAAC to discuss the baseline studies and Indigenous consultation to date.

On June 1, 2021, FMG informed IAAC that the baseline reports for the Project have been compiled and a Springpole EA portal is available containing the reports and other consultation materials for engagement with Indigenous communities and public stakeholders. A link to the portal was included along with a list of the baseline reports available. FMG included that within the portal under the Environmental Overview tab are the 2021 technical workplan summaries. FMG noted IAAC can circulate this information with internal reviewers and requested that any comments on the reports be provided by June 30, 2021. On June 11, 2021, FMG held a meeting with IAAC and the MECP to discuss next steps and plans for reviewing the Project's baseline reports that were distributed. During June 2021, FMG and IAAC discussed scheduling separate meetings with technical reviewers to present an overview of the Project, baseline data and 2021 workplans.

On August 25, 2021, FMG informed IAAC that the Baseline Sound and Vibration (Leaves On/summer) Report was posted on the Springpole EA portal and noted that the results were consistent with the Leaves-Off Report.

On November 2, 2021, IAAC provided comments on the baseline reports for the Project to FMG and requested technical meetings to discuss how the comments can be addressed in the upcoming data collection programs. On December 23, 2021, FMG provided IAAC with responses to its comments on the baseline studies for the Project.

On January 12, 2022, FMG held a meeting with the MECP, IAAC and ECCC to discuss the 2022 Caribou data collection program.

On January 14, 2022, IAAC, the MECP and FMG exchanged correspondence regarding FMG's engagement activities, plans for TK collection, and timelines. FMG provided an update on consultation and engagement completed throughout 2021 to the MECP and IAAC during a meeting held on January 21, 2022.

On January 24, 2022, IAAC provided FMG with feedback shared by ECCC on FMG's responses to comments on the baseline studies. On March 8, 2022, FMG provided responses to the comments shared by ECCC on FMG's original responses to the Federal Review Team's comments on the baseline studies relating to hydrology.

On March 1, 2022, FMG requested additional feedback from IAAC on FMG's responses to IAAC and the Federal Review Team's initial comments on the baseline studies. On March 8, 2022, IAAC provided feedback from DFO regarding FMG's responses to the federal baseline review comments. On May 9, 2022, FMG provided detailed responses to the follow up comments from DFO on the baseline studies.

In February and March 2022, IAAC requested to discuss migratory birds baseline work and the Government Review with FMG. IAAC also noted that ECCC offered to review the baseline bird work. FMG corresponded with IAAC to schedule a meeting with the Government Review Team to discuss the baseline bird work, with tentative plans set for a meeting in April 2022.

On April 1, 2022, FMG provided IAAC with the Terrestrial Technical Workplan for review. FMG noted that the proposed telemetry workplan for Caribou did not proceed as initially planned, and efforts are underway

to develop the work plans for the 2022 fieldwork. On April 14, 2022, IAAC provided information on the workplan draft extension and outlined the content to include in the work plan.

On April 27, 2022, IAAC informed FMG that ECCC has no comments on the 2022 terrestrial workplan. IAAC noted that FMG would be using ECCC's migratory bird guidance as part of the baseline study. FMG informed IAAC that studies would commence in May 2022.

On May 2, 2022, FMG provided IAAC with online links to the 2022 field workplans for the upcoming baseline studies.

Assessment of Alternatives

This subsection describes communications regarding the assessment of alternatives information which were specific to IAAC prior to the draft EIS/EA submission.

On October 1, 2021, FMG informed IAAC that the preliminary assessment of alternatives for the Project components and methods has been completed and uploaded to the Springpole EA portal, and FMG requested feedback. On October 5, 2021, FMG informed IAAC that the more detailed information on alternatives would be included as part of the draft EA and that the preliminary assessment of alternatives would also be provided to Indigenous communities for review. On December 21, 2021, IAAC submitted comments on the preliminary Assessment of Alternatives to FMG, and FMG provided responses to IAAC's comments on February 9, 2022. On October 13, 2022, IAAC sent FMG a letter supporting a Community Consultation Process. In February 2023, FMG sent an update letter regarding capacity support funding for the Indigenous led assessment to IAAC. IAAC acknowledged the update and advised FMG that a meeting would be scheduled to discuss FMG's engagement with Indigenous communities. On March 16, 2023, IAAC and FMG met. FMG provided an update on engagement with Indigenous communities.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to IAAC related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to IAAC after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On June 8, 2022, IAAC provided comments on the final CEAA 2012 timeline extension request to FMG. This included a more comprehensive timeline in the workplan, including the STPN's Community Consultation Process in the workplan, provided dates and additional information about completed baseline studies, clarified whether the timelines consider provincial processes for the EA, and provided editorial comments.

On June 27, 2022, FMG emailed the IAAC providing a letter regarding a request for an extension of the Project under CEAA 2012. On July 5, 2022, IAAC emailed FMG to confirm receipt of the request to extend the limit of the Project. IAAC informed FMG that it had posted the request to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry and provided a link to the website. IAAC noted that it would follow up with FMG once it had come to a decision.

On July 7, 2022, FMG held a meeting with IAAC to discuss the CEAA 2012 extension request and the draft EIS/EA. IAAC stated that it was required to decide on the extension request by the end of August 2022 and

asked for an update on the engagement with Indigenous communities. IAAC noted the lack of TK informing the draft EIS/EA, and FMG described the TK studies that were used.

On August 19, 2022, IAAC provided a letter of approval for the CEAA 2012 extension request to FMG. IAAC informed FMG that participants in the EA process, including Indigenous groups, would be informed of this update.

On September 28, 2022, FMG held a meeting with IAAC to discuss Project updates related to engagement activities, as well as next steps for the EIS/EA.

On September 12, 2023, IAAC emailed FMG the draft agenda for the monthly check-in meeting on September 15, 2023. At the meeting on September 15, FMG and IAAC discussed identifying goals and priorities for upcoming monthly Project check-in meetings, obtained feedback from IAAC on FMG's draft effects assessment table, discussed issues management approaches related to site access and post-closure seepage, and the STPN's Community Consultation Process.

On September 15, 2023, FMG emailed the IAAC, providing an update, and a letter with additional details, on the IGTRB for the Project CDF. FMG offered to address any questions.

FMG met with IAAC on December 13, 2023, to provide a general status update on the Project and associated Indigenous consultation. FMG described recent engagement with communities and plans for the new year. federal

On February 5, 2024, in response to an email from FMG on January 30, 2024, IAAC requested photos of the Project site that can be posted publicly. FMG provided two aerial photos of the Project site taken in 2021.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provide a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies. FMG informed IAAC that the EIS/EA documents have been uploaded to FMG's website. FMG noted that the documents would also be uploaded to the federal portal the following day, and that it had distributed the documents to the Indigenous communities.

In June 2022, IAAC requested for FMG to provide IAAC's federal colleagues with Sections of the draft EIS/EA with known gaps in information, baseline data, or TK/TLU, as well as an overview of the work plans and Indigenous engagement. FMG provided IAAC with the communications with Indigenous communities and the notifications that were distributed to Indigenous communities regarding the publication of draft EIS/EA documents.

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments shared by IAAC and responses from FMG on the draft EIS/EA is provided below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

- November 2022 - IAAC emailed FMG to provide a letter and comments on the draft EIS/EA from ECCC, DFO, IAAC, and TC.

- February 2023 - FMG sent IAAC responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA related to noise and vibration, surface water, air quality and GHG emissions, human environment, as well as responses to general comments.
- April 2023 - FMG sent IAAC responses to the federal comments of the draft EIS/EA related to wildlife (general), wetlands and riparian areas, geochemistry, and groundwater quality, migratory birds and SAR bats and Caribou.
- June 2023 - IAAC emailed FMG providing feedback to FMG's responses to federal information requirements on the draft EIS/EA and detailed feedback on general comments, and topics related to the cumulative effects assessment, effects of potential accidents or malfunctions, public participation and concerns raised, engagement with Indigenous groups and concerns raised, Indigenous Peoples, and Indigenous Peoples – Exercise of Rights.
- July 2023 - IAAC provided FMG with additional feedback related to fish and fish habitat.
- September 2023 - FMG provided IAAC with responses to follow-up comments shared on the draft EIS/EA related to hydrogeology, geochemistry, surface water, human health and country foods.
- October 2023 - FMG provided IAAC with responses to the follow-up comments shared related to Public Participation and Concerns, Engagement with Indigenous Groups and Concerns Raised, Indigenous Peoples, and Indigenous Peoples – Exercise of Rights.
- November 2023 - FMG provided IAAC with responses to follow-up comments related to terrestrial biology, air quality and GHGs.

Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve comments prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-14). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

On June 3, 2022, IAAC and FMG met to discuss the draft EIS/EA publication and distribution. IAAC and FMG also discussed the CEAA 2012 extension request.

In December 2022, FMG sent a document that describes the Caribou telemetry program in detail to IAAC. IAAC provided questions from ECCC regarding the data collected in the Caribou telemetry program and details on how the data collected would inform the final EIS/EA. In January 2023, IAAC requested clarification on the frequency of the transmission of the raw data from the collars. FMG confirmed that the raw data would be transmitted daily but that the analysis and mapping would not be done daily. In January 2023, FMG informed IAAC that it was interested in pursuing joint federal-provincial meetings to discuss the draft EIS/EA comments. FMG also noted that responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA would be issued one week prior to the meetings. On February 14, 2023, IAAC emailed federal and provincial agencies and ministries, copying FMG, to inform them of a series of technical meetings hosted by FMG to provide an overview of key responses to comments on the draft EIS/EA. IAAC indicated that FMG would provide reviewers in the various agencies with written responses a week before the relevant meeting topic. Meetings held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG are presented in Table 2.6-14.

On April 4, 2023, FMG informed IAAC that WSP (on behalf of FMG) has completed an additional review of anomalous data points presented in the 2019-2020 Aquatic Resources Assessment and the 2021 Aquatic

Resources Baseline Report as a follow-up to a comment shared by the reviewer on the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided hyperlinks to the two updated appendices that included corrections to the data.

On August 11, 2023, FMG informed IAAC that detailed baseline aquatic reports to address the shared comments would be included in the final EIS/EA.

II On June 8, 2023, FMG emailed IAAC and the MECP providing an update on the CDF for the Project.

On July 12, 2023, FMG provided the MECP and IAAC with two memos regarding the ongoing optimization of the engineering design for the CDF to be distributed to the provincial and federal review teams, as discussed in the Project optimization meeting on July 5, 2023. One memo described the proposed design optimization to the CDF south cell liner requirements and the other memo described the proposed design optimizations to the tailings production and placement in the north cell of the CDF, together with a summary of the resulting environmental and operational benefits. FMG followed up on July 19, 2023, to provide information on the establishment of the IGTRB for the Project and offered to discuss any further questions.

On July 19, 2023, FMG provided IAAC with a letter describing the process and schedule for the establishment of the IGTRB, in accordance with FMG's commitment in the draft EIS/EA. The letter provided the CV of the first identified board member. FMG offered to address any questions.

On August 10, 2023, FMG emailed IAAC providing an effects assessment summary table template proposed to be included in the final EIS/EA for its review and feedback.

On August 11, 2023, FMG informed IAAC that the FHOCP has been revised to address the shared comments and would be included in the final EIS/EA. FMG noted that it would be requesting a working meeting with DFO in September 2023 to review the refined proposed measures prior to inclusion in the final EIS/EA.

In August 2023, IAAC and FMG discussed monthly working-level bilateral meetings to resolve outstanding comments on the draft EIS/EA. IAAC suggested focusing meetings on Project uncertainties and federal jurisdictional effects, starting with the kickoff meeting to establish format, priorities, and address Project-related questions. IAAC requested to continue meeting regularly to resolve issues and areas of uncertainty before the submission of the final EIS/EA and discussed meeting logistics.

On September 20, 2023, FMG emailed IAAC providing the shapefiles for the draft EIS/EA site plan to be shared with ECCC and meeting minutes from the September 15, 2023, monthly meeting.

On November 17, 2023, in response to an email from IAAC on November 14, FMG provided the requested shapefiles for the mine access road and transmission line alternatives and the file for the Wataynikaneyap transmission line for ECCC.

On January 30, 2024, IAAC emailed FMG requesting a high-resolution image of the Project site plan that includes the design updates that have been made since the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided two site plan images that are proposed for the final EIS/EA. IAAC confirmed receipt and FMG offered to provide any additional information.

2.6.2.8 Environment and Climate Change Canada

As described in Section 2.4.2, ECCC administers vital environmental legislation including the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (S.C. 1999, c. 33), the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (S.C. 1994, c.22), and the *Species at Risk Act* (S.C. 2002, c. 29). ECCC assist with oversight related to EIAs, permitting and compliance to ensure environmental sustainability and address climate change concern. ECCC has provided

valuable data, research, and guidance to support Project development activities, while ensuring the protection of Canada's natural heritage and environmental resources.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the ECCC in 2020 and have been engaging since as described below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by ECCC into the final EIS/EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to ECCC organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and ECCC up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from federal reviewers on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-19and Appendix C.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with ECCC prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the ECCC prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

On April 9, 2020, ECCC emailed FMG providing comments on the draft ToR. On June 2, 2020, FMG emailed ECCC providing a link to the draft ToR, supporting documentation, RoC, and FMG's responses to ECCC's comments on the draft ToR.

On September 23, 2020, the MECP emailed FMG providing comments on the draft ToR from HC and ECCC.

Baseline Studies

On January 24, 2022, IAAC emailed FMG providing feedback shared from ECCC on FMG's responses to ECCC's comments on the baseline studies. On March 8, 2022, FMG emailed IAAC providing responses to the comments shared by ECCC on FMG's original responses to the Federal Review Team's comments on the baseline studies relating to hydrology.

On April 27, 2022, IAAC emailed FMG informing that ECCC has no comments on the 2022 terrestrial workplan.

On October 6, 2022, ECCC emailed FMG, copying DFO, providing FMG with a letter regarding the determination of waterbodies frequented by fish that would require a Schedule 2 amendment.

On December 20, 2022, IAAC emailed FMG providing details on how the information and questions from ECCC regarding the Caribou program would inform the EIS/EA.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to ECCC related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to ECCC after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

Discussions between FMG and ECCC between May 2022 and December 2023 largely consisted of Project updates, reviews, meetings and discussion that was related to the review of the draft EIS/EA. These included discussions surrounding technical overview meetings as well as the presentation of materials related to the draft EIS/EA, including Caribou; the FHOCP; and atmospheric, terrestrial, water and human environment components. From early February 2024 into March 2024, communications were focused on the revised MWAA.

Several meetings were held between April and June 2024 to discuss comments on the draft EIS/EA and TK TLU Study, as well as to provide an update on the results of the Caribou assessment, data collection and habitat compensation. These details are outlined below within subsections related to the assessment of alternatives, and draft EIS/EA (including VCs, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring).

Assessment of Alternatives

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments from ECCC and responses from FMG specifically on the draft MWAA is provided below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

- August 2022 – ECCC emailed FMG providing comments on the draft EIS/EA, related to the draft MWAA.
- March 2023 – FMG provided responses to the comments related to the draft MWAA.

Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve comments prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-14). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provide a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies. As part of the federal review process, IAAC compiles and provides comments from all applicable federal agencies. A copy of the federal comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C. Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, meetings were held with ECCC in attendance to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG ().

FMG met with federal agencies on June 7, 2022, to discuss the draft EIS/EA and next steps. FMG provided an overview of the table of contents and discussed how any gaps in baseline data have been filled over the past year. FMG noted the importance of receiving feedback from the agencies and incorporating that into updated modelling that will be done for the final EIS/EA. A discussion on setting up technical working group meetings took place and IAAC will help coordinate those.

On June 21, 2022, IAAC emailed FMG providing comments from ECCC to FMG regarding the Technical Overview Meetings. This included three topic questions regarding accidents and malfunctions, climate change, and alternatives for mine waste disposal, and topics on fish and fish habitat. FMG responded clarifying that the technical meetings would provide an overview of key areas, and that specific meetings would be scheduled once comments were shared. FMG noted that it was following standard methods for the accidents and malfunctions and environmental effects, and that the water and fish meetings would cover the topics specific to those questions. ECCC responded thanking FMG for the response, understanding that these meetings would be high level.

On July 19, 2023, FMG provided ECCC with a letter describing the process and schedule for the establishment of the IGTRB, in accordance with FMG's commitment in the draft EIS/EA. The letter provided the CV of the first identified board member. FMG offered to address any questions.

On April 12, 2024, in response to an email from FMG on March 5, 2023, ECCC confirmed that FMG is aware that ECCC and DFO are discussing a potential *Fisheries Act* authorization in Springpole Lake. ECCC provided information on compliance of Subsection 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*. FMG acknowledged receipt of information regarding the placement of lake bed sediments in the open pit basin on April 24, 2024.

2.6.2.9 Fisheries and Oceans Canada

As described in Section 2.4.2, DFO administers a range of legislation related to Canada's aquatic resources including the *Fisheries Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14) and the *Species at Risk Act*. DFO has played a critical role related to safeguarding aquatic ecosystems and fish habitats in the Project area. DFO has provided FMG with advice related to the protection of fish populations, water quality, and aquatic habitats, while promoting collaboration amongst stakeholders to mitigate environmental impacts.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the DFO in 2018 and have been engaging since as described below. This includes engagement related to EA milestones and incorporation of valuable input shared by DFO into the final EIS/EA. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to DFO organized by key milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and DFO up to June 30, 2024.

Comments from federal reviewers on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-19 and Appendix C.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with DFO prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies and on August 15, 2022, DFO attended a site visit to the Project site to participate in the Broadscale Monitoring.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

As noted above, on August 29, 2018, FMG sent a notification announcing the commencement of the ToR phase of the provincial EA Process for the Project to DFO.

On June 2, 2020, FMG emailed DFO with a link to the draft ToR, supporting documentation and RoC and provided responses to DFO's comments on the draft ToR.

Baseline Studies

On January 6, 2021, FMG held a meeting with DFO to provide a Project fisheries program update. On March 15, 2021, DFO confirmed receipt of the presentation and meeting notes and provided a summary of comments regarding the Project.

On May 25, 2021, WSP emailed DFO providing responses to DFO's comments on hydrology and fish and fish habitat. Throughout May and June 2021, FMG and DFO exchanged a series of emails discussing water flow monitoring, and met virtually on June 22, 2021, to discuss further. DFO stated the need for immediate contact if any issues with fish passage occur.

On March 8, 2022, IAAC emailed FMG providing feedback from DFO regarding FMG's responses to the federal baseline review comments. On May 9, 2022, FMG provided detailed responses to the follow up comments from DFO on the baseline studies.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to DFO related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022. As described in Section 2.6.2.1, FMG has undertaken considerable consultation with government agencies in support of engagement on various EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

On August 15, 2022, and August 16, 2022, DFO attended a Project site visit to participate in the Broadscale Monitoring Program at the Project site.

On October 6, 2022, ECCC emailed FMG, copying DFO, to provide a letter regarding the determination of waterbodies frequented by fish that would require a Schedule 2 amendment.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provide a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies.

As part of FMG's commitment to meaningful engagement, FMG facilitated a formal comment process on the draft EIS/EA. A summary of the exchange of comments from DFO and responses from FMG on the draft EIS/EA is provided below. A copy of the comments and responses, as well as a reference to where they have been addressed in the final EIS/EA is provided as Appendix C.

- November 2022 - IAAC provided FMG with comments on the draft EIS/EA from DFO.
- February 2023 - FMG provided IAAC with responses to DFO's comments on fish and fish habitat.
- July 2023 - IAAC provided FMG with additional feedback related to fish and fish habitat.

Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, several meetings were held with government agencies to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG to resolve comments prior to submission of the final EIS/EA (Table 2.6-19). Where available, the presentations and meeting notes from these meetings are provided in Appendix D. Supplementary aquatic studies occurred after the submission of the draft

EIS/EA and were influenced by the feedback shared on the earlier programs, including non-lethal fish community sampling and habitat assessment and the Broad Scale Monitoring (BsM) program. On August 16, 2022, DFO representatives attended a site visit during the BsM baseline data collection. Through this site visit, DFO observed and participated in the study, and modifications were made to the program in collaboration with the MNRF. On August 22, 2022, FMG provided the MNRF and DFO with results and details regarding the BsM studies.

On October 6, 2022, ECCC emailed FMG and DFO, providing a letter regarding the determination of waterbodies frequented by fish that would require a Schedule 2 amendment.

2.6.2.10 Indigenous Services Canada

As described in Section 2.4.2, ISC administers various legislation, including the *Indian Act* and is instrumental in the context of mining projects by addressing the social and economic well-being of Indigenous communities. ISC works to ensure that mining projects consider the health, education, and socioeconomic needs of Indigenous communities and is dedicated to facilitating partnerships, supporting capacity building, and enhancing the quality of life for Indigenous peoples affected by mining activities.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the ISC in 2020 and have been engaging since as described below. To date, most of the engagement between FMG and ISC has been through meetings with various government agencies, as summarized above in Section 2.6.2.1.. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and ISC up to June 30, 2024.

To date, most of the engagement between FMG and ISC has been through the meetings with various government agencies, as summarized above in Section 2.6.2 and outlined in Appendix D.

On October 5, 2020, the MECP provided comments from ISC on the Project ToR to FMG. On January 10, 2021, FMG provided responses to ISC's comments on the ToR to the MECP.

In 2021, several meetings were held, on July 8, 13 and 19, between FMG, WSP, IAAC, HC, ISC, ECCC, DFO, TC, NRCan, the MECP and the NDMNRF, to provide an overview of the Project, present a summary on data collection to date, and discuss ongoing programs and questions from agencies.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provided a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies. As part of the federal review process, IAAC compiles and provides comments from all applicable federal agencies. Comments from federal reviewers on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-19 and Appendix C. Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, meetings were held with ISC in attendance to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG (Table 2.6-14).

2.6.2.11 Health Canada

As described in Section 2.4.2, HC administers various legislation and regulations related to public health, including the *Foods and Drugs Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c-F-27) and the *Hazardous Products Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. H-3). HC involvement in the Project may include ensuring the health and safety of workers and communities located within proximity to the Project, as well as the oversight of health and safety standards, potential health risks related to mining activities, and regulation of hazardous materials.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with HC in 2020 and have been engaging since as described below. To date, most of the engagement between FMG and HC has been through meetings with

various government agencies, as summarized above in Section 2.6.2.1. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to HC. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and HC up to June 30, 2024.

On April 1, 2020, HC provided comments on the draft ToR to FMG. On June 2, 2020, FMG provided responses to HC's comments, as well as a link to the draft ToR, supporting documentation and RoC.

On September 23, 2020, the MECP provided comments from HC and ECCC on the ToR to FMG. FMG provided responses to HC's comments on the ToR to the MECP to circulate on January 10, 2021.

In 2021, several meetings were held, on July 8, 13 and 19, between FMG, WSP, IAAC, HC, ISC, ECCC, DFO, TC, NRCan, the MECP and the NDMNRF, to provide an overview of the Project, present a summary on data collection to date, and discuss ongoing programs and questions from agencies.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provided a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies. As part of the federal review process, IAAC compiles and provides comments from all applicable federal agencies. Comments from federal reviewers on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-19 and Appendix C. Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, meetings were held with HC in attendance to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG (Table 2.6-14).

On March 22, 2023, IAAC emailed FMG providing HC's updated technical guidance on characterization of the health risks associated with diesel exhaust emissions.

2.6.2.12 Transport Canada

As described in Section 2.4.2, TC administers various legislation and regulations including the *Canada Transportation Act* (S.C. 1996, c. 10), the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992* (S.C. 1992, c.34), and the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. N-22). TC ensures the safe and efficient movement of goods and materials, including those extracted in mining projects, through various transportation modes. TC may provide advice to FMG related to the transportation of hazardous materials and ensuring the safe operation of infrastructure such as ports and highways. TC's focus is related to facilitating secure and sustainable transportation practices to support the mining industry and overall Canadian economy.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the TC in 2020 and have been engaging since as described below. To date, most of the engagement between FMG and TC has been through the meetings with various government agencies, as summarized above in Section 2.6.2.1. This section provides a summary of engagement specific to TC. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and TC up to June 30, 2024.

On June 2, 2020, FMG emailed TC providing a link to the draft ToR, supporting documentation, RoC, and FMG's responses to TC's comments on the draft ToR.

In 2021, several meetings were held, on July 8, 13 and 19, between FMG, WSP, IAAC, HC, ISC, ECCC, DFO, TC, NRCan, the MECP and the NDMNRF, to provide an overview of the Project, present a summary on data collection to date, and discuss ongoing programs and questions from agencies.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provided a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the

understanding of the studies. As part of the federal review process, IAAC compiles and provides comments from all applicable federal agencies. Comments from federal reviewers on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-19 and Appendix C. Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, meetings were held with TC in attendance to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG (Table 2.6-14).

On July 22, 2022, FMG emailed TC thanking them for participating in the human environment overview meeting for the Project and requested to schedule a follow-up call to discuss and receive guidance on the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* application. The meeting with TC was held on September 8, 2022. TC provided a presentation on the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* related to navigability assessments and proposed works. TC made plans to follow-up with additional information in an email. On September 12, 2022, TC emailed FMG providing the meeting presentation deck and outlined what information it would need from FMG regarding the navigability assessment. On February 9, 2023, FMG held another meeting with TC to receive further guidance on the application. On August 16, 2023, FMG emailed TC providing the Preliminary Draft: Information for Navigable Waters Assessment. FMG requested input or comments and offered to schedule a call. Following this, TC and FMG met on November 14, 2023, to discuss TC's preliminary feedback on the draft navigability assessment. TC outlined its feedback and noted that it would be detailed in a follow-up email. TC and FMG discussed public consultation strategies and TC noted that it would follow up with an example questionnaire for consultation.

2.6.2.13 Natural Resources Canada

As described in Section 2.4.2, NRCan administers various legislation and regulations related to Canada's natural resources including the *Mining Act* and CEAA 2012. NRCan may provide FMG critical support and guidance related to the mining industry, covering aspects such as mineral resource development, geoscience research, and mineral sector policies. NRCan may also assist with the optimization of mineral exploration, sustainable resource development, and responsible management of mining activities.

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with NRCan in 2020 and have been engaging since as described below. To date, most of the engagement between FMG and NRCan has been through the meetings with various government agencies, as summarized above in Section 2.6.2.1. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and NRCan up to June 30, 2024.

In 2021, several meetings were held, on July 8, 13 and 19, between FMG, WSP, IAAC, HC, ISC, ECCC, DFO, TC, NRCan, the MECP and the NDMNRF, to provide an overview of the Project, present a summary on data collection to date, and discuss ongoing programs and questions from agencies.

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provided a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies. As part of the federal review process, IAAC compiles and provides comments from all applicable federal agencies. Comments from federal reviewers on the baseline studies and draft EIS/EA as well as FMG's response and consideration of those comments in the final EIS/EA are summarized in Table 2.6-19 and Appendix C. Additionally, throughout the draft EIS/EA review period, meetings were held with NRCan in attendance to discuss comments and feedback shared with FMG (Table 2.6-14).

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Assessment of Alternatives	IAAC requested further comment regarding the design of the CDF and encapsulating the PAG rock with NAG tailings and how the material would be co-disposed.	Additional engineering trade-off assessments were carried out, resulting in the optimization of the CDF. Optimizations include the production of a thickened pumpable NAG tailings (instead of the filtered tailings) that can be hydraulically transported and placed in a manner that improves operational and environmental performance of the CDF. Thickened tailings provide a more robust operation for co-mingling with mine rock, reduced energy consumption and reduced air emissions, including GHGs. The optimized CDF designs were subsequently presented and discussed during follow-up meetings with reviewers and the IGTRB. An IGTRB has pro-actively been established for the Project and is composed of three external experts. The purpose of the IGTRB is to provide independent oversight on the design, construction, operation, performance and closure planning for the CDF, with the objective of long-term safety and environmental protection. Additional detail on the optimized design of the CDF is summarized in Section 5.9.3 and provided in Appendix V.
Baseline Studies Fish and Fish habitat	DFO requested clarification regarding statements that Lake Sturgeon are absent from Springpole Lake or are in extremely low abundance within the Birch River / Cat River system.	A full lake BsM and hydroacoustic survey was completed in Springpole Lake in 2022 (Appendix O). To gather more data on Lake Sturgeon, a targeted large mesh netting in Springpole Lake coupled with a two-season (spring and summer) eDNA metabarcoding sampling program in Springpole Lake, Birch Lake and regional stations (Cat River) was completed in 2022. Additional targeted eDNA quantitative polymerase chain reaction sampling of historical observations and spawning areas was completed within Springpole Lake, Cat River, Lake St. Joseph outflow, Birch Lake and Birch River in 2023. The studies confirmed that the deep basins within Springpole Lake and Birch Lake were similar in fish species composition and lower trophic conditions concluding that temporary isolation of one deep basing will not alter the ability of the remailing 94 % of Springpole Lake to maintain all resident fish species. Further detail on these studies is provided in Section 6.10.2.
Baseline Studies Fish and Fish habitat	DFO requested additional baseline data to support the assessment.	A full lake provincial standard BsM study was completed in 2022 (Appendix O). The BsM was used to calibrate a full lake hydroacoustic fish community study also completed in 2022. Lower trophic level (chlorophyll a, phytoplankton and zooplankton) studies (multi-year and multi-season) were completed throughout Springpole Lake and adjacent comparable locations in Birch Lake. Reviewers also requested additional habitat data for the nearshore areas of Birch Lake adjacent to the Project and therefore supplemental habitat characterization of nearshore areas of Birch Lake was completed in 2022. Further detail on this study is provided in Section 6.10.2.2.
Baseline Studies Outdoor recreation Traditional land and resource use	IAAC requested a table listing navigable waterbodies and include an assessment of any potential impacts to the exercise of rights by Indigenous people due the Project's effects on the waterbody.	A table of potentially navigable water bodies has been included in Section 6.18 (Table 6.18-4), and the assessment of potential impacts on rights of Indigenous people is included in Section 6.26.
Baseline Studies Fish and Fish habitat	DFO requested that additional spawning area analysis be extended to include other parts of the lake (outside of the north basin of Springpole Lake).	Additional analysis of potential spawning areas was completed) with additional field studies to extend the delineated areas of potential spawning areas for Northern Pike, Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish. Further detail on this analysis is provided in 2021 Aquatic Resources Baseline Report (Appendix O-3, Appendix 3.6.1.2).
Baseline Studies Groundwater	IAAC requested confirmation whether the structural features extend into metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks, and whether they impart a higher hydraulic conductivity to these rocks. Further, IAAC requested confirmation of whether any of the other modelled or known faults intersect project infrastructure or the isthmus between Springpole Lake and Birch Lake.	Additional information has continued to be collected since the draft EIS/EA, and the bedrock hydrostratigraphy model for the site has been included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.1.1). The data shows that a zone of unconsolidated granular material (i.e., the zone of highly altered/disintegrated rock; 'UGM') associated with the ore zone is surrounded by / adjacent to a zone of low RQD rock (together previously identified as the Portage Zone). These zones are surrounded by a more competent country/host rock. The UGM zone and low RQD zone would have a more substantial effect on groundwater flows around the pit than local structures, given their comparative volume, although the east-west trending structures may have some influence on interaction of the CDF with the open pit. These structures are planned to be tested in future programs as part of ongoing project engineering. As overburden is removed from the pit slopes during pit development and these structures are potentially exposed, a grouting program may be employed to seal these surficial expressions. Sensitivity analysis has been conducted to assess the potential effect of these faults and included in the Hydrogeologic Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 7).
Baseline Studies Groundwater	IAAC requested further information on groundwater baseline data.	Groundwater baseline data was supplemented, resulting in a higher degree of confidence for the environmental assessment predictions. Supplemental data collected included: • Water level monitoring and hydraulic test data from 15 additional screened monitoring well installations; • Vibrating wire installations at ten new locations, and water level monitoring from 26 monitoring ports equipped with dataloggers; • Automated pressure transducers monitoring groundwater level fluctuations in 25 monitoring wells; • Packer testing at new drillhole locations, including 71 new unique measurements; • Hydraulic testing in 29 pre-existing monitoring well installations; • Additional stratigraphic boreholes and test pits from 2021 and 2022 investigations; • Bedrock outcropping mapping information from historical surveys; and, • Additional quarterly groundwater quality data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The results of these studies are discussed below under Existing Conditions (Section 6.5.2) with additional details included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1).

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline Studies Groundwater	IAAC requested the rationale for the values and conclusions presented for hydraulic conductivity of bedrock.	Hydraulic testing has continued since the preparation of the draft EIS/EA. The Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2) in the EIS/EA has been revised to incorporate the most updated data / information and includes the rationale to explain the selection of hydraulic conductivity.
Baseline Studies Hydrology	IAAC requested an analysis of the variability in lake level for Springpole Lake, and a discussion on how that is linked to fish habitat.	Level loggers were installed in Springpole Lake to measure seasonal variability, and the results have been included in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4) for the EIS/EA. This information has been used to assess the potential effects to fish habitat due to changes in water levels from pit dewatering in Springpole Lake, as described in Section 6.10.6.
Baseline Studies Groundwater	IAAC requested confirmation that the porphyry bedrock does not extend beyond the Portage Zone for the groundwater modelling, and the extent of high hydraulic conductivity in a simulated sensitivity variant.	Since release of the draft EIS/EA, additional information has been collected and the bedrock hydrostratigraphy model for the site has been updated in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1). The data, along field investigation completed in 2022 including packer testing in boreholes, has been used to inform the hydrogeological modelling (Appendix L-2, Section 3.2.1 and Figure 3.2-2). The hydraulic conductivity reported hydraulic conductivity results that were typical of competent bedrock.
Baseline Studies Air quality	IAAC requested information on the use of regional air quality data as baseline data for the air quality assessment, as well as a description of how local data are considered.	The assessment of air quality uses three to five years of data from the NAPS program stations at Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Pickle Lake and Simcoe to ensure a robust, long-term monitoring dataset has been considered with onsite Project data used preferentially. Although the selected NAPS locations are influenced by local urban sources, they are broadly reflective of regional air quality, and from an EA perspective they are expected to overestimate parameters relative to the Project site. This lends itself to a conservative approach when assessing the effects on air quality from the Project. The collected onsite data will provide a comparison against the regional NAPS data and will be used preferentially to characterize the existing air quality at the remote Project site. A discussion of this comparison has been added to the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G 1) and Section 6.2.2.2 of the final EIS/EA. Per standard practice, for air parameter criteria with averaging periods shorter than one year, the 90th percentile of the data are used to represent baseline conditions; for parameters with an annual averaging period, the average (mean) concentrations are used. Onsite data were supplemented by the regional data, and discussions include a comparison of onsite data to regional data. For parameters that were not measured on site and were not measured at the regional NAPS stations, such as silica, baseline concentrations have been established using appropriate methods, such as use of a particle size distribution, speciation of a measured parameter, or published values. This rationale has been described in the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1, Section 5). The Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1) and Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2, Section 4) of the EIS/EA include a summary of the meteorological data relevant to discussions of air quality modelling, a summary table of baseline concentrations and the rationale for the selection of the baseline concentrations used for the assessment of effects.
Baseline Studies Groundwater	IAAC requested further information on the cross-sections for the geologic and structural and the associated groundwater levels.	The cross-sections are shown in Figure 6.5-6 have been produced and included in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report (Appendix L-1, Section 5.1.1). Further, the 3-D hydrostratigraphic model has been updated with additional data collected since the draft EIS/EA and included in the Baseline Hydrogeology and Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 5.1.2). In addition, updated water level monitoring information, including time series datalogger data, has been provided.
Baseline Studies Air quality	IAAC requested information on baseline concentrations for VOCs and PAHs, including a discussion of the use of the onsite passive VOC monitoring data. IAAC also requested information on an assessment of health risks due to incremental ozone exposure, including a discussion on the potential for ozone formation from Project emissions of gaseous precursors.	The onsite VOC monitoring data used in the air quality assessment serve as a screening for the presence of target species and as a general comparison of VOC concentrations to background values from regional NAPS program stations. Where the detection limits are low, concentrations were compared to the relevant provincial AAQC by using the averaging time conversion method of the MECP (2016) *Air Dispersion Modelling Guideline for Ontario (Version 3.0)*. Data from the NAPS regional background station in Simcoe have been used to establish background concentrations for the final cumulative effects assessments. Further, 7 additional samples were taken (for a total of 10 on site) for comparison with the regional NAPS data since the draft EIS/EA. Baseline information for VOCs and PAHs has been considered in Section 6.2.2 of the EIS/EA and is provided in the Baseline Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report (Appendix G-1, Section 4.6), including a description of how the VOC data collected on site by passive sampling are used. The Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2, Section 5) and Section 6.2.6 of the EIS/EA include an assessment of PAH and VOC concentrations for all phases and a qualitative assessment of ozone formation. There are no sources of ozone associated with the Project. While the Project emits compounds that could be considered precursors for ozone (i.e., NOx and small quantities of VOCs that may react in the presence of heat and sunlight to photochemically form ozone), there is no expectation that the amounts emitted will cause an increase in ozone on either a local or regional scale. With respect to mercury, the total particulate sampling using a high-volume sampler included the analysis of filters for particle-bound mercury; the highest baseline mercury concentration measured was less than 0.01% of the MECP's AAQC.

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline Studies Surface Water Quality	IAAC requested additional information on the hydrometric and surface water quality monitoring results.	The results from the ongoing hydrology program since the preparation of the draft EIS/EA are included in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1). The results include lake level monitoring of Birch Lake, as well as a number of the small inland lakes (Lake 1, Lake 19, Dole Lake). Monitoring stations have been established where they can support life of mine monitoring and provide long term data for the Project. Further, flow monitoring data from smaller watersheds on the Project site has been included and may be used to help characterize monthly/seasonal and extreme flows for the Project site. In addition, the results of the surface water quality monitoring program have been updated in the Baseline Surface Water Quality Report (Appendix N-1, Section 3) and reflect the water quality monitoring programs that has varied slightly from year to year and reflects site accessibility and optimization of the proposed Project design. The geographic extent of the surface water quality study is inclusive of watercourses that could be potentially affected by mine development along with unaffected watercourses.
Baseline studies Bats	IAAC requested further details on the methodologies employed for the surveys and search for candidate bat hibernaculum sites.	The methods used to search for candidate bat hibernaculum sites included an initial desktop GIS exercise to identify areas with potential karst geology, any abandoned mine sites or features and cliff-like topography. Based on the identification of these candidate sites, field visits were conducted by trained biologists and involved moving outward in a circular pattern to find the mapped feature. Once biologists were confident the location had been reasonably examined, the investigation was concluded for that location. Potential cliff features mapped during the desktop exercise or encountered in the field were examined for suitability as a bat hibernaculum. Openings and cracks were examined and documented (length, depth). An ARU was placed at the opening to record bats in the spring or fall for features greater than 1 m deep with the potential to hold suitable thermoregulatory microclimates for wintering bats. The locations of the candidate hibernacula sites are provided in Figure 6-1 of the Baseline Terrestrial Report (Appendix P-1) and include those candidate hibernacula sites that were assessed in 2022. WSP obtained over 312,000 bat recordings spanning two maternity, one spring emergence and two swarming / mating seasons within the LSA and RSA. Further details on methodologies used for bat surveys, along with the results of additional hibernacula assessments undertaken in 2022 and 2023, are included in the baseline terrestrial report (Appendix P-1) of the final EIS/EA.
Baseline studies Birds	IAAC requested further justification that sufficient baseline sampling for birds has been undertaken to support the conclusions for the effects assessment.	Baseline surveys for migratory birds continued in 2022, and included breeding bird point counts, owl surveys, ARU surveys and stick nest surveys adapted from ECCC's Annex on Baseline Guidance (dated August 13, 2021). Multi-year migratory bird point count surveys per provincial and federal avian protocols were undertaken across the LSA and RSA and include multiple seasons to obtain density estimates of individual breeding bird species. Additional detail of the study design, results and power analysis has been added to Appendix P-1 (Baseline Terrestrial Report) of the final EIS/EA.
Baseline studies Birds	IAAC requested further information on bird species abundance and distribution that accounts for observer bias or provide a rationale for excluding observer bias from the analysis. Further, it was requested to demonstrate that the data gathered from point count surveys are valid for estimating abundance or distribution estimates for migratory birds, including SAR birds, for the PDA, LSA and RSA.	The final EIS/EA has included the analyses in Appendix P-1 (Baseline Terrestrial Report) and summarized the information in Section 6.12. It notes that the data gathered from point count surveys are valid for estimating abundance or distribution of migratory birds and included abundance estimates and confidence intervals. Appendix P-1includes the estimates which have quantified and accounted for sources of error and bias including species probability of detection, detection distance, time of day, observer, and habitat, and observer bias has been incorporated into the analysis of avian data. Further, Appendix P-1 includes a concordance table against the ECCC Annex on Baseline Guidance (dated August 13, 2021).
Baseline studies Caribou	IAAC raised concerns about the Boreal Caribou habitat, particularly range disturbance levels in Churchill Range caused by historical and recent forestry operations as well as fires. The 2021 forest fire increased habitat disturbance, which may impact calving and nursery areas, prompting plans for updated surveys and technical meetings. They noted that the Churchill population's habitat disturbance has increased due to combination of factors including forestry, necessitating a range-scale assessment and mitigation strategy.	The spatial disturbance data with recent fire and forestry-related disturbances was updated, and the percent of total disturbance for the Churchill range was updated, including both federal and provincial calculation methods for disturbances.
Baseline studies Caribou	IAAC identified information needs in the draft EIS/EA baseline information regarding Boreal Caribou and their habitat, including comprehensive information on seasonal movements and habitats such as overwintering and calving areas as well movement behaviours and landscape connectivity.	Three additional aerial surveys with expanded geographic coverage have been carried out since 2021, as described in Section 6.13.2.2 and the Terrestrial Baseline Report (Appendix P-1). A comprehensive satellite telemetry program was also initiated in February 2023 to provide baseline information pertaining to seasonal habitat use, movement dynamics and demography.
Baseline studies Human and ecological health	IAAC requested justification for the lack of site-specific baseline data, rationale to validate the data used to characterize baseline levels of contaminants in larger and small mammals, and how these assumptions may contribute to uncertainty.	Since the time that the HEHRA was completed and the draft EIS/EA was submitted for comment, baseline small mammal sampling has been completed, with co-located soil sampling. These additional baseline sampling data were used as a surrogate for baseline concentrations in small wild game (hare). Baseline and predicted concentrations in large wild game are predicted using the total dose and body burden for baseline, project and post closure concentrations from applicable exposure media (e.g. soil, surface water, plants, etc.). The baseline and predicted exposure point concentrations for each media are summarized in Table B-1 through B-1-4 in Attachment B (Appendix R) and uncertainties are summarized in Table 4.5-1 in Section 4.5 for the human health risk assessment and in Section 5.6.5 for the ecological risk assessment (Appendix R).

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Baseline studies Hydrology	IAAC requested additional information on streamflow station at the inlet of Springpole Lake and monitored water levels in Springpole Lake to support the estimation of the water available for the refilling of the open pit basin during active closure, and to assess the potential effects on Springpole Lake.	A description of the flow monitoring data collected at the inlet and outlet of Springpole Lake is provided in the Baseline Hydrology Report (Appendix M-1, Section 4.4). The description includes both previous flow monitoring data and the more recent stage-discharge measurements that were collected between 2021 and 2023 at the inlet and outlet of Springpole Lake to support the development of a rating curve. The collected data includes two winter monitoring programs in February of 2022 and 2023. Section 4.8 of the Baseline Hydrology Report provides a description of the Springpole Lake level analysis, based on average monthly water levels recorded from 2012, and 2020 to 2022. Based on average annual flows, the active filling rate is determined to be 1.13 m^3/s. The water levels in the north basin of Springpole Lake (and therefore the entire Springpole Lake) are anticipated to lower by up to approximately 10 cm during the pit refilling phase. The potential effects of these changes on Springpole Lake are further described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Baseline studies Local and regional economy	IAAC requested further information to describe the potential effects on the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous people, including the effects on commercial activities such as fishing, trapping, hunting, forestry, and outfitting.	FMG has received input from Indigenous communities through ongoing engagement activities and socio-economic baseline reports from CLFN, LSFN and SFN. Updated socio-economic information, including information provided by Indigenous communities has been incorporated into Section 6.19.2 which provides information regarding the existing economic conditions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and Section 6.20.2 which includes a summary of the existing social conditions for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Section 6.19.6 and Section 6.20.6 provides a description of the potential effects of the Project on the economic and social environment, respectively. The analysis in these sections has been carried forward in the assessment of effects on Indigenous people in Section 6.26, which includes information on the commercial activities carried out by Indigenous communities such as fishing, trapping and hunting.
Baseline studies Local and regional economy	IAAC requested further information on the socio-economic conditions for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to support the assessment of changes in the socio-economic environment that will be carried forward into the assessment of effects on Indigenous people and the assessment of changes to the environment that are directly linked or necessarily incidental to a federal authority's exercise of a power, duty or function.	The updated 2021 Census data has been considered in the assessment of effects on socio-economic VCs (Section 6.17, Section 6.18, Section 6.19 and Section 6.20), and is carried forward into the assessment of effects that are linked or incidental to a federal authority's exercise of power or performance of a duty or function that would permit carrying out the Project in Section 6.25. Additional TK/TLU and socio-economic information has been shared with FMG and non-confidential socio-economic information has been included in the assessment of effects on socio-economic VCs and the assessment of effects on Indigenous peoples in Section 6.26.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	DFO requested more information about potential effects on Springpole Lake and Birch Lake from blasting effects and requested more stringent blasting criteria be used in the effects analysis.	A revised blasting assessment (Appendix H-4) was completed using more conservative (larger) charges and the more stringent blasting criteria for fish to conservatively identify additional areas of potential impacts as discussed in Section 6.10.3 and the FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	IAAC requested additional discussion of the resiliency of the overall water management system to extreme rainfall events and the consequences of discharge of untreated contact water, particularly from the collection ditches and water management ponds.	A water management plan and schematic are provided in Section 5.10. Additional discussion on managing extreme rainfall events is included in Section 8.6 (Major Precipitation Events).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	DFO requested additional information on how the isolation of the basin and removal of fish from the isolated areas would occur.	Additional detail of the isolation procedure including methods, timing and other mitigation measures has been added to Section 5.6.1.2, Section 6.10.4 and the FHOCP (Appendix F, Section 5.2.3). Detailed discussion on controlled dewatering rates and procedure for the isolated basin has been added. Additional description of the fish removal (mitigation) is also provided, including a strategy suggested by DFO where isolation of the basin during the spring may reduce the number of Lake Trout and Walleye entrained in the basin.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	DFO requested further details on how the reclaimed basin will provide habitat similar to existing conditions for Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish and, where possible, examples of similar reclamation activities.	Additional examples of successful fisheries established in former open pits are provided in this final EIS/EA along with more detailed plans for the fish habitat development area and reclaimed basin. Drawings and descriptions of the grading and surface treatments including habitat features have been added to the FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and Fish habitat	IAAC requested additional evaluation of the isolated basin compared to the rest of Springpole Lake and how the remaining area will support the fish community during the life of the mine. IAAC also requested that additional consideration be given to the status of Lake Trout in Springpole Lake and the assessment of the sustainability of Lake Trout populations through the life of mine and during post-closure as a result of the removal and alteration of habitat.	Additional fisheries and aquatic data were collected for the entire Springpole Lake and the open pit basin during 2022. The 2022 program included a full lake BsM program, ongoing lower trophic level studies, a lake-wide hydroacoustic fish community survey, and multiple eDNA metabarcoding surveys. The additional data, in combination with previously collected aquatic data, increase the confidence that the majority of the Springpole Lake area will remain capable of sustaining all species and all life functions present in the lake and that Lake Trout and the resources they depend on are well distributed in the north basin and not reliant only on the portion that will be isolated.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	IAAC requested further information on the pit drawdown to support the assessment of potential effects on fish and fish habitat.	Additional groundwater modelling (Appendix L-2) has been completed to support the EIS/EA and shows the area of drawdown into the nearshore areas of Birch Lake to assess habitats potentially affected, in Figure 6.1-2.

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and Vibration	IAAC requested that all noise sources should be included in the noise modelling and noted that justification should be provided for the exclusion of noise sources.	Additional sources of noise (including the transmission line, the process plant and the aggregate locations) from the Project that are expected to change sound levels at offsite PORs have been included in the Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 3). The existing publicly accessible Wenasaga Road, from the E1C transmission line to the eastern end of Springpole Lake, was previously assessed through the provincial forest management planning process and, therefore, is not part of the Springpole Project EA process.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and Fish habitat	IAAC requested more information about potential effects on Birch Lake from groundwater drawdown.	Aquatic investigations were completed along the south shore of Birch Lake in 2022 to better describe lake conditions adjacent to the Project (Appendix O-3). Additional groundwater modelling (Appendix L-2) has been completed to support the final EIS/EA and shows the area of drawdown into the nearshore areas of Birch Lake to assess habitats potentially affected. The additional modeling shows that the effects of groundwater management within the open pit basin does not extend into Birch Lake as described the Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 6.1.1 of) and that there will be only minor increases in groundwater reporting to Birch Lake from the CDF.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	IAAC requested the incorporation of a shallow, weathered, more permeable bedrock zone (with higher hydraulic conductivity) into the conceptual and numerical groundwater flow models.	Based on field investigations, the shallowest bedrock (upper 10 to 20 m) generally shows the highest hydraulic conductivity values; however, many low hydraulic conductivity values also occur in this interval. This is a fairly typical occurrence whereby variability is greatest at surface, which decreases with depth along with the overall average value. The shallow bedrock hydraulic conductivity values are based on single hole test (i.e., packer tests and rising / falling head tests). While these tests are valuable for inferring localized conditions, the zone of influence for these types of tests is small compared to, for example, a pumping test. The likelihood that the permeable fractures intersecting the test wells are persistent over large scales (as represented in the hydrogeological model), is low. This is evidenced by the occurrence of shallow water levels observed in topographic highs which have thin to no overburden. If shallow bedrock contained persistent fracture networks, it would tend to drain rather than retain water. Satisfying the measured shallow bedrock hydraulic conductivity values during model calibration is balanced with the measured water levels and applied recharge. In this case, shallow bedrock hydraulic conductivity was generally lowered during calibration in effort to retain water levels at the topographic highs, whilst also maintaining recharge rates within a realistic range. The country rock zone has been further considered as part of the overall bedrock hydrostratigraphic model update (Appendix L-1, Section 5.1.1) of the EIS/EA. Calibration is achieved by shortening the shallow bedrock zone in the model (from a range of 50 to 70 m to 25 m) to correspond with the highest zone of variability in the observed data, with the rest being allocated to the revised intermediate bedrock zone. Description of the updated modelled layers is given in the Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 3.1).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and Fish habitat	IAAC requested that suitable habitat for Lake Sturgeon in the area be identified and characterized.	Birch Lake, Springpole Lake and other surrounding lakes are large, with numerous embayments, deep water refugia and large connecting rivers that are favourable habitats for Lake Sturgeon. These lakes all have a mixture of relatively shallow and deeper water habitats, with the connecting rivers providing the needed habitat requirements for Lake Sturgeon. Several historical spawning locations have been identified between Lake St. Joseph and Cat Lake. Excluding the dams at Lake St. Joseph, there are no known major works within the waterbodies that would have changed the physical habitats of the upstream waterbodies that historically supported a healthy Lake Sturgeon population.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Fish and fish habitat	DFO requested clarification on potential effects to the food web / primary productivity.	Detailed investigations and studies have been completed for the Project and provide comparison of lower trophic data and fish community data for Springpole lake and adjacent Birch Lake sufficient to assess the potential effects of the isolated open pit basin. Results show comparable primary resources in the six deep water sample stations in Springpole Lake and two stations in Birch Lake, and a high degree of similarity between the three most northern stations in the north basin of Springpole Lake.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	IAAC requested an analysis of the pump test responses for monitoring wells, including the determination of transmissivity and the average hydraulic conductivity, and updates to the hydrogeology model.	Distance-drawdown plots for data provide insight into which wells are likely best connected to the pumping well (and therefore whose hydraulic conductivity estimates are most representative for that pathway). Monitoring wells with unexpectedly low drawdown are indicative of limited hydraulic connection to the pumping well; therefore, hydraulic conductivity / transmissivity value estimates in these cases are not representative. An assessment of distance-drawdown has been conducted for monitoring wells for the long-term aquifer test, and is described in the Baseline Hydrogeology Report along with expanded discussion and interpretations of the pumping test (Appendix L-1, Section 5.2.2) of the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	IAAC requested clarification on the evaporation estimates that informed the Mine Site Water Balance. Further, IAAC requested a discussion on the use of this value in the assessment and whether additional water would need to be taken from Birch Lake.	Estimations of evaporation are based on the Hamon equation and result in an annual value that aligns with other references (i.e. Hydrologic Atlas of Canada). Pan evaporation data collected from the Project site have been considered in the hydrology modelling, however the site data record was only used in the selection of the methodology used for estimating evaporation at the Project site. This has been described in the Mine Site Water Balance (Appendix M-2, Section 5.1).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse Gas emissions	IAAC requested the provision of Project GHG emission intensities and benchmarks for comparison.	FMG has calculated and presented the GHG emission intensities for the Project, and included comparison benchmarks in the GHG Assessment Report (Appendix I-1, Section 6.1.1) of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse Gas emissions	IAAC requested clarification for land use change emission estimates and provision of annual emissions.	FMG has provided further details on, and clarification of, land use change emissions in Appendix I of the final EIS/EA. The assessment includes a more developed description on the fate of biomass cleared and associated GHG emissions. Appendix I-1 (Table 3-1 and Section 4.3.3) provide methodologies and assumptions related to biomass. Tables A5a, A5b, and A5c of Appendix I-1 provide the related calculations and Table A1 provides the summarized annual emissions related to biomass removal and foregone carbon sequestration.

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse Gas emissions	IAAC requested additional detail and justification for the GHG calculation approach for the construction of the mine access road.	FMG has refined the calculation methodology used for the final EIS/EA, and the bottom-up approach uses an estimated construction fleet rather than a proxy project. The calculations for the mine access road are included in the Greenhouse Gas Assessment (Appendix I-1, Table A6), with the construction of the transmission line found in Appendix I-1, Table A7.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse Gas emissions	IAAC requested the GHG emissions be presented for all phases of the Project.	FMG has updated the final EIS/EA to include the assessment of GHG emissions for all phases of the Project, per the temporal boundaries defined in Section 6.4.1.3. Annual net GHG emissions under each phase are presented in the Greenhouse Gas Assessment (Appendix I-1, Table A2) of the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse Gas emissions	IAAC requested detailed fleet information for the operations phase of the Project, commitments to using best available technologies for the management of GHG emissions, and details on the implementation schedule of emerging technologies. Further, IAAC noted that if the closure and decommissioning phase will not be completed by 2050, and emissions will continue past 2050, a credible plan describing how the Project will achieve net-zero emissions may be required and should follow the principles outlined in the SACC.	FMG is implementing a strategy to reduce the net GHG emissions to zero over the life of the Project. The Net-Zero Strategy (Appendix I-2) has been developed to achieve this target and includes the use of technologies and practices to reduce fossil fuel use and carbon offsets to balance GHG emissions that cannot be eliminated. The details of the fleet information used for the Project are included in the Air Quality Assessment (Appendix G -2).
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Air Quality	IAAC requested clarification on how a 95% control efficiency and a 3.9% silt content on the haul roads will be achieved. Further, IAAC requested that silt content and dustfall sampling be carried out along the haul roads during the construction and operations phases.	For the assessment of air quality, a 95% control efficiency was selected as the haul roads are along the northern Project property line, near waterbodies, and therefore will require highly effective dust control measures (including a robust fugitive dust management plan and monitoring program with continuous particulate monitoring to allow a feedback loop). Control efficiencies of 85% to 95% have been successfully applied to other mining projects in northern Ontario. Since multiple control methods can be implemented and reinforce each other, an overall control efficiency of more than 95% is justified where an effective dust management and monitoring plan is implemented. The rationale for this control efficiency has been added to the Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2) and considered in Section 6.2.5 of the final EIS/EA. The rationale for 3.9% silt content is supported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA 2006) AP-42: Compilation of Air Emissions Factors from Stationary Sources, Chapter 13.2.2, which provides a silt content range of 3.9% to 9.7% with a mean of 5.8% for Taconite (lean iron ore) mining and processing haul roads to and from the pit. It is feasible to maintain lower silt content levels using an onsite crusher and screening plant that can provide coarse aggregate product to an engineered specification with less than 3.9% silt for use as road surface. The rationale for the 95% control efficiency and 3.9% silt content has been added to the Air Quality Assessment Report (Appendix G-2) and considered in Section 6.2.5 of the final EIS/EA. However, considering the comments received, a sensitivity analysis using an 85% control efficiency, and 5.8% silt content, has been added to the Air Quality Assessment Report to provide a comparison. Although the geographic extent of the predicted air quality exceedances increases, the geographic extent remains localized and is predicted to occur for PM_{10} only 0.1% of the time (two days in a five-year period) during frozen conditions in November and December and no exceedances are predicted for $PM_{2.5}$. FMG has committed to a follow-up program that will be initiated during construction and will include particulate monitoring to allow a feedback loop between conditions and maintenance activities; this will confirm the efficacy of controls at the property line. Further, a detailed air quality monitoring program will be prepared during the permitting process and is anticipated to include particulate matter. An air quality monitoring program building on the baseline program is described in Section 12 of the EIS/EA and will be refined during the permitting process.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	IAAC requested a discussion of the resilience of the water management system to extreme climate conditions, including consideration for the risk and consequences of discharge of untreated contact water, particularly from the periphery ditches and water management ponds. IAAC also requested a schematic of the water management system, a summary of the design levels for all water management features, and illustration of these features in the mine site layout. Further, IAAC requested that the boundaries for the water balance model be updated to include runoff on the outside edge of the mine haul roads, and the results from the analysis of CDF and WSP water levels.	Further engineering has occurred since the draft EIS/EA to develop a water management plan for the operations phase of the Project, including a schematic of the water management conveyance and collection systems which is presented in Section 4.10.1.2 and includes the sizing of the key storage facilities. The water management facilities will be designed to ensure that mine contact water is collected, and that infrastructure is sized appropriately to avoid untreated discharge to the environment respecting design criteria. The mine site layout has been updated accordingly with the water management infrastructure. The boundaries for the mine site water balance model (Appendix M-2, Section 5.2) have been updated to include runoff on the outside edge of the mine haul roads for the final EIS/EA. This additional watershed area is extremely small in comparison to the overall total watershed (approximately 935 ha) and is not expected to result in any changes to the effects assessment. Section 9.8 includes consideration for climate change and provides a discussion of the measures to reduce risk and consequences of a discharge of contact water from the ponds during a major storm event. Additional detailed design of the key water management facilities will be carried out to support environmental approvals applications, and to support construction.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Groundwater	IAAC requested further discussion on additional seepage mitigation measures that might be considered best available technology that is economically achievable.	Runoff water collection ditches will be constructed around the perimeter of key infrastructure, including the co-disposal facility and stockpiles, to collect overland flow and seepage and direct it to the central water storage pond during operations. The collected contact water not re-used in processing will be treated at the ETP as needed and discharged to the southeast arm of Springpole Lake. This information has been included in Section 6.5.4 of the EIS/EA.

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Air Quality	IAAC requested further detail on the ambient air quality monitoring program for all phases of the Project.	Section 12.2 of the EIS/EA includes additional details of the follow up and monitoring program for air quality.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	IAAC requested additional information to demonstrate that the contact water collection system considered design standards for storms, and that sufficient space is available to manage the required water volumes during weather events.	Section 5.12 has been updated to clarify that although the short-term construction phase water management will use more frequent design events (i.e., 1:10-year), the operations phase water management facilities will be designed to accommodate and contain a 1:100-year, 24-hour storm event. Figure 5.12-1 has been created to show the water management plan infrastructure, including the perimeter seepage collection system.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	IAAC requested clarification on whether runoff from haul roads would be considered contact water and how this water would be managed.	Section 5.12.3.6 has been updated to provide clarification that sumps and ditching at locations across the site will be used as needed to divert non-contact water from site facilities and haul roads and to collect contact water for management. The collection system has been added to the site plan (Figure 5.1-1). The mine access road was further reviewed for efficiencies, resulting in minor changes to the alignment, which reduced the number of potential water crossings from four to one.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Noise and Vibration	IAAC requested further detail on the noise complaint response protocol identified in the draft EIS/EA.	Section 6.3.4 outlines the mitigation measures, which include the development of a weekly blast schedule posted on the Project's website, a mechanism for recording complaints, and a mechanism for timely monitoring of and follow-up for complaints during the construction and operations phases. It is expected that the protocol will include a complaint submission function available through the Project's website.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	IAAC inquired how the groundwater model takes into account the ore stockpile design, and a description of the follow-up monitoring program for groundwater related to the ore stockpiles.	Since the ore stockpile materials are expected to have high hydraulic conductivity, it has been assumed that percolation through / seepage from the ore stockpile would be similar to recharge through the existing baseline landscape (i.e., groundwater would not mound within the ore stockpile). As such, the ore stockpile was not explicitly modelled, Instead, the groundwater model budgets within the footprint of the proposed stockpile were used for analysis. In terms of the groundwater monitoring program, additional monitoring wells have been placed around the ore stockpiles in 2022 and have been incorporated into the Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 3) of the EIS/EA. Additional information on the follow-up and monitoring program is provided in Section 12 of the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment, Noise and vibration	DFO recommended the use of 50 kilopascals (kPa) as the threshold for instantaneous pressure changes on fish in the assessment of blasting impacts based on guidance provided in Cott and Hanna (2005).	The Blasting Assessment Report (Appendix H-4, Section 2) has been updated to include the 50 kPa threshold in the assessment and it provides revised results on that basis.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Air Quality	IAAC requested that the 2025 CAAQS for 1-hour and annual NO2 be included in the assessment.	The CAAQS have been updated, as requested, to 79 µg/m^3 and 23 µg/m^3, respectively in Table 6.2-3 of the EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	IAAC requested a hydrogeological analysis be included as part of the detailed geotechnical design for the CDF to assess saturation conditions and predict groundwater levels and flow within the CDF, particularly for the post-closure phase.	The CDF has been explicitly simulated with additional numerical layers in the Hydrogeological Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 6.2) of the EIS/EA which is considered in the CDF design (Appendix V-2).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and Vibration	IAAC requested that the blasting criteria from the Health Canada Noise Guideline be considered in the blasting assessment.	The criteria from the Health Canada Noise Guideline are used in the updated Blasting Assessment Report (Appendix H-4, Section 2)
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	IAAC requested clarification on the water quality guidelines utilized for the EIS/EA.	The final EIS/EA uses a consistent set of WQG PAL as per the latest guidance from MECP. Recent MECP guidance necessitates the utilization of the most current WQG PAL sourced from either PWQO/iPWQO, CWQG, or WQG. This has been clarified in Section 6.6.5.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	DFO asked for more details about Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measures and additional documentation and data to describe species absence and the likely cause of Lake Sturgeon absence.	The Lake Sturgeon reintroduction measure has been revised to a two-step measure: 1) collect additional data and information and 2) implement reintroduction / enhancement measures. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	IAAC requested the rationale for not requiring a regional study area.	The maximum extent of potential effects is restricted to local waterbodies adjacent to the mine site infrastructure that act as hydrogeological boundaries (also corresponding to the modelled the groundwater modelling domain) which is defined as the local study area. As a result, a regional study area is not required to be defined for groundwater. The spatial boundaries discussed below in section 6.5.1.3 includes this clarification.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and Vibration	HC requested that further details on the applicable tonal adjustments in the noise model be provided in the final EIS/EA.	The Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3) has considered applicable adjustments and indicates which noise sources were considered tonal (i.e., Tables A1-A through A1-D in Appendix H-3) where a 5 dB tonal penalty was applied, and it describes the use of the 10 dB correction in the calculation of the percentage of highly annoyed people in quiet rural areas.

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Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Noise and Vibration	IAAC requested that sleep disturbance be assessed against the standards recommended by HC.	The Noise Modelling Report (Appendix H-3, Section 5.2) uses the most stringent sleep disturbance criteria (i.e., annual average nighttime noise level limit of 40 dBA).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Groundwater	IAAC requested a comparison of the predicted groundwater and surface water quality that is impacted by seepage from the CDF with guidelines protective of human health.	The predicted surface water quality has been compared to guidelines protective of human health in this final EIS/EA, as described in the Human and Ecological Risk Modelling Report (Appendix R). Based on TK/TLU information, the groundwater pathway was excluded for human health, as groundwater use has not been identified and is not likely to occur within or adjacent to the PDA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Greenhouse Gas emissions	IAAC requested clarification on the validity of GHG emissions as a VC and the reversibility of effects. A distinction was made regarding the reversibility of residual GHG effects, specifically between GHG emissions (the VC) and atmospheric GHG concentrations.	The Project's effects on atmospheric GHG concentrations are not fully reversible; however, it is recognized that this Project is not expected to have a measurable effect on these GHG concentrations. In contrast, the residual effects of GHG emissions are reversible as the emissions cease once the activities generating GHG emissions no longer occur. Additionally, GHG emissions are measurable at the Project level and both the federal and provincial governments have implemented initiatives to manage and mitigate GHG emissions.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Fish and fish habitat	DFO requested additional information on how the potential time lag between impact and the implementation of offset measures is addressed, considering that a large proportion of the offsetting and compensation relies on the reclamation of the open pit basin.	Through discussion with government agencies (DFO and the MNR), fish biomass and surrogates to productivity will be used as the measure of impacts and the measure of offsetting success to allow consistent and readily made revisions to the total impact and total required offsets should a delay in reclamation occur. This has been included in the revised FHOCP (Appendix F).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Surface Water Quality	IAAC requested further information on the draft EIS base case for seepage estimates from Project facilities and the scenario where 80% seepage capture is used to inform downstream water quality predictions. IAAC also requested additional parameters be included in the assessment of different scenarios. Finally, IAAC requested further information on how the residual 20% would influence surface water quality, sediment quality and fish habitat.	Water collection ditches will be constructed and operated around the perimeter of the CDF and ore stockpiles to collect overland flow and seepage and direct it to the integrated water management system. The predicted volume of bypass seepage is described in the Hydrogeology Modelling Report (Appendix L-2, Section 6) and described in the assessment of surface water quality in Birch Lake (Section 6.6.5). The predicted quality of seepage is described in Mine Site Water Quality Report (Appendix K-4. Section 4) and presented in Table 6.6.9. Based on the volumes and quality, the effect of these changes on surface water quality is assessed in Section 6.6.5 under an expected conservative scenario (using a 90% seepage capture rate as predicted by the Hydrogeology Modelling Report) and included three sensitivity scenarios to evaluate an uppercase seepage and extreme climatic conditions. The assessment includes the addition of cyanide, un-ionized ammonia, nitrate, chloride and manganese. The results of the surface water quality assessment for the expected conservative scenario are carried into the assessment of fish and fish habitat (Section 6.10) and the assessment of human and ecological health (Section 6.26).
Draft EIS/EA Criteria and indicators, Vegetation communities and wetlands	IAAC requested clarification on the characterization of specific significance attributes for the change in wetland quantity and quality.	As described in Section 6.11.7.3, the residual effect due to the direct loss of wetlands is characterized as partially reversible, as there will be opportunities to recreate wetland habitat during the decommissioning and active closure phase within the PDA, such as the potential aggregate locations. With respect to the residual effect due to the indirect effect on wetlands, the duration of the residual effect is characterized as moderate because it will occur primarily during the operations phase but may also occur during the construction phase and the early parts of the decommissioning phase. The residual effect due to the indirect effect on wetlands is characterized as fully reversibility because groundwater contributions to baseflow generally return to baseline conditions in the final closure phase and dust deposition will be mitigated and cease at the end of the operations and decommissioning phase. The measures carried out during progressive reclamation in operation and final reclamation at closure will support the rehabilitation of wetland vegetation communities, including the inclusion of revegetation trials during life of mine. Additional information and analysis with respect to groundwater drawdown, dust deposition, and change in wetland form and function has been provided in Section 6.11.7 to support this characterization.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results	IAAC requested the incorporation of updated climate change information from the Sixth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) into the assessment. Further, IAAC requested the use of grid cell that contains the Project and include climate projections that use downscaled data.	A grid cell approach that selected the grid cell that contained the Project was used, rather than the grid cell of the selected met station. Future climate change projections from the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report have been incorporated into the assessment of climate change effects on the Project, as described in Section 8.4.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Bats	IAAC requested scientific evidence to support the evaluation of the ecological context for residual effects on bats.	The assessment of potential bat maternity habitat shows there is an abundance of suitable bat maternity habitat in the RSA, meaning there is likely sufficient alternate roosting sites available. Despite this, the effect of tree clearing on bat population sizes may be variable since population sizes are difficult to estimate, and bat activity can increase after clearing due to increased suitable edge foraging habitat. "Roost exclusion studies suggest that exclusion from permanent structures can decrease site fidelity, alter home range size, lower reproductive recruitment, and reduce colony size and the strength of association among individuals" (Silvis et al. 2015a). However, removing roosts at a small scale has shown no effect on the distribution and roost selection of Northern Myotis but Little Brown Myotis that change roosts less often may be less resilient (Silvis et al. 2015a). Based on the results of the 2022 survey, the assessment of potential effects on SAR bats has been updated in Section 6.15.6 and the characterization of residual effects has been clarified.

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Birds	IAAC requested further assessment of potential effects from spills and other accidents and malfunctions on SAR birds that may be harmed by accidental events impacting aquatic systems, the identification of appropriate mitigation measures, the identification of residual effects and the significance of the residual effects.	The assessment of potential malfunctions and accidents has been included in Section 9 of the EIS/EA, and includes a description of relevant safeguards, potential environmental concerns and response measures. Specifically, Section 9.12 considers vehicular accidents that could release materials, Section 9.13 considers the potential spill of cyanide and Section 9.14 considers the potential release of products from containment and dispensing facilities. Key measures to mitigate potential effects of a spill on the environment, including SAR birds are outlined in Section 9 of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Birds	IAAC requested further information on nesting bird habitat to provide evidence that there is enough equivalent habitat for birds to be displaced to, and that the vegetation being removed is not unique to the Project footprint.	The change in cover type has been presented in Table 6.16-2 in the draft EIS/EA, which showed less than a 1% change in vegetation communities in the RSA. This analysis of habitat available within the revised RSA relative to each habitat type within the PDA has been updated and is included in Table 6.16-2 of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	IAAC requested a quantitative assessment of the carcinogenic risk of diesel exhaust associated with the Project, making use of the associated unit risk value published by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) accompanied by a discussion of the uncertainties associated with the CalEPA unit risk.	A quantitative assessment of the carcinogenic risk from inhalation of diesel exhaust associated with the Project is included in Appendix R, using the unit risk value published by the CalEPA (as presented in Table 4.2-3). Uncertainties are summarized in Table 4.5-1 in Section 4.5 for the human health risk assessment (Appendix R). The quantitative assessment utilizes the predicted diesel particulate matter (DPM) concentrations, using $PM_{2.5}$ as a surrogate for DPM. Cancer risk calculation results from inhalation of airborne DPM are presented in Table 4.4.3.1-2 and 4.4.3.1-3 in Section 4.4.3.1 of Appendix R. The results of the assessment of potential cancer risk via the exposure to predicted incremental DPM concentrations due to the Project, indicated that the inhalation ILCR is within the target ILCR of 1 × 10-5 for all receptor locations.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	IAAC requested an assessment of health effects from both short- and long-term exposures to NO_2 and $PM_{2.5}$ in the worst-case exposure scenario during all phases of the Project.	An assessment of health effects from short- and long-term exposure to $PM_{2.5}$ and NO_2 at the MPOI are included in Section 4.4.2.2 of Appendix R. Hazard quotients were below their respective guidelines at the MPOI and at the receptor location with maximum concentrations.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	IAAC requested clarification of whether cancer risks from inhalation of airborne benzo(a)pyrene were calculated using a toxicological reference value developed for the inhalation exposure pathway.	In the HEHRA (Appendix R), the recommended Inhalation Unit Risk factor from HC (as presented in Table 4.2-3, Appendix R) is used in the calculation of cancer risks for benzo(a)pyrene for the inhalation exposure pathway. The fugitive dust inhalation dose (ug/m^3) is calculated using the Health Canada recommended equation, as presented in Section 4.3.3.1 of Appendix R. Cancer risk calculation results from inhalation of airborne B(a)P are presented in Table 4.4.3.1-1 in Section 4.4.3 of Appendix R.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	IAAC requested further rationale on why potential exposure via ingestion of contaminated surface or groundwater and incidental ingestion of or dermal contact with contaminated sediment are not operable pathways.	In the HEHRA for this final EIS/EA (Appendix R), ingestion of and dermal contact with surface water and sediment have been included as operable pathways. Although no COPC were identified to exceed applicable human health guidelines in surface water or sediment, exposures have been included in the multi-media assessment for COPCs identified in other media. There are no known potable groundwater wells in the RSA and the majority of the TKLU studies reported consumption of surface water for drinking water. One groundwater spring location within the Project Development Area (PDA) was identified by Cat Lake First Nation, however the PDA is outside the boundaries of the LSA and RSA for human and ecological health and is not evaluated in the HEHRA since access to the mine site area of the PDA will be controlled and not a high use area for land users. One groundwater spring location within the LSA was identified by the Lac Seul First Nation as being located near the effluent discharge location. This is outside the influence of groundwater impacts and therefore the predicted POPC concentrations in surface water are considered more conservative for evaluation of risks from drinking water. Therefore, ingestion of groundwater was excluded from the risk assessment. Since all potential media exposure pathways (soil, surface water, sediment and country foods) have been included in the HHRA, multi-media total hazard quotients, presented in Tables B-3-1 through B-3-8 in Attachment B of Appendix R, are compared to a target total hazard quotient of 1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Human and ecological health	IAAC requested that the locations of Indigenous TLU activities (including country foods harvesting and drinking water sources) within the project development area and related study areas be included on a map and used to determine the selection of receptors for the human and ecological health risk assessment.	Section 6.2 includes Figure 6.2-2, which includes the PORs based on representative Indigenous points of interest identified through traditional land and resource use studies and engagement, and recreational cabin, lodge and camp sites identified through a review of the MNR Land Information Ontario geographic datasets. The receptor locations were chosen as the closest areas to the Project where people could spend considerable time, therefore representing the conservative case. It was also conservatively assumed that people spending time at these locations are Indigenous people who also conduct traditional activities including harvesting, fishing and gathering within the local study area and regional study areas. This is also further considered in the HEHRA (Section 6.24).

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	IAAC requested further information on the potential effects of flooding on adjacent land/water basins as a result of the construction of the dams to facilitate dewatering be considered.	Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin is expected to take approximately six months to complete, based on continuous (24-hour, 7-day per week) pumping at a rate that is able to maintain Springpole Lake water levels within the same order of magnitude and scale as existing conditions. The volume of the proposed open pit basin within Springpole Lake ranges is approximately 18 Mm^3, consistent with the bathymetric survey. Water flows and levels have been monitored over a period of 2.5 years, and have shown an average monthly inflow to Springpole Lake ranging from 21.3 m^3/s in June to 5.0 m^3/s in March, with an observed annual natural variation in flow of 16.3 m^3/s. Further, the average water level of Springpole Lake ranges from 391.78 m amsl in June to 390.79 m amsl in March, showing a maximum natural variation of 2.1 m (Appendix M-1). Controlled dewatering of the open pit basin will be completed in a manner to mitigate potential environmental effects by managing and monitoring flow rates. The six-month timeframe has been determined based on the receiving capacity of Springpole Lake to accept an increase in flow, limited to 10% of the instantaneous natural flow through Springpole Lake. The 10% threshold has been applied as a mitigation measure and is consistent with the DFO guidance document *Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries in Canada* (DFO 2013). Within the framework, DFO provides a national technical guidance that cumulative flow alterations of less than 10% in amplitude of the actual (instantaneous) flow relative to a "natural flow regime" have a low probability of detectable impacts to ecosystems. During the dewatering activities, a continuous flow monitoring station at the inlet and outlet of Springpole Lake will be used to provide a running average flow that will be used to inform the actual dewatering rate consistent with anticipated permit conditions. This has been described in Section 5.7.1.2. The potential effects of dewatering are described in Section 6.7.6.1.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Hydrology	IAAC requested that additional design detail for water management features be included in the final EIS/EA, including the resilience of the water management system to extreme rainfall events (i.e., major precipitation events).	The Project components are designed and constructed to withstand weather and major precipitation events expected to occur within the region and consider climate change. The risks associated with major precipitation events will be managed through design criteria, guidelines and regulations, and management practices. Additional analysis and design was completed in 2024 for the seepage and runoff collection systems and has been incorporated into the Water Management section of the Project Description (Section 5.11). As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified (i.e., 1:100-year storm event). A description of the design criteria has been added to 8.6.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	IAAC requested that additional information be collected on Indigenous and non-Indigenous land and resource use (including baseline conditions related to commercial activities and recreational uses by Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations) to inform the effects assessment. IAAC also requested that the biophysical effects assessment be sufficiently scoped to enable assessment of pathways of effects from the Project to Indigenous and non-Indigenous receptors.	Additional Indigenous Traditional land and resource use studies have been received (Section 6.21.2) and non-confidential information from these studies informs the HEHRA (Appendix R), and the overall assessment of effects to Indigenous populations (Section 6.26). Additional non-Indigenous land and resource use information has been collected (Section 6.17.2) and informs the HEHRA (Appendix R) and the overall assessment of effects to commercial land and resources users (Section 6.17) and outdoor recreational users (Section 6.18).
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Traditional land and resource use	IAAC requested that the assessment of potential effects of the Project be informed by TK, and that the TK/TLU information be disaggregated by Indigenous community.	During the EA process, Indigenous communities have collected and shared TK/TLU information, and non-confidential information has been incorporated into the final EIS/EA. This information sharing is appreciated and important for Project planning. Additional opportunities for TK/TLU information sharing will occur throughout all phases of the Project. A list of the information sources is included in Section 6.21.2. The information was used to inform or validate baseline studies, validate the selection of VCs, assessment criteria and indicators, supplement the information used to understand the existing conditions of various valued components, consider alternatives for various project components, support the assessment of potential effects on VCs, identify mitigation measures and areas for follow up monitoring. Non-confidential information has been included in the description of the existing environment (Section 3) and the description of existing conditions in each VC (Section 6) and use to support the assessment of alternatives (Section 4) and the assessment of potential effects on biophysical VCs (Section 6.2 to Section 6.16), and human environment VCs (Section 6.18 to Section 6.24). Non-confidential TK/TLU information has been disaggregated by Indigenous community, where possible. Feedback received from Indigenous communities during engagement activities for the EA, and in particularly, the review of the draft EIS/EA has informed the final EIS/EA. Examples of how TK has been included in this final EIS/EA are shown in Table 6.21-1. Further details on the engagement activities are included in Section 2.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	IAAC requested clarification on the definition of wetlands and wetland areas, and a summary of the total area of wetlands displaced by the Project, by wetland type.	It has been clarified that wetlands and wetland areas are the same and this definition has been updated in this final EIS/EA. The total area of wetlands displaced by the Project has been updated in Section 6.11.6.3 and Table 6.11-2 by wetland type. Further, IAAC requested a detailed estimate of the area of wetlands and the types of wetlands that will be indirectly altered, including alteration to wetland function, connectivity, and quality, due to the Project. The predicted area of wetlands indirectly altered by the Project has been updated in Section 6.11.6.3 and Table 6.11-3.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Vegetation communities and wetlands	IAAC requested additional details to support the confidence level in the conclusions with respect to effects to wetland vegetation communities.	Substantial additional wetland surveys in 2022 were completed and the results of these surveys are provided in the Baseline Terrestrial Report (Appendix P-1) and Section 6.11.2 to support the confidence level in the conclusions. The data from these wetland surveys has been used to update the direct and indirect effects to wetlands including the changes due to groundwater, surface water, noise and dust.

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested additional information as to why wildlife, including birds, are not considered likely to be adversely affected by interacting with the water management system.	Additional consideration has been added to Section 9.10 that discusses the intermittent and limited interactions anticipated, if any between wildlife and the water management system, and includes discussion of cyanide destruction within the ore processing plant using the sulphur dioxide / oxygen treatment facility, to ensure that cyanide and metal concentrations within the CDF tailings pond will be maintained at concentrations that are below thresholds that could potentially pose a hazard to wildlife. The use of deterrents to minimize the potential for interactions between wildlife and birds with the water management treatment system as been included in Section 9.10.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested further analysis for the displacement of nesting bird habitat to demonstrate there is enough equivalent habitat for birds to be displaced to, and that the vegetation being removed is not unique to the Project footprint.	An analysis of habitat available within the revised regional study area relative to each habitat type that has been affected has been updated in Section 6.11 (Vegetation Community and Wetlands) and Section 6.12 and shows a less than 1% change in vegetation communities within the RSA.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested clarification on how spatial boundaries address both potential direct and indirect effects for each valued component.	Section 6.1 of the EIS/EA describes the LSA and RSA in the assessment of effects on valued components. The local study area for each valued component is based on the geographic extent of the potential direct and indirect Project effects. The regional study area is based on the maximum geographic extent or zone of influence in which the potential effects are assessed and used to provide regional context to the valued component. These study areas are further refined in the effects assessment for each valued component. For example, the basis for the regional study area for wildlife and SAR birds has been revised and includes consideration for watersheds, eco-districts, Bird Conservation Regions, TK (when available), and guidance from ECCC pertaining to development of ecologically defined study areas.
Draft EIS/EA Effects Assessment Methods and Results, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested an assessment of potential effects on wildlife and SAR birds from spills, accidents and other malfunctions, and where appropriate, mitigation measures such as a spill response plan for species that may be affected.	The effects of the construction and operation of the airstrip on air quality, noise and wildlife has been assessed and added in Section 6.2 (Air Quality), Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration) and Section 6.12 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat) of the final EIS/EA. The change in sound levels from the operation of helicopters has been included in Section 6.3 (Noise and Vibration) and the results carried into the assessment of wildlife and wildlife habitat (Section 6.12), including the application of mitigation measures. The changes in wildlife and wildlife habitat have been carried into the assessment of traditional land and resource use (Section 6.21) of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring	IAAC requested confirmation that liquid cyanide would only be used in the event that solid cyanide is temporarily unavailable, and with the inclusion of appropriate additional safeguards as needed.	In response, it is clarified in Section 9.13 that the transportation of cyanide will follow all applicable regulatory requirements for transportation of dangerous goods, and the Project will also consider the cyanide transportation recommendations by the International Cyanide Management Institute.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Bats	IAAC requested an explanation for how tree clearing in areas with known or potential roosting habitat between April 15 and May 15 and between July 31 and August 31 will avoid adverse effects on Little Brown Myotis and/or Northern Myotis.	The timing window for vegetation clearing to avoid potential indirect effects on roosting SAR bats has been updated to April 15 to August 31, to correspond with the timing of emergence from hibernation and the maternity period. This has been included in Section 6.15.4.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Birds	IAAC requested clarification on the timing windows that will be used for vegetation removal to mitigate impacts on migratory birds.	The removal of vegetation will occur in accordance with the applicable timing windows for migratory birds as described in the guidelines for the Migratory Birds Convention Act (2022). This has been updated in Section 6.16.4.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Surface Water Quality	IAAC requested additional information and assurance that contact water could be collected and managed to appropriate design storms and that sufficient space was available to contain the required volumes.	Additional analysis was completed in 2024 for the design of seepage and runoff collection systems. As a result, the design criteria for the ditches and collection ponds have been modified. Section 9.9 has been updated to clarify that although the short-term construction phase water management will use more frequent design events (i.e., 1:10-year), the operations phase water management facilities will be designed to accommodate and contain a 1:100-year, 24-hour storm event. A summary of the additional analyses to support the design criteria has been added to Section 9.10. The assessment of the effects of the environment on the Project (Section 8.6) has also been updated to include additional information that describe the resiliency of the overall water management system to extreme rainfall events, including the ability to use the open pit for additional storage in the event of an extreme precipitation event.

Table 2.6-19: Comments, Questions and Responses from Federal Agencies

Milestone/Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Traditional land and resource use	IAAC requested clarification on the areas that will remain accessible and how access to TLRU activities would be managed within the project development area during the active phases of the Project and that the assessment of effects on human health, and the associated mitigation and follow-up programs take into account permitted land use.	There will be no change in access to traditional land use areas with the exception of directly within the mine site footprint for safety purposes. Under existing conditions, the proposed mine site area is an active exploration site with significant infrastructure and heavy equipment and has certain activity restrictions in place for safety, which will be similar for the Project. The existing portage at the exploration site between Springpole Lake and Birch Lake, while used infrequently, is maintained in good condition by FMG, and an alternate portage has been identified and will be maintained by FMG from construction to post closure at which point the existing portage will be re-established. Further, while a controlled access gatehouse and signage are proposed to control unauthorized use of the 18-km mine access road leading to the mine site, an access management strategy will be developed with local Indigenous communities and MNR to provide access for traditional land and resource use activity along this newly accessible area. The entrance to the mine site towards the end of the mine access road will be gated by FMG for safety and security purposes. The access management strategy has been included as a mitigation measure in Section 6.21.4 to address Indigenous concerns regarding public access to TLRU areas. The plan is anticipated to provide for appropriate signage to advise the public of the road's intended use, safety communication protocol for traditional land users, a gatehouse towards the end of the Wenasaga to ensure unauthorized use does not occur, and potential inspection schedule. The plan will be in place during construction, operations and active closure phases of the Project. Finally, the transmission line corridor portion of the project footprint will be allowed to naturally regrow following construction to an extent that limits accessibility and therefore new access along the transmission line is not anticipated.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested additional information regarding the mitigation measures that will be in place to help ensure that the loss of maternity roosting habitat within the PDA during construction will have a low-magnitude effect on SAR bats.	The development of the Project will remove 0.4% of the available bat roosting habitat and 0.2% of the available foraging habitat in the RSA. As a result, the magnitude of the residual effect is low (Level I) as the effect is not likely to change the abundance and/or distribution of SAR bats or their habitat and monitoring is proposed to confirm the prediction. In addition, mitigation measures will be implemented, which will include maintaining uncleared buffers adjacent to sensitive bat habitat, minimizing vegetation removal along corridors, and undertaking progressive rehabilitation. The mitigation measures are updated and described in Section 6.15.4.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested clarification on the mitigation measures proposed for Moose and how these measures may result in effects to boreal caribou.	The mitigation measures proposed for moose as well as consideration of how these measures may affect Caribou have been clarified in Section 6.12.4 and Section 6.13.4, respectively.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested clarification for the timing windows that will be used for vegetation removal to mitigate potential effects on migratory birds and bats.	The timing windows for migratory birds identified in this final EIS/EA are consistent with the MBCA. As outlined in Section 6.12.4, vegetation removal should be avoided between April 15 and August 31 in any given year. The implementation of timing windows will reduce the risk of mortality for migratory birds during vegetation removal, and this has been clarified in Section 6.12.4 and Table 6.12-7 of the final EIS/EA.
Draft EIS/EA Mitigation and Monitoring, Wildlife and wildlife habitat	IAAC requested further details of the mitigation measures for the potential loss of hibernation habitat proposed in the draft EIS/EA.	Where hibernaculum have been identified, the foraging resources within 2.6 km of the feature have been considered habitat associated with the hibernaculum. The removal / disturbance of this habitat will be avoided during construction, to the extent possible. However, if avoidance is not possible, the removal of foraging habitat associated with hibernacula will be limited to the period between May 15 and July 31 or as otherwise determined in consultation with ECCC and the MECP. Noise will be limited within 500 m of the identified hibernaculum entrance. If there is a residual loss of foraging habitat associated with a confirmed hibernaculum, this will be compensated, as required by the provincial ESA, using measures such as the installation and monitoring of bat houses, conservation / protection of adjacent habitat, progressive and long-term remediation / rehabilitation. If an identified hibernaculum must be removed, the removal of the hibernaculum will be limited to the summer months when bats are not hibernating while avoiding the removal of trees during this period. If compensation is required under the ESA for residual impacts, measures such as constructing a new wintering habitat will be used. The details of these mitigation measures are included below in Section 6.15.4.
Draft EIS/EA Surface Water Quality	Comments were received from IAAC related to the proximity of the Project features such as the CDF and the ore stockpiles to adjacent waterbodies.	In response, additional engineering details have been advanced since the draft EA providing additional setback for the CDF where possible with the setbacks being between 120 and 300 m from Birch Lake and Springpole Lake, which provides for the application of contingency engineering measures during life of mine. And the entire perimeter contact water collection system has been designed to demonstrate its feasibility and effectiveness. These additional design considerations and information regarding potential failures of the open pit, the CDF and the stockpiles have been added to Sections 9.5, 9.7 and 9.9. Additionally, it is noted that many mines across Canada have infrastructure located in equal proximity to waterbodies without issue, and further design measures have been advanced to demonstrate the safeguards associated with the Project.

2.6.3 Consultation and Engagement with Municipal Governments

FMG engages with the municipalities closest to the Project to understand their knowledge of the Project area, interest in how the Project will influence the community, and to identify how the Project may affect their community. During preparation of the draft EIS/EA, FMG shared Project information related to the proposed Project components, EIS/EA and ongoing updates with representatives from municipal government to receive feedback on municipal interests. FMG and municipal governments have engaged through email, telephone, and meetings to discuss the Project and topics such as economic development and benefits to the region.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout, the Township of Ear Falls and the Municipality of Red Lake provided letters of support to FMG. They all welcome the economic and infrastructure benefits the Project will generate.

2.6.3.1 Municipality of Sioux Lookout

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout in 2018 and have been engaging since as described below. This resulted in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout providing a letter of support for the Project in June 2023. The letter stated the Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue.

This section provides a summary of engagement specific to the Municipality of Sioux Lookout organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout up to June 30, 2024.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 4, 2019, FMG provided a Project update presentation to the mayor, councillors and economic development officer of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. Several questions were asked about the proposed Project components, as well as related to timelines, access and power. This allowed for an understanding of the Project concepts and opportunity to provide input early in the planning process.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, in-person engagement with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout was hindered due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the Municipality did participate in the Socioeconomic Baseline Study research in 2021 as described below.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

On March 4, 2022, FMG and the mayor of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout met to discuss Project updates. The mayor asked questions about ongoing activities at the exploration site and Project access, which were answered at the meeting. FMG informed the mayor that FMG was preparing a draft EIS/EA, which would be submitted in April 2022 to the regulator and that there would be a 90-day review period. FMG emailed the presentation following the meeting.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

As noted above, on August 29, 2018, FMG sent the Municipality of Sioux Lookout a notification letter announcing the commencement of the ToR phase of the provincial EA process for the Project.

On October 6, 2020, the MECP provided FMG with comments from the Municipality of Sioux Lookout regarding the ToR and noted acknowledgement of receipt of the ToR. FMG provided its responses to the municipality's comments on January 19 and January 29, 2021. FMG noted that the ToR is intended to meet the Provincial regulatory requirement and provides a framework for the preparation of an environmental assessment. FMG committed to working with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout throughout the EA process.

Baseline Studies

In May of 2021, FMG sent an invitation to representatives of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout to participate in the Project baseline socioeconomic study. A letter detailing the Study and Project was included in the communication. Representatives included the Manager of Recreation and Culture, the Manager of Economic Development, the Manager of Development Services, the Information Technology & Communications Coordinator, the Trustee of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout for the Keewatin Patricia District Health Unit, and the Trustee of Sioux Lookout for the Keewatin Patricia District School Board. The Manager of Economic Development and the Manager of Development Services participated in the Study by providing relevant documents and attending meetings to provide information in May 2021. Meeting notes were shared with the participants for review prior to being incorporated into the socioeconomic baseline study (Appendix Q-1).

In the summer of 2021, FMG distributed the summer 2021 Project newsletter and a link to the Project website via email. FMG noted that the Project website includes the Springpole EA Portal, noting that the website continues to be updated with information on the Project, including information regarding environmental data collection and engagement programs for the Project. FMG noted that the Project website includes plain language documents/summaries and the baseline studies.

Assessment of Alternatives

As noted above, in the summer of 2021, FMG distributed the summer 2021 Project newsletter and a link to the Project website via email. FMG noted that the Project website includes the Springpole EA Portal, noting that the website continues to be updated with information on the Project, including information regarding environmental data collection and engagement programs for the Project. FMG noted that the website includes the preliminary alternatives assessment materials for review.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the Municipality of Sioux Lookout related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to the Municipality of Sioux Lookout after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On June 12, 2023, the Municipality of Sioux Lookout emailed FMG a letter of support for the Project from the mayor. The letter stated the Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation measures, and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provided a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies.

FMG informed the municipality of upcoming Public Information Sessions in the region and virtual sessions that were being planned to provide a Project overview. On September 27, 2022, following the distribution of the draft EIS/EA, FMG provided municipal government with an invitation to a series of five virtual public presentations to discuss the findings of the draft EIS/EA. The five presentation themes were: water resources, fish and fish habitat, human environment, terrestrial environment and atmospheric environment. The invitation noted that the sessions would include a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period with WSP (FMG's consultants).

On January 31, 2023, FMG provided the Municipality with a hyperlink to the new Springpole Project overview video. The video helps to provide a better understanding of the Project by being able to visualize the Project site, as well as the development of proposed components and features through time. FMG noted that the draft EIS/EA was published and could be accessed through the hyperlink provided. FMG also notified the municipality that FMG was planning to host Public Information Sessions located in Sioux Lookout and Ear Falls in the Spring of 2023.

On May 30, 2023, FMG met with the mayor, chief administrative officer and economic development officer of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA and to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an update on Project progress over the past year, including related to the CDF, water management, wildlife, and the FHOCP. Topics discussed included economic impacts of the Project, encouragements from the Municipality for FMG to utilize municipal services such as Springpole office sites and procurement contracts, road access to the mine site, new developers investing in Sioux Lookout (hotels and business), capacity for access to power to the mine site, inclusion of Indigenous organizations and businesses in the Project, and the Sioux Lookout airport expansion. A Public Open House was held in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout later that day to provide details and address questions on the Project, the draft EIS/EA including alternatives assessment and mitigation measures, ongoing studies in 2023, FHOCP, access roads, potential economic impacts, and the CDF. Eighteen individuals attended.

2.6.3.2 Township of Ear Falls

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the Township of Ear Falls in 2017 and have been engaging since as described below. This resulted in the Township of Ear Falls providing a letter of support for the Project in March 2023. The letter stated the Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue.

This section provides a summary of engagement specific to the Township of Ear Falls organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and Township of Ear Falls up to June 30, 2024.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with the Township of Ear Falls prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the Township of Ear Falls prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 3, 2019, FMG provided a Project and corporate update presentation to the mayor and deputy of the Township of Ear Falls. FMG provided an overview of the Project and invited questions.

On December 2, 2021, FMG provided a poster to the Township of Ear Falls so they could assist in advertising the Public Information Session scheduled for December 16, 2021. This meeting is further described in Section 2.6.4 below.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

On December 16, 2021, FMG and the mayor of Ear Falls met to discuss Project updates, including the timeline for submission of the draft EIS/EA and environmental monitoring activities.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

As noted above, on August 29, 2018, FMG sent the Township of Ear Falls a notification letter announcing the commencement of the ToR phase of the provincial EA process for the Project.

On October 6, 2020, the Township of Ear Falls a letter to the MECP in response to the Project draft ToR. Ear Falls' letter indicated that they were satisfied that FMG would comply with the ToR and that Ear Falls would like to remain engaged in Project consultation.

Baseline Studies

In May 2021, FMG sent an invitation to representatives of the Township of Ear Falls to participate in the Project baseline socioeconomic study. A letter detailing the study and Project was included in the communication. Representatives included the Township of Ear Falls Trustee for the Keewatin Patricia District School Board, the Manager of Public Service and Operations, and the Cleark Treasurer Administrator. A meeting was held with the Clerk Treasurer Administrator on May 28, 2021, to gather and validate information on community health and well-being that was considered in the socioeconomic baseline study (Appendix Q-1).

Assessment of Alternatives

As noted above, in the summer of 2021, FMG distributed the summer 2021 Project newsletter and a link to the Project website via email. FMG noted that the Project website includes the Springpole EA Portal, noting that the website continues to be updated with information on the Project, including information regarding environmental data collection and engagement programs for the Project. FMG noted that the website includes the preliminary alternatives assessment materials for review.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the Township of Ear Falls related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to the Township of Ear Falls after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On August 8, 2023, FMG held a site tour for the mayor of Ear Falls. Discussions were held related to the CDF, dikes, labour and economy, water management, Caribou and Wolverine baseline studies. This helped provide context for the Project location and an improved understanding of the Project.

On March 15, 2023, the Township of Ear Falls provided a letter of support for the Project. The letter stated the Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue. The Township also provided IAAC, MECP, and FMG with a letter to confirm that the municipality's waste disposal site has capacity under its existing Environmental Compliance Approval to accept solid, non-hazardous domestic and commercial waste from the Project.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation measures, and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provide a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies.

On January 31, 2023, FMG provided the municipality with a hyperlink to the new Springpole Project overview video. The video helps to provide a better understanding of the Project by being able to visualize the Project site, as well as the development of proposed components and features through time. FMG noted that the draft EIS/EA was published and could be accessed through the hyperlink provided. FMG also notified the municipality that FMG was planning to host Public Information Sessions located in Sioux Lookout and Ear Falls in the Spring of 2023.

On May 30, 2023, FMG met with the mayor, councillors and clerks of the Township of Ear Falls to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an update on Project progress, including related to the CDF, water management, wildlife, and the FHOCP. Topics discussed included the positive economic impacts of the Project for the community, solid non-hazardous waste, access and road networks, Project shift rotations and transportation options, Project accommodations, Project timelines, Project site tours, and access to power to the Project site.

2.6.3.3 Municipality of Red Lake

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the Municipality of Red Lake in 2018 and have been engaging since as described below. This resulted in the Municipality of Red Lake providing a letter of support for the Project in January 2024. The letter stated the Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue.

This section provides a summary of engagement specific to the Municipality of Red Lake organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and Municipality of Red Lake up to June 30, 2024.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with the Municipality of Red Lake prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with the Municipality of Red Lake prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On December 3, 2019, FMG provided a Project update presentation to the mayor and chief administrative officer of the Municipality of Red Lake. FMG provided an overview of the Project and invited questions.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

As noted above, on August 29, 2018, FMG sent the Municipality of Red Lake a notification letter announcing the commencement of the ToR phase of the provincial EA process for the Project.

The Municipality of Red Lake emailed MECP on September 17, 2020, informing the ministry that they had not been shared a copy of the ToR. On September 17, 2020, the MECP indicated that it had forwarded the Project ToR links to the Municipality of Red Lake. The Municipality did express an interest in participating in the ToR process.

Baseline Studies

In May of 2021, FMG sent an invitation to the Recreation and Facilities Supervisor and the Community Services Manager of the Municipality of Red Lake to participate in the Project baseline socioeconomic study. A letter detailing the study and Project was included in the communication. The Recreation and Facilities Supervisor participated in the study through providing relevant documents and attending meetings with FMG in May 2021. The Recreation and Facilities Manager requested one change, and the change was incorporated into the socioeconomic baseline report (Appendix Q-1).

Assessment of Alternatives

As noted above, in the summer of 2021, FMG distributed the summer 2021 Project newsletter and a link to the Project website via email. FMG noted that the Project website includes the Springpole EA Portal, noting that the website continues to be updated with information on the Project, including information regarding environmental data collection and engagement programs for the Project. FMG noted that the website includes the preliminary alternatives assessment materials for review.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the Municipality of Red Lake related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to the Municipality of Red Lake after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

On January 30, 2024, the Municipality of Red Lake emailed IAAC and the MECP, providing a letter of support for the Project. The letter stated that the Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits

including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue. FMG thanked the Municipality of Red Lake and extended an invitation to reach out at any time.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation measures, and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provide a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies.

FMG informed the municipality of upcoming Public Information Sessions in the region and virtual sessions that were being planned to provide a Project overview. On September 27, 2022, following the distribution of the draft EIS/EA, FMG provided municipal government with an invitation to a series of five virtual public presentations to discuss the findings of the draft EIS/EA. FMG did not receive responses from the Municipality of Red Lake. On January 31, 2023, FMG provided the Municipality with a hyperlink to the new Springpole Project overview video. The video helps to provide a better understanding of the Project by being able to visualize the Project site, as well as the development of proposed components and features through time. FMG noted that the draft EIS/EA was published and could be accessed through the hyperlink provided. FMG also notified the municipality that FMG was planning to host Public Information Sessions located in Sioux Lookout and Ear Falls in the Spring of 2023.

On November 29, 2023, FMG met with the mayor, councillors and clerks of the Municipality of Red Lake to provide a presentation on the Project and draft EIS/EA. FMG presented a Project overview, Project economic/employment benefits, road access and transmission line routes, the EIS/EA, baseline environmental studies (including the Wolverine and Caribou study) and alternatives assessment, the FHOCP, and community engagement and consultation. Questions and discussions were held on the transmission line, site access and regional roads, and Project timelines and benefits.

2.6.3.4 City of Dryden

FMG initiated Project consultation on the Project with the City of Dryden in 2018 and have been engaging since as described below. The City of Dryden is located a far distance from the Project and has not expressed a substantial interest in participating in the EA process for the Project.

This section provides a summary of engagement specific to the City of Dryden organized by key EA milestone. Appendix D presents a record of contacts between FMG and City of Dryden up to June 30, 2024.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with the City of Dryden prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

No meetings were held with the City of Dryden prior to the draft EIS/EA submission.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

As noted above, on August 29, 2018, FMG sent the City of Dryden a notification letter announcing the commencement of the ToR phase of the provincial EA process for the Project. The City of Dryden did not express an interest in participating in the ToR process.

On December 3, 2021, FMG announced and distributed the Notice of Commencement of the provincial EA for the Project to government agencies.

Baseline Studies

As the City of Dryden did not respond engage in the ToR process and is located a large distance from the Project, FMG did not initiate baseline studies specific engagement with the City of Dryden prior to the draft EIS/EA submission.

Assessment of Alternatives

As the City of Dryden did not engage in the ToR process and is located a large distance from the Project, FMG did not initiate assessment of alternatives-specific engagement with the City of Dryden.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to the City of Dryden related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

Consultation activities specific to the City of Dryden after the draft EIS/EA submission were focused on that milestone and are described below.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation measures, and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email, which provide a hyperlink to the document on the Project's website. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the preparation and review of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional material and resources to provide the understanding of the studies.

On September 27, 2022, following the distribution of the draft EIS/EA, FMG provided municipal government with an invitation to a series of five virtual public presentations to discuss the findings of the draft EIS/EA. The five presentation themes would be: water resources, fish and fish habitat, human environment, terrestrial environment and atmospheric environment. The invitation noted that the sessions would include a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. FMG did not receive responses from the City of Dryden.

On January 31, 2023, FMG provided the city with a hyperlink to the new Springpole Project overview video. The video helps to provide a better understanding of the Project by being able to visualize the Project site, as well as the development of proposed components and features through time. FMG noted that the draft EIS/EA was published and could be accessed through the hyperlink provided. FMG also notified the Project city that FMG was planning to host Public Information Sessions located in Sioux Lookout and Ear Falls in the Spring of 2023.

On November 30, 2023, FMG met with the Chief Administrative Officer and Councillors City of Dryden to provide a presentation on the Project and EIS/EA. FMG presented a Project overview, Project economic/employment benefits, the preliminary transmission line route, the EIS/EA, baseline environmental studies (including the Wolverine study) and alternatives assessment, the FHOCP, and community engagement and consultation. A discussion was held on the housing deficit in the region. Questions and discussions were held on the EA process and consultation, Project timelines, closure and monitoring.

2.6.4 Consultation and Engagement with Public Stakeholders

FMG engages with Public Stakeholders to understand their knowledge of the Project area and to identify how the Project may affect their interests. During preparation of the draft EIS/EA, FMG shared Project information related to the proposed Project components, EIS/EA and ongoing updates with members of the Public to receive feedback on their interests. FMG and the public have engaged through email, telephone, and meetings to discuss the Project and topics such as land use, access, and potential employment and business opportunities. Key consultation events (e.g. Public Information Sessions) have primarily focused on key EA milestones as described below.

Pre-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities with public stakeholders prior to the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022, and is organized by the key EA milestones.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities with public stakeholders prior to the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

Throughout 2019, FMG attended public events to provide information the Project to the public. This included attending the North Western Ontario Prospectors Symposium in Thunder Bay on April 2 – 3, 2019, the LSFN Career Fair in LSFN on May 1, 2019, the WFN Community Hall in WFN on May 22, 2019, the Trade and Craft Show during Blueberry Festival in Sioux Lookout on August 8 – 9, 2019, and a the LSFN Elders and Youth Gathering Event in LSFN on September 18 – 19, 2019. Attending these events helped bring awareness about the Project to the local communities.

On September 15, 2021, FMG hosted a Public Information Session to inform and consult with local community members and stakeholders in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout at an early stage in the EA process. The meeting was organized by FMG to provide information about the Project, to review and seek feedback on the environmental baseline data collected to date, as well as the alternative methods being considered for the Project as part of the EA process. The Public Information Session was held as a combination of a presentation and open-house style. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide any comments. A series of poster boards and handouts were setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and project components and methods alternatives. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. Questions were asked about the tailings facility, employment opportunities and traplines. A historical portage route was noted at the Project site. A copy of the presentation, poster boards, and other handouts are included in Appendix D. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes the following:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Date(s)
Newspaper and website banner	Sioux Bulletin	September 8, 2021
Radio	Wawatay Radio Network	September 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15, 2021
Radio and website banner	CKDR	September 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15, 2021
Facebook event	Facebook	September 8, 2021

Between August 28 and October 2, 2020, the MECP provided 20 comments to FMG from various members of the public regarding other mines and environmental concerns and one regarding the Project news release.

On September 8, 2021, a notice was posted in the Sioux Bulletin for the Public Information Session scheduled on September 15, 2021, in Sioux Lookout. The notice was also posted on the Sioux Bulletin website from September 8 to September 15, 2021. Radio advertisements were also posted on Facebook and aired on CKDR. On September 15, 2021, FMG held a Public Information Session in Sioux Lookout to present an overview of the Project, baselines studies and alternatives assessment.

On December 2, 2021, FMG posted an advertisement in the Ear Falls Community Central Facebook Group.

On December 10, 2021, FMG sent the public contact list the Notice of Commencement for the EA for the Project via email.

On December 16, 2021, FMG held a Public Information Session in the Township of Ear Falls to inform and consult with local community members and stakeholders in Ear Falls early in the planning process. The meeting was organized by FMG to provide information about the Project, to review and seek feedback on the environmental baseline data collected to date, as well as the alternative methods being considered for the Project as part of the EA process. The Public Information Session was held as a combination of a presentation and open-house style. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide any comments. A series of poster boards and handouts were setup around the room that provided further detail on the environmental baseline data and project components and methods alternatives. Attendees were encouraged to review the information, maps and figures and ask questions or provide comments regarding the materials. Questions were asked about employment opportunities and conditions that were answered at the meeting. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Dates
Facebook event	Facebook	December 2 to 16, 2021

FMG regularly shares Project newsletters with public stakeholders. Prior to the draft EIS/EA, FMG shared three newsletters:

- In June 2021, FMG shared the summer 2021 Project newsletter, which provided a link to the Project Website that included information on the Project in plain language documents, the approved amended ToR and EIS guidelines, baseline studies and data collection, the preliminary assessment of alternatives, engagement programs, and additional information that was updated on an ongoing basis. FMG noted that the website included videos and factsheets that assist in describing the EA process, as well as studies being undertaken as part of the EA process for physical, biological, and human environment components. FMG also noted that materials would be readily available and publicly accessible through the EA website and that community representatives could share the materials with community members.
- In December 2021, FMG shared the Winter 2021 Project newsletter, which included another announcement about the commencement of the EA and updates on Project activities and local event participation, information on why the Project is a proposed open pit mine, as well as an environmental baseline study update.

- In April 2022, FMG shared the third Project newsletter, which included information on the economic and employment benefits of the proposed Project, as well as a reminder about the Notice of Commencement of the EA and a link to the approved amended ToR.

Terms of Reference (including valued components, criteria and indicators)

On August 29, 2018, FMG mailed the notification announcing the commencement of the provincial ToR process to the Public Contact List, which at the time consisted of five Public Stakeholders.

Throughout late 2018 and 2019, FMG communicated with the owners of Birch Lake Lodge attempting to organize a meeting to discuss the Project. Between September 4 and October 6, 2020, the MECP provided a series of comments to FMG from the Birch Lake Lodge Resort and various other Members of the Public regarding the ToR. On January 11, 2021, FMG provided responses to Birch Lake Lodge Resort's comments. FMG has since resolved all comments with the Birch Lake Lodge.

Baseline Studies

In May of 2021, FMG sent an invitation to representatives of the non-governmental organization FIREFLY, the Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce, the Sioux Lookout Non-Profit Housing Corporation as well as KNet, to participate in the Project baseline socioeconomic study. A letter detailing the study and Project was included in the communication. K-Net, the Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce, and the Sioux Lookout Non-Profit Housing Corporation participated in the study through providing relevant documents and attending meetings with FMG in May 2021. In June 2021, meeting notes were shared with the participants for review prior to being incorporated into the Socioeconomic Baseline Study (Appendix Q-1).

As described above, FMG held Community Information Sessions to present an overview of the Project, baseline studies, and alternatives assessments on September 15, 2021, in Sioux Lookout, and December 16, 2021, in the Township of Ear Falls. The Public Information Sessions provided an opportunity for members of the public to get an improved understanding of the Project and to gather public feedback on the baseline studies.

Between December 2021 and in February 2022, FMG sent eight invitations to the Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority to participate in the socioeconomic baseline study. A letter detailing the study and Project was included in the first communication. FMG did not receive a response.

Assessment of Alternatives

As described above, FMG held Community Information Sessions to present an overview of the Project, baseline studies, and alternatives assessments on September 15, 2021, in Sioux Lookout, and December 16, 2021, in the Township of Ear Falls. The Public Information Sessions provided an opportunity for members of the public to get an improved understanding of the Project and to gather public feedback on the Project components and alternatives.

Post-draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Submission

This section describes consultation and engagement activities specific to public stakeholders related to the key EA milestones after the draft EIS/EA release in May 2022.

General Project Information Sharing

This subsection summarizes general consultation activities specific to public stakeholders after the draft EIS/EA submission that was not related to a key EA milestone.

Throughout 2022 to 2024, FMG has increased awareness and education about the Project to the Public and stakeholders through participating in numerous regional industry and community-based events. For example, FMG has held a booth at the Central Canada Resource Expo held in Thunder Bay, the PDAC Conference in Toronto, Ear Falls Safety Night, and the Sioux Lookout Blueberry Festival. Information about the Project has been made available, including a handout with a QR code and a link to the Project website to help spread awareness about the Project. Questions about Project timelines and potential opportunities were often shared with FMG at these events.

On May 2, 2023, the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission provided FMG with a letter of support for the Project. The letter stated that the development of the is posed to bring immense economic benefit to northwestern Ontario, including opportunities for local and regional business over an estimated 15-year construction and operation period.

FMG shares Project newsletters with the Project contact list on a quarterly basis and have been distributed via email and Canada Post as follows:

- In August 2022, FMG shared the fourth issue of the Project newsletter, which re-iterated through the front-page article of the Project newsletter that the draft EIS/EA had been published and described how to provide feedback and comment on it. A version of the draft EIS/EA summary translated to Ojibway was made available 2023/2024 community meetings and distributed within Indigenous communities to increase the accessibility and reach of the document by providing Indigenous community members an opportunity to review the Project in a familiar language.
- In October 2022, FMG shared the fifth issue of the Project newsletter, which outlined recent community engagement activities, highlighted the compact design of the Project footprint and included a feature on the environmental training program.
- In April 2023, FMG shared the sixth issue of the Project newsletter, which included highlights from 2022 as well as an update on the environmental baseline programs, including the Caribou and Wolverine studies. The newsletter also included links to the draft EIS/EA, Project video and FMG's 2022 ESG Report.
- In July 2023, FMG shared the seventh issue of the Project newsletter, which included an updated on FMG's 2023 ESG priorities, an overview of the Aquatic eDNA sampling program for the baseline studies, as well as a feature on an employee from CLFN.
- In October 2023, FMG shared the eighth issue of the Project newsletter, which outlined environmental work and community engagement activities conducted over the third quarter of 2023 October 24, 2023. The newsletter also included links to upcoming webinars on the Project, as well as information on the upcoming Public Information Sessions in November 2023.
- In January 2024, FMG shared the ninth issue of the Project newsletter, which included information related to Project updates; the upcoming Final EIS/EA submission; a description and link to the Springpole Gold Project video; a description and link to the 2023 ESG Report; information on the Wolverine and Caribou studies; community and engagement related news including (but not limited to) the public Open Houses that took place in the Municipality of Red Lake on November 29, 2024 and in the City of Dryden on November 30, 2024, the fish and fish habitat workshop; as well as links to a series of webinars that FMG held throughout November 2024 on the EA update/optimizations, fish habitat offsetting and compensation strategies, water management and treatment, and alternatives assessment process.

- In April 2024, FMG shared the tenth issue of the Project newsletter, which outlined environmental work and community engagement activities conducted over the first quarter of 2024. The newsletter also included job opportunities, as well as information on Community Information Sessions in April 2024. FMG requested the newsletter be shared with community members.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (including valued components, criteria and indicators, assessment of alternatives, effects assessment, mitigation measures, and monitoring)

On May 30 and 31, 2022, FMG distributed the draft EIS/EA via email. Baseline studies for the Project were also made available as part of the draft EIS/EA, along with additional materials and resources (e.g., factsheets, presentations) to help facilitate an understanding of the studies. FMG noted that the feedback gathered through the draft EIS/EA review would be considered for an eventual final EIS/EA. On July 14, 2022, Hydro One provided a letter to FMG confirming that there are no existing Hydro One transmission assets in the Study Area based on its preliminary assessment. On February 15, 2024, FMG met with Hydro One to discuss specifics concerning the transmission line route to the Project site.

On July 19, 2022, FMG held a Public Information Session in the Township of Ear Falls. The purpose of this meeting was to provide information about the Project and to seek feedback on the draft EIS/EA. FMG presented on the draft EIS/EA, including baseline studies completed, alternative assessment, mitigation measures, and what comments had been shared thus far. The meeting was held as a combination of a presentation and open-house style and attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide any comments. A series of poster boards and handouts were setup around the room that provided further detail on the draft EIS/EA VCs, effects assessment methodology and conclusions, and proposed mitigation measures. Questions were asked about employment opportunities and conditions that were answered at the meeting. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Date(s)
Newspaper and website banner	Sioux Bulletin	July 13, 2022
Radio	Wawatay Radio Network	July 13 to 19, 2022
Social media (Facebook event)	Facebook	July 18, 2022

A similar meeting was held the following evening on July 20, 2022, in Sioux Lookout. Questions at this meeting were regarding the IGTRB and mine closure that were answered at the meeting. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Date(s)
Newspaper and website banner	Sioux Bulletin	July 13, 2022
Radio	Wawatay Radio Network	July 13 to 19, 2022
Radio and website banner	CKDR	July 13 to 19, 2022
Social media (Facebook event)	Facebook	July 18, 2022

On September 27, 2022, FMG provided an invite to the public contact list for a series of five virtual public presentations on the Project and draft EIS/EA in October. The presentation themes were water resources, fish and fish habitat, human environment, terrestrial environment and atmospheric environment. In October 2022, FMG held the series of online webinars to share Project information and provide an opportunity for public stakeholders to ask questions about the findings of the draft EIS/EA. These webinars were two hours each and focused on five key technical areas of the draft EIS/EA including: fish and fish habitat, the atmospheric environment, water resources, the terrestrial environment, and the human environment. The webinars were held on weekday evenings and each of the five presentations included an overview of the existing conditions, EA methods (including indicators and measurable parameters), mitigation measures, and the results presented in the draft EIS/EA. A question-and-answer period was held for each webinar. FMG provided presentation recordings of the webinars to public stakeholders and communities upon request and posted them on the Project website.

On January 31, 2023, FMG provided the public contact list with a hyperlink to the new Springpole Project overview video. The video helps to provide a better understanding of the Project by being able to visualize the Project site, as well as the development of proposed components and features through time. FMG noted that the draft EIS/EA was published and could be accessed through the hyperlink provided. FMG also notified the public contact list that it was planning to host Public Information Sessions located in Sioux Lookout and Ear Falls in the Spring of 2023.

On February 1, 2023, the MNRF distributed a letter to trapline licence holders RL004, RL013, RL026, SL116, SL186, SL188, SL191, SL192, SL193, SL196, SL197, SL198, SL200, SL202 on behalf of FMG providing notice of a Wolverine monitoring study to be carried out from mid-February through April 2023. The letter provided a contact information for any questions or concerns about the study, but FMG did not receive any feedback.

As part of the draft EIS/EA review process, the MNR provided comments noting that outfitters, baitfish harvest licence holders and trapline licence holders in the RSA should be informed and provided an opportunity to comment on the draft EIS/EA. Following this, on February 28, 2023, FMG provided outfitters who were not previously on the public contact list, with a draft EA Notice and informed them that their businesses are located within the Project RSA, and they have been identified as potentially interested stakeholders. FMG welcomed any comments or questions related to the Project. These land users included Barry's Bait and Plow, Best Baits Service, Cat Island Lodge, Clark's Resorts and Outposts, Fly North Outposts, Little Canada Camp, J and M Camps, Patricia Fly-In Camps Ltd, Canada North Lodge, Knobby's Fly-In Lodge and Outposts, Shabu Wilderness Outposts, Slate Falls Outposts, Swain Post Camp, Turtle Island Outpost, Woman Lake Lodge, and Woman River Camp & Outposts with. The MNR distributed the same Notice and letter to trapline licence holders (RL004, RL013, RL026, SL116, SL186, SL188, SL191, SL192, SL193, SL196, SL197, SL198, SL200, SL202) considering their contact information is confidential.

On March 14, 2023, as a follow-up to a call from Clark's Resorts and Outposts on March 5, 2023, FMG confirmed to the owner that Clark's Resorts would be on the mailing list for future notices. FMG also noted that information regarding Clark's Air Service and potential resources it may be able to provide over the life of the Project had been passed on to the FMG team.

Between March and April 2023, Fly North Outfitters and FMG engaged in discussions concerning Fly North Outfitters cabin and Land Use Permit. In April 2023, Fly North Outfitters agreed to remove the cabin and cancel the Land Use Permit. In July 2023, Fly North Outfitters and FMG discussed property restoration responsibilities and cabin clean-up plans. The final agreement was reached in August 2023.

In April 2023, Woman River Camp and FMG discussed the condition of South Bay Road in proximity to the Woman River Camp's Bait Harvest Area, and use of the Wenasaga extension. Woman River Camp expressed the need for improvement of South Bay Road. Although outside of the Project development area, FMG acknowledged the feedback and committed to maintaining clean and safe work areas. FMG also discussed the Wenasaga extension and the regulatory assessment for its construction, inviting further comments or questions related to the Project. FMG has not been shared any further feedback.

On May 30, 2023, FMG held a Public Information Session in the Township of Ear Falls to present an overview of the Project and the draft EIS/EA. FMG provided an update on Project progress over the past year, including related to the CDF, water management, wildlife and the FHOCP. FMG played a video presentation to community members showing the Springpole mine site, mineral body, and the proposed Project features and components. FMG requested input from attendees regarding potential fish habitat compensation opportunities. Questions were asked and answered about Project timelines and employment opportunities, as well as access and power to the Project. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Date(s)
Newspaper and website banner	Sioux Bulletin	May 10, 2023
Radio and website banner	CKDR	May 15 to 31, 2023

The following evening, on May 31, 2023, FMG held a similar Public Information Session in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. Discussions were held regarding access to the Project, Project timelines and employment opportunities, as well as questions regarding the project processing plant and tailings facility. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Date(s)
Newspaper and website banner	Sioux Bulletin	May 10, 2023
Radio and website banner	CKDR	May 15 to 31, 2023

FMG conducted a four-part public webinar series in November 2023 on the CDF, FHOCP, water management and treatment strategy, and alternatives assessment process. FMG conducted the four-part webinar series regarding the draft EIS/EA and Project optimizations to continue to provide ongoing updates on Project activities and how consultation is shaping the Project. The webinars were held on weekday evenings and the topic of each presentation was selected to highlight feedback shared during the draft EIS/EA review that led to advanced studies. A question-and-answer period was held for each webinar. FMG provided presentation recordings of the webinars to public stakeholders and communities upon request and posted them on the Project website.

The Public contact list was invited to the series of webinars via email on October 25, 2024. This was followed by additional email invitations for each webinar five days in advance, as well as reminder emails one hour in advance.

- On November 7, 2023, FMG held a public webinar regarding the draft EIS/EA and Project optimizations. The presentation included the site plan that had been updated for the final EIS/EA,

as well as an overview of how the comments on the draft EIS/EA are shaping the Project related to fish and fish habitat, water quality, SAR, incorporation of TK/TLU, management of mine rock and tailings and training and employment. Seventeen people registered for the webinar and questions were asked about employment numbers for the Project and answered by FMG.

- FMG held the second public webinar in the draft EIS/EA update series on November 14, 2023, and presented on updates to the fish habitat offsetting and compensation strategies. The presentation provided an overview of the ongoing baseline studies, the potential effects to fish and fish habitat from the Project, as well as the proposed mitigation measures. Nine people registered for the webinar and questions were asked about Lake Sturgeon and the water intake that were answered at the meeting.
- On November 21, 2023, the third public webinar was held regarding water management and treatment. FMG presented on the surface water effects assessment and proposed mitigation, as well as proposed water treatment technologies. FMG reminded attendees of upcoming Public Information Sessions in Red Lake and Dryden. Six people registered for the webinar, but no questions were asked.
- On November 28, 2023, FMG held the last in the four-part series of public webinars. FMG presented on the alternatives assessment for the Project, how it was done in the draft EIS/EA and updates since then. The presentation included an overview of methodology including the criteria and indicators. FMG reminded attendees of upcoming Public Information Sessions in Red Lake and Dryden. Seven people registered for the webinar, but no questions were asked.

On November 29, 2023, FMG hosted a Public Information Session in the Municipality of Red Lake, which included a presentation about the Project, including the site plan, benefits, baseline studies, the FHOCP, and the draft EIS/EA. FMG answered various questions about the Project, primarily related to Project design and operations. Display boards were also setup around the room detailing the Project, and highlighted results of the draft EIS/EA including methods, mitigation strategies and results. A mine model was displayed replicating the proposed Project mine site, as well as copies of recent Project newsletters. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Date(s)
Newspaper	*Wawatay News*	November 17, 2023
Radio and Website Banner	CKDR	November 9 to 30, 2023 (radio) November 16 to 30, 2023 (website banner)
Social Media Post & Event	Facebook	November 23 and 29, 2023

A similar meeting was held the following evening on November 30, 2023, in the City of Dryden. Questions were raised about the water flow and treatment capabilities as well as solid waste disposal that were answered at the meeting. Additional questions and discussions were held on the power supply, project timelines, and the labour force which were also answered at the meeting. Notification of this Public Information Session was provided in advance through publishing in local newspapers, radio advertisements and online methods. A summary of the notification methods includes:

Notice Type	Publisher	Publication Date(s)
Newspaper	*Wawatay News*	November 17, 2023
Radio and website banner	CKDR	November 9 to30, 2023 (radio) November 16 to 30, 2023 (website banner)
Social media post and event	Facebook	November 23 and 29, 2023

FMG has worked with the Head Trapper and license holder of the closest trapline to the Project (SL197) to answer questions and address their concerns and interests towards supporting their ongoing and future activities. Members from CLFN, including trapline licence holder SL197, visited the Project site on June 13, 2023, to discuss the Project, TK/TLU areas, and participated in the water quality sampling. On December 22, 2023, the licence holder sent a letter to IAAC and the MECP in support of the Project. The licence holder indicated to the MECP that FMG had completed the necessary steps to accommodate and addressed their concerns about a portion of a trapline that will be occupied by the Project. The licence holder informed the MECP that they believe the Project will bring economic opportunities.

On January 16, 2024, FMG mailed a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map to a commercial camp registered to a sole proprietor. FMG again informed the commercial camp that its business was located within the Project RSA, and it was therefore identified as a potentially interested stakeholder. FMG offered to address any questions or concerns. Additionally, on January 16, 2024, FMG mailed Latreille Lake Lodge a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map. FMG again informed Latreille Lake Lodge that its Bear Management Areas were located within the Project RSA, and it was therefore identified as a potentially interested stakeholder. FMG offered to address any questions or concerns.

On January 18, 2024, FMG emailed a letter to all the outfitters, baitfish harvest licence holders, and bear management area holders in the RSA, providing a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map as a follow-up to a previous Project and EIS/EA notification letter. These contacts include Barry's Bait and Plow, Lac Seul Whitewing Resort, Knobby's Fly-In Lodge and Outposts, Canada North Lodge, Cat Island Lodge, J and M Camp, Patricia Fly-In Camps and Fort Frances Northern Wilderness Outfitters, Woman Lake Lodge, Clark's Resorts, Woman River Camp & Outposts, the Minnow Shed, Slate Falls Outposts, Shabu Wilderness Outposts, Little Canada Camp and Outposts and Jack Green's Fly-In Camps. FMG offered to address any questions or concerns. The MNR distributed the same letter to trapline licence holders (RL004, RL013, RL026, SL116, SL186, SL188, SL191, SL192, SL193, SL196, SL197, SL198, SL200, SL202) on behalf of FMG, considering their contact information is confidential.

Cat Island Lodge advised it is not currently concerned with the Bear Management Area but emphasized the importance of its two boat caches on Springpole Lake used for guest camping and fishing activities. It requested to remain on the public contact list until it can decide on the appropriate course of action. On January 22, 2024, in response to the email from Cat Island Lodge, FMG confirmed that it would remain on the public contact list and offered to address any inquiries or facilitate a meeting as needed. On February 5, 2024, FMG followed up with Cat Island Lodge to offer to address any questions regarding the Project schedule or potential impacts to camping and fishing on Springpole Lake. Cat Island Lodge has not shared a response with FMG to date.

On January 21, 2024, in response to the email and letter from FMG on January 18, 2024, Woman River Camp & Outposts acknowledged receipt of the Project and EIS/EA update letter. Woman River Camp & Outposts informed FMG that it did not anticipate any issues with the Project in its Bear Management Area but inquired

about the winter ice road. On January 22, 2024, FMG advised it had no intention of constructing a winter ice road in 2024 and noted that it had an application in progress to construct an overland temporary exploration winter access road into the Project site from the end of the existing Wenasaga Road.

On January 23, 2024, FMG emailed Red Pine Lodge & Outposts and True North Outposts & Cabins providing a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map. FMG informed Red Pine Lodge & Outposts and True North Outposts & Cabins that their business is located within the Project RSA, and they have therefore been identified as a potentially interested stakeholder. FMG offered to address any questions or concerns.

On March 11, 2024, FMG emailed Kabeelo Lodge providing a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map as a follow-up to a previous Project and EIS/EA notification. FMG informed Kabeelo Lodge that its business is located within the Project RSA, and it has therefore been identified as a potentially interested stakeholder. FMG offered to address any questions or concerns.

Trapline Holder SL200 and FMG had a phone call on January 30, 2024, to discuss the Project and facilitation of trapping activities for SL200 and planned to meet in person between February 1 to 15, 2024; however, Trapline Holder SL200 could not be reached. On February 22, 2024, a member of CLFN met with FMG to discuss methods to contact Trapline Holder SL200 due to lack of response. FMG reached out on March 12, 2024, and requested the CLFN member inform Trapline Holder SL200 to contact FMG to resume discussions about SL200, but no response was received.

As a follow-up to a trapline holders question raised during a 2024 LSFN Community Information Session, on April 23, 2024, FMG emailed a trapline licence holder re-providing a Project and EIS/EA update letter and Project site map as a follow-up to a previous Project and EIS/EA notification letter sent in March 2023.

Throughout 2024 FMG communicated with a commercial outfitter regarding their concerns with potential increased access to a lake of interest due to the transmission line route. FMG has met with and responded to the outfitter clarifying that the natural topography, vegetation, and landscape will be impassable preventing uncontrolled access, similar to other remote hydro corridors in northern Ontario. FMG noted that if that is not the case, FMG will work with the outfitter and regulatory agencies to install mitigation measures, including natural barriers to prevent uncontrolled access to the lake of interest.

Table 2.6-20: Comments, Questions and Responses from Public Stakeholders

Milestone/ Topic	Overview of Comment	How Comment was Considered in EIS/EA
Draft EIS/EA Commercial land and resource use	An outfitter located outside the transmission line route commented on potential increased access to a lake of interest due to the transmission line route.	FMG has met with and responded to the outfitter clarifying that the natural topography and landscape will be impassable preventing uncontrolled access, similar to other remote hydro corridors in northern Ontario. FMG noted that if that is not the case, FMG will work with the outfitter and regulatory agencies to install mitigation measures, including natural barriers to prevent uncontrolled access to the lake of interest. There are no outfitters within the LSA, with the closest outfitter to the mine site being 9 km away, and the transmission line being nearly 2 km away.
Draft EIS/EA Commercial land and resource use	BHA licence holder RL0085 did not have concerns regarding the interaction between the Project and this BHA, but did inquire about potential interactions between the Project and a Land Use Permit on Springpole Lake that the license holder had acquired.	FMG has worked with the BHA licence holder and the Land Use Permit has since been voluntarily deactivated.

2.7 Ongoing Consultation and Engagement

For the purposes of publication of the final EIS/EA, a cut-off date for the RoC (Appendix D) of June 30, 2024, was used, except for key meetings and correspondence that occurred up to September 2024, which is addressed in this section. The supplemental consultation between end of June and September 2024 generally captures the key meetings aimed at resolving key issues prior to the submission of the final EIS/EA.

A summary of the ongoing consultation after July 1, 2024, during the finalization of the EIS/EA is provided in Table 2.7-1.

Table 2.7-1: Summary of Key Ongoing Consultation

Date	Group	Type of Communication	Summary
July 25, 2024	MECP	Technical meeting	FMG met with the MECP to discuss hydrogeology workplans
August 8, 2024	MINES	Meeting	FMG met with MINES to advance plans related to the South Bay mine reclamation for the FHOCP.
August 13, 2024	Land users (outfitters, baitfish harvest licence holders, bear management area holders, trapline areas)	Letter sent via email and mail	FMG sent a letter to land users (outfitters, baitfish harvest licence holders, bear management area holders, trapline areas) within the Regional Study Area to provide an update on the Project and notify of the proposed optimized transmission line route.
August 15, 2024	CLFN and LSFN	Technical review meeting – fish and fish habitat	FMG met with CLFN and LSFN to discuss their comments on the draft EIS/EA related to fish and fish habitat, and FMG's responses.
August 15, 2024	CLFN and LSFN	Distribution of technical review presentations	In Preparation for the August 22nd technical sessions, FMG provided the Surface Water and Groundwater Presentation, Human and Ecological Health Risk Assessment Presentation and the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gasses Presentations.
August 15, 2024	ONS	Virtual meeting with Chief and advisors	Discussion on ONS commentary on the draft EIS/EA and next steps for community participation in the Project (e.g., business opportunities).
August 28, 2024	SFN	Responses to comments on draft EIS/EA	FMG provided written responses to SFN to their follow-up comments on the draft EIS/EA.
September 4, 2024	CLFN and LSFN	Site tour	FMG hosted a tour of the proposed Project site and existing exploration camp with representatives and community members from CLFN and LSFN.
September 4, 2024	MECP	Virtual technical meeting	FMG met with the MECP to present and discuss the mine waste/CDF alternatives assessment prior to the final EIS/EA submission.
September 11, 2024	CLFN and LSFN	Distribution of technical review presentations	In consideration of the technical sessions tentatively being re-scheduled for October, FMG provided the presentations on Terrestrial (wildlife, SAR, vegetation communities and wetlands) and the Incorporation of TK/TLU Studies
September 25, 2024	MECP	Virtual	FMG met with the MECP to discuss hydrogeology workplans.

2.8 References

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