



CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT

CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

Prepared for:

YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT BOARD

February 2006

Prepared by:



www.accessconsulting.ca

**Western Silver Corporation
Consultation Summary Report
Carmacks Copper Project, Yukon Territory**

Submitted by:

Western Silver Corporation
2050 – 1111 West Georgia
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4M3

DISTRIBUTION LIST

25 Copies + 1 PDF*	Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB)
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Government of Yukon, Executive Council Office, Development Assessment Process Branch
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Government of Yukon, Dept. of Energy, Mines & Resources, Minerals Management Branch
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Access Consulting Group
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Western Silver Corporation
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Alexco Resource Corp.

*PDF = CDRom version of report

PROJECT CONTACT LIST

<p>WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION # 2050 – 1111 West Georgia St. Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4M3 Telephone: (604) 684-9497 Fax: (604) 668-4670 Website: www.westernsilvercorp.com</p>	<p>Contact: Jonathan E. Clegg, P.Eng., Project Manager Telephone: (604) 641-2774 Email: jclegg@westernsilvercorp.com</p>
<p>ACCESS CONSULTING GROUP #3 Calcite Business Centre 151 Industrial Road Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3 Telephone: (867) 668-6463 Fax: (867) 667-6680 Website: www.accessconsulting.ca</p>	<p>Contact: Dan D. Cornett, BSc., P.Biol., CCEP, Environmental Assessment Manager Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca</p>
<p>ALEXCO RESOURCE CORP. 2300 – 200 Granville Street Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 1S4 Telephone: (604) 633-4888 Fax: (604) 633-4887</p>	<p>Contact: Brad Thrall, Technical Manager Email: bthrall@alexcoresource.com</p>

CONTEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT

This consultation summary report presents a summary of detailed project consultation that was undertaken by Western Silver Corporation (“Western Silver”) in support of the Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Act (YESAA) environmental and socio-economic assessment for Western Silver’s Carmacks Copper Project (“the project”).

In June 2005, Western Silver filed the *“Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report”* with Government of Yukon to fulfill the requirements of the Yukon Environmental Assessment Act (YEAA) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). The Carmacks Copper Project falls under the YEAA *Law List Regulations* since it will be subject to approvals under the provision of the Yukon Waters Act and the Quartz Mining Act. The project also falls under the YEAA *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* since the mine will be producing more than 3,000 tonnes of ore per day. The Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report was distributed for public comment by Government of Yukon in August 2005. Since that time Western Silver has been working with Yukon and Federal Government departments, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) and other interested parties as part of the environmental and socio-economic assessment for the project.

In late November 2005, the YESAA legislation and *Assessable Activities, Exceptions and Executive Committee Regulations* came into force. As a result the project requires an environmental and socio-economic assessment under YESAA. Due to the nature of the project, the assessment will be completed by the Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board (YESAB) Executive Committee. Since the project environmental screening commences under YEAA, but was not complete by the November 28, 2005 implementation date of YESAA, the project is considered a transition project with assessments required under both the YEAA and YESAA processes.

Western Silver recognized that the project may be subject to both assessment processes and completed the Project Description and Environmental Assessment

Report with the requirements of the YESAA in mind. Prior to submitting a formal application to the YESAB Executive Committee for review, Western Silver met with LSCFN and the local community to present the project and obtain feedback from various parties. In addition, the company met with YESAB representatives to ensure that YESAA requirements were understood and met. Of particular note is the YESAA requirement under Section 50 (3) obligating the proponent to consult with local First Nations, residents, or the community that might be affected by the project:

“Before submitting a proposal to the Executive Committee, the proponent of a project shall consult any First Nations in whose territory, or the residents of any community in which, the project will be located or might have significant environmental or socio-economic effects.”

This consultation summary has been prepared to assist the YESAB in determining that:

- the proponent has consulted with local First Nations, residents and communities about the proposed Carmacks Copper Project;
- adequate notice and information has been provided to enable parties to review the project information and prepare their views and comments within reasonable timeframes;
- opportunities have been provided to various parties to present their views; and
- Western Silver has acknowledged various parties views and given full and fair consideration to those views.

As the very nature of this document is about consultation, Western Silver will continue to consult with the LSCFN, other local First Nations, residents, and communities with respect to the project and work with the YESAB to complete the environmental and socio-economic assessment for the project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT	iii
1.0 HISTORIC CONSULTATION.....	1
2.0 PROJECT CONSULTATIONS TO DATE.....	4
2.1 APPROACH TO CONSULTATION.....	4
2.2 FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATIONS.....	7
2.3 PUBLIC/COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS	8
3.0 REVIEW OF PROJECT UNDER YEAA	13
4.0 ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS PUBLIC COMMENTS	15
4.1 RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION	15
4.2 STRATEGIC RESPONSE WORK PLAN.....	18

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Summary of Project Consultations to Date, February 2006	10
Table 2 Response to Comments/Issues Raised During Consultations	16
Table 3 Strategic Response to Carmacks Copper PD&EAR Review Comments... 	20

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A Historic Communications

- i. Table A1 - Public Consultation 1992 – 1994
- ii. Table A2 - RERC and Government Consultation 1991 – 2002
- iii. Table A3 - LSCFN Consultation 1991 – 1997
- iv. LSCFN Letters and Presentation Materials (July 1997 Meeting)

Appendix B Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Consultations

- i. February 11, 2005 – Memo to File
- ii. February 14, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- iii. February 16, 2005 – Meeting Briefing Notes

- iv. February 16, 2005 – Meeting Summary Notes, LSCFN Chief & Council
- v. March 7, 2005 – Meeting Summary Notes
- vi. March 8, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- vii. March 11, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- viii. March 7 & 11, 2005 – Project Figures Distributed
- ix. March 11, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- x. April 6 – 21, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- xi. June 9, 2005 – Meeting Summary Notes
- xii. September 14 – 23, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- xiii. Draft Workshop Presentation
- xiv. September 28, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- xv. October 7, 2005 – Email re LSCFN Participation in Data Collection
- xvi. December 6, 2005 – Email re Moose Survey

Appendix C Public/Community Consultations

- i. February 10, 2005 – Email Correspondence
- ii. Public Open House Advertisement
- iii. February 16, 2005 – Briefing Notes, Village of Carmacks Council Meeting
- iv. February 16, 2005 – Meeting Summary Notes, Village of Carmacks Council
- v. February 16, 2005 – Open House Visitor Sign-In
- vi. February 16, 2005 – Open House Comment Sheet
- vii. Project Newsletter
- viii. February 16, 2005 – Open House Posters
- ix. February 16, 2005 – Open House Summary Notes
- x. February 17, 2005 – Email, Distribution of Newsletter & Posters to Village of Carmacks
- xi. May 9&10, & July 5, 2005 – Email Correspondence, Outfitter
- xii. August 2005 – Updated Newsletter
- xiii. August 17, 2005 – Email Correspondence, Distribution of Updated Newsletter
- xiv. November 1, 2005 – Map, Location of Yukon Quest Trail

Appendix D YERC Meetings

- i. February 16, 2005 – YERC Meeting Agenda & Minutes
- ii. June 15, 2005 – YERC Meeting Agenda & Minutes
- iii. August 17, 2005 – YERC Meeting Agenda & Minutes

Appendix E Technical Committee

- i. July 28, 2005 – Technical Committee Meeting Agenda & Minutes
- ii. August 4, 2005 – Email Correspondence, GY DAP Branch Request for Info
- iii. August 25, 2005 – Technical Committee Draft Terms of Reference
- iv. November 25, 2005 – Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project – Strategic Response to Project Description Review Comments
- v. November 25, 2005 – Email Correspondence, Distribution of Strategic Response Table
- vi. November 28, 2005 – Technical Committee Meeting Agenda & Minutes
- vii. December 9, 2005 – Email, Distribution of “Environmental Monitoring Program Update and Data Summary”
- viii. January 11, 2006 – Email, Distribution of “Environmental Monitoring Program Update and Data Summary – Revision #1”
- ix. January 16, 2006 – Email, Distribution of Draft Memorandum on Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update
- x. January 27, 2006 – Technical Committee Meeting Agenda & Minutes
- xi. January 27, 2006 – Email Distribution of Detoxification and Rinsing Testwork Report, and Technical Design Memorandum – Solution Storage/Events Pond Sizing
- xii. February 13, 2006 – Email, Distribution of Draft Memorandum on Williams Creek Water Balance Update

Appendix F Government of Yukon Record of Consultation

- i. January 12, 2005 – Note to File
- ii. Carmacks Copper Mine Project Description/EAR Distribution Lists
- iii. July 21, 2005 – EA Coordination Meeting Agenda

- iv. August 16, 2005 – Proposed Carmacks Copper Mine, Consultation Document
- v. August 16, 2005 – Email, Consultation Document Distribution
- vi. August 17, 2005 – Email, Consultation Document Distribution (First Nations)
- vii. August 17, 2005 – Email, Consultation Document Distribution
- viii. August 24, 2005 – Tourism & Culture Comments on Project
- ix. Wilderness Tourism Operators & Licence Numbers
- x. August 30, 2005 – Email Correspondence, Selkirk Renewable Resources Council
- xi. August 30, 2005 – Note to File, Attempts to Meet with LSCFN
- xii. September 1, 2005 – Memorandum
- xiii. September 13, 2005 – CPAWS Comments on Project
- xiv. September 13, 2005 – Email, Environmental Health & Safety Comments on Project
- xv. September 13, 2005 – Environment Canada Comments on Project
- xvi. September 19 – 20, 2005 – Environment Comments on Project
- xvii. September 19, 2005 – Yukon Conservation Society Comments on Project
- xviii. September 20, 2005 – Email Correspondence, Request for Information
- xix. September 22, 2005 – Email Correspondence, LSCFN
- xx. September 28, 2005 – Email Correspondence, Workshop
- xxi. September 29, 2005 – LSCFN Preliminary Response to Carmacks Copper Project Description and EAR
- xxii. September 29, 2005 – Email Correspondence, LSCFN
- xxiii. October 6, 2005 – Email Correspondence, LSCFN
- xxiv. November 14, 2005 – Environmental Assessment Track Report
- xxv. November 21, 2005 – Notice of Decision to Continue as Comprehensive Study
- xxvi. December 16, 2005 – Email, Cover Letter, and YEAA Additional Information Requirements
- xxvii. January 16, 2006 – Summary of Comments Received

1.0 HISTORIC CONSULTATION

This section presents a summary of historic consultations for the Carmacks Copper Project which began in 1991 by Western Copper Holdings Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Western Silver Corporation (Western Silver). Fundamentally, the project has remained the same since initial consultations with affected parties began, that is the copper oxide ore deposit location and associated processing facilities and supporting infrastructure. What has evolved is the feasibility, engineering, environmental and other technical studies that have been undertaken to support project development and to address various parties' comments and concerns. We have not attempted to detail the project history, but rather summarize and document the level of effort that Western Silver management and various consultants have made on an ongoing basis to consult with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) and community leaders, local residents, government and other parties to understand views, gather feedback and address potential environmental and socio-economic effects from the project. Please also see Table 1, Summary of Project Consultations to Date, for a specific consultation outline.

Historic consultation has included meetings, site tours, pilot plant tours, education sessions, public presentations, interviews, and project updates with LSCFN (Chief and Council, Lands Department, and individual members), Village of Carmacks, the Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC), government and the community. A pilot test program, with government funding assistance through the Canada-Yukon Economic Development Agreement, was conducted in 1993 to test heap leaching processes in a Yukon setting, and this provided an opportunity for various parties to visit the pilot plant. Specific meetings and interviews were conducted between 1992 and 1993 with respect to heritage and environmental studies and fieldwork. Site tours provided an opportunity to view the project area, and educational opportunities were provided to assist with understanding the project and technologies used.

Appendix A contains a record of public, government, and First Nation consultation that occurred during the project between 1991 and 2002 as a result of the previous environmental assessment undertaken for the project. Appendix A (i), Table A1 provides a summary of the project public consultation between 1992 and 1994.

Table A2 in Appendix A (ii) provides a summary of the project RERC and government consultation between 1991 and 2002. As noted in Table A2, Western Silver formally requested of DIAND in March 2001 that the project be administratively transferred from the Environmental Assessment Review Process Guidelines Order (EARPGO) to the CEAA. In November 2001, DIAND reached a determination under the EARPGO and the project environmental assessment was terminated. In January 2002, the company formally requested that their Water Use Licence application filed with the Yukon Water Board be withdrawn. Since 2002, the project has remained dormant until the 2005 submissions.

Table A3 in Appendix A (iii) provides a summary of the project LSCFN consultation between 1991 and 1997. Appendix A (iv) provides a summary of LSCFN letters as well as presentation materials used at the July 10, 1997 meeting where an education session was held to present the project and heap leach technology. For each table in Appendix A, the consultation dates, type, participants and summary are provided.

Specific details regarding meeting agendas, notes, minutes, correspondence, reports, etc., filed in connection with the historic government project consultations and communications are located in the Government of Yukon Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch public registry for the Williams Creek Carmacks Copper Project, and have not been presented in this document.

In addition, the report entitled "*Western Copper Holdings Ltd., Williams Creek Copper Oxide Project IEE Volume 2 – Community Profiles and Socioeconomic Impact Assessment*" report prepared by Hallam Knight Piesold in January 1994, has been included in electronic format as a supporting document to the Western Silver's Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report.

Section 6.0 of the Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report (June 2005) provides a summary of more recent consultations with the public, local residents and LSCFN. Further relevant historic consultation extracted from the "*Environmental Assessment, Western Coppermine/Williams Creek, Yukon Region – Final Report*" prepared by MDA Consulting Limited (March 2000) is quoted below.

“The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation has had a long standing concern about the development of the site, particularly with respect to the impact of the heap leach facility on the natural water resources, and habitat within. As well, they have a concern as to the impact of the development on the wildlife and the habitat within traditional areas. On the other hand, with the recent closing of another mine in the vicinity, which employed numerous band members, there is a strong interest in the development with appropriate environmental safeguards.

Consequently, several telephone discussions were held with Mr. Chris Noble, Director, Land, Resources and Infrastructure for the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. A meeting was set up for Monday, October 4, 1999 at the Band office, to discuss concerns about the site and to plan a site visit. Unfortunately, for reasons beyond the control of MDA, that meeting did not occur, and a second meeting was established for Tuesday, October 5, 1999. Attending the Tuesday meeting were Chris Noble, Joe Bellmore, Land Resource Technician for Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and D. Gregor, MDA. All other MDA and AES staff had been sent back to Whitehorse at this time to undertake other work.

The development of the WC site was discussed in a general way. Mr. Noble indicated that the site had been visited officially by someone from the Band approximately one year ago. MDA invited Mr. Noble and Mr Bellmore to visit the site that day to participate in a second field inspection. Mr. Bellmore was able to do so. The timing of this second visit was indeed appropriate as the 10 cm of snow that had been present at the time of the previous visit had largely disappeared, allowing a more thorough inspection.”

Throughout the development of the proposed Carmacks Copper Project, Western Silver has endeavoured to maintain cooperative and interactive association with all effected parties and in particular the LSCFN. It is understood that LSCFN believes that the YESAA process will enable more active participation of the First Nation and their members during the project review. Western Silver will continue to work cooperatively with the YESAB, LSCFN and the community.

2.0 PROJECT CONSULTATIONS TO DATE

This section presents a summary of Western Silver's most recent project consultations. The company has maintained periodic communications with Government of Yukon since the EARPGO assessment was terminated in 2001. These discussions centered on how the company would enter the YEAA environmental assessment process and how the project assessment would proceed. In late 2004, the project was formally reactivated by Western Silver and work commenced on compiling information necessary to the assessment process. The following sections discuss Western Silver's approach to project consultations, with specific discussion of consultations with LSCFN, public, and the local community.

2.1 APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

Western Silver continues to strive towards a close working relationship with the First Nation communities in the project area, particularly the LSCFN and their members, and is committed to working with the Village of Carmacks, local residents and all parties as part of the environmental and socio-economic assessment process and the company's ongoing project activities. Specifically, the company is committed to:

- Participating in local meetings and information sessions, and taking other appropriate steps to promote consultation and communication;
- Working directly with LSCFN through the YEAA and YESAA processes and respecting their involvement and management of local environmental and socio-economic issues;
- Consulting in an ongoing manner with communities, individuals, groups and other parties, so that local people are kept informed regarding plans and activities and employment opportunities;
- Providing adequate notice, information, opportunities and time for input into the project;
- Providing meaningful and fair consideration of the views and comments received;

- Providing local First Nation communities with notice of potential employment and contracting opportunities; and
- Maximizing opportunities for northern benefits from the Carmacks Copper project.

Western Silver's approach to project consultation was through a number of specific methods. These included the following:

- Direct contact through meetings, advisory committees, review committees, interviews, phone calls, site tours (project area and pilot plant), field surveys, seminars and public open houses;
- Indirect contact through newsletters, website postings, public notices, posters; and
- Project documentation, including the Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report and associated supporting technical information and various presentation materials (maps, figures photographs, overheads).

A combination of consultation methodologies were used to ensure that various parties understood the project proposal, including location, access, surrounding environmental settings, mining operations, process technologies, closure plans, and potential effects of the project. Consultation methodologies centered on visually based presentation materials supported by in-person meetings and open houses to "walk people through" the information. The approach is to ensure that parties are given notice of the project proposal and provided with adequate information to understand the project and are thus in a position to make informed decisions and comments. These comments and views are then given full consideration by the company to improve the project and ensure that potential environmental and socio-economic effects are addressed and mitigated. At the end of the day, project proposals can only be successful if First Nations, local residents and communities are aware of and understand the implications of the project, can provide input, and then support the project knowing that their issues have been addressed. This is the company's "social licence" to develop the project proposal.

Meetings have historically been held with LSCFN Chief and Council, elders and members of the Lands and Resources Department. Similar meetings have occurred

with the Village of Carmacks Council. Site tours of the property have occurred in the past and attempts were made in 2005 to tour the project area again. Direct interviews were held previously with LSCFN members who traditionally use the land and this information was used as part of the environmental baseline studies. Local knowledge was typically used to document the environmental setting and use of the project area. For instance, local trapping is an important traditional life style and opportunities to ensure continued trap line use will be discussed further with the trapper.

We understand that LSCFN would like to undertake further project consultation with their members and a series of workshops are in the planning stages. Western Silver is supportive of these workshops and will participate when the community is ready to engage.

Village of Carmacks residents and the public have been kept apprised of the company's plan as the project progresses. Site tours of the pilot test plant occurred in the past and a recent public open house was held to inform residents of the project. Notice of the open house was published in the local newspaper and posted around the community. Periodic Newsletters are circulated and available to the public.

Feedback gathered from consultations is used to understand project issues and develop measures to address concerns. The revised project information is then provided back to participants for further input and feedback.

Table 1 provides a summary of project consultations from January 2005 to present (February 2006). This table summarizes methods of consultation, parties or individuals involved, the consultation topics, and comments received. Detailed documentation of specific consultation and communications are provided in Appendix B (LSCFN Consultations) and Appendix C (Public/Community Consultations). A brief description of project consultations follows; for details on individuals involved and comments/issues raised, refer to Table 1 and Appendices B and C.

2.2 FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATIONS

Western Silver recognizes that review and commentary on a complex technical project such as a modern mine requires some time, especially for non-technical individuals and groups. Therefore, Western Silver presented full details of the project early on and incorporated a multi-month timeline for responses to be received, and responded to, by the company. The following section presents important milestones in that process.

The LSCFN was contacted on February 7, 2005 by Access Consulting Group to reintroduce the project on behalf of Western Silver. On February 16 a meeting between the LSCFN Chief and Council, and Western Silver representatives was held to formally reintroduce the project and plans for completing the environmental assessment and permitting process. A public open house was held on the evening of February 16 in the Village of Carmacks so that the public had an opportunity to present comments or views to Western Silver and representatives.

On March 7, 2005 a meeting between LSCFN members and Western Silver's local agent (Access Consulting Group – ACG) was held to discuss project concerns particularly regarding the EA process and the YEAA/YESAA transition. Maps showing the project area were distributed at the meeting for discussion. Historic archaeological studies were provided to LSCFN and input was requested on draft figures and maps that described the project environmental setting. Further meetings including Government of Yukon were held on June 9, 2005 to discuss the EA process and other project related concerns/issues.

After the July 28, 2005 Technical Committee Meeting, Susan Davis (LSCFN Lands and Resources) and Dan Cornett (ACG) scheduled a community workshop for September 2005. Subsequent planning and preparation took place over the next couple months for a community workshop including a meeting with the LSCFN meeting facilitator, Mr. Doug Urquhart, where the approach to community consultation was discussed, along with workshop format and presentation materials. However, the community workshops were eventually cancelled towards the end of September. While preparing for the workshop, the LSCFN realized that there were too many assessment related process concerns for them to participate in meaningful community consultations. While Western Silver

respects LSCFN wishes, the company encouraged planning for a fall site tour and community workshops to discuss the project and a socio-economic participation agreement. To date, the community workshops and reactivation of discussions with LSCFN Chief and Council towards a socio-economic participation agreement have not occurred.

On September 29, 2005, LSCFN submitted a review of the Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report. Detailed technical comments and concerns were raised by LSCFN.

In October, November, and December 2005, ACG discussed plans with LSCFN for updating environmental baseline data for the Carmacks Copper site. The LSCFN were invited to participate in the upcoming field study planning and field surveys; however, they opted not to engage in this work.

It is hoped that with formal submission of the project proposal to YESAB, LSCFN will be able to provide more meaningful opportunities for Western Silver to consult with leadership and their community.

Detailed documentation of specific LSCFN consultation and communications are provided in Appendix B.

2.3 PUBLIC/COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

On February 16 2005, Western Silver representatives met with the Village of Carmacks Council to reintroduce the Carmacks Copper project and discuss plans for completing the environmental assessment and permitting process. A public open house was held in Carmacks on the evening of February 16 so that the local community and First Nations had an opportunity to present comments or views to Western Silver and representatives. Advance notice of the meeting and public open house were provided in local newspapers and calls made to the Village to ensure distribution of public notices. A series of posters were on display along with other project information. Western Silver and Government of Yukon representatives were available to discuss the project and gather feedback. Public comments sheets were made available.

Two Newsletters have been produced to date to provide periodic project updates to the community.

ACG maintains a website related to the project. This website provides access to the Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report and posts updated Newsletters. Open House posters and an earlier Newsletter have also been posted on the website: (<http://www.accessconsulting.ca/projectscurrent.htm>)

Tim Mervyn of Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting was contacted in May, 2005 and informed of the Carmacks Copper project reactivation. In November 2005, the Yukon Quest Office was contacted to clarify the Quest trail location in relation to the project and suggestions for mitigation of possible effects to the trail were provided.

Further meetings with Village of Carmacks Council and community members are planned. A similar open house format would be used to update the community on the project and assessment process. It is expected that these meetings would be scheduled to occur when similar workshops are being held with LSCFN members.

Detailed documentation of specific public and community consultation and communications are provided in Table 1, Summary of Project Consultations to Date, and Appendix C.

Table 1 Summary of Project Consultations to Date, February 2006

Consultation Date	Method of Consultation	Parties Represented	Individuals Involved	Consultation Topics	Project Comments / Issues
January 12, 2005	Telephone Call	Government of Yukon (GY) Access Consulting Group (ACG) ¹	Bill Dunn, EMR Mineral Development Dan Cornett	Project Agreement update, Performance Standards, YWB Quartz Mining Guidelines, Socioeconomic Guidance, YEAA/YESAA Transition. See Appendix F Note to File.	
January 25, 2005	Telephone Calls	ACG LSCFN Village of Carmacks	Dan Cornett Cathy Cochrane Bob Jackman, CAO	Scheduled LSCFN Chief and Council meeting and Village of Carmacks Council meeting with Western Silver.	
February 7, 2005	Conference Call	LSCFN ACG	Chief Eddie Skookum & Councilor Terry Billy Dan Cornett	LSCFN concerned with Western Silver planning to meet with the Village of Carmacks; project concerns & socioeconomic benefits also discussed. See Appendix B Memo to File.	Chief Skookum concerned with Western Silver's plan to meet with the Village of Carmacks. Chief advised of the obligation to talk with all affected parties, including the Village Council. After some discussion, the Chief understood why the Village also had to be consulted. Project concerns raised include: 1. effects to ground/surface water - LSCFN does not want downstream resources effected by the project; 2. effects to local trapper ability to harvest & use the area - trapper compensation agreement probably required for the project; and 3. effects to local wildlife resulting from the project. Socioeconomic benefits also discussed. LSCFN interested in economic benefits from the project including jobs, contracts, etc. LSCFN also interested in providing local infrastructure to support the project. LSCFN expects that some sort of benefits agreement will be developed. LSCFN continues to be interested in the project and working with Western Silver to advance the project.
February 9, 2005	Email Correspondence	ACG LSCFN Village of Carmacks	Colette MacMillan Cathy Cochrane Bob Jackman, CAO	Notice of February 16 public open house sent to Village of Carmacks and LSCFN to be posted in Carmacks. See Appendix B Email and Appendix C Email & Public Open House Advertisement.	
February 11, 2005	Newspaper Advertisement	ACG Yukon News, Whitehorse Star	Colette MacMillan	February 16 public open house in Carmacks advertised in Yukon News on Feb 11, 14 & 16; Whitehorse Star Feb 11, 14, 15 & 16. See Appendix C Public Open House Advertisement.	
February 16, 2005	YERC Meeting	Western Silver ACG Various	Jonathan Clegg Dan Cornett See Meeting Minutes	Provide update on project. Project Newsletter was provided to Chair Rob Walker. See Appendix D Meeting Agenda and Minutes, and Appendix B Project Newsletter.	Derek Fraser (GY DAP) concerned with background project files not readily accessible. Todd Pinkess (GY EHS) questioned about target dates for construction. No other specific questions.
February 16, 2005	Meeting	Village of Carmacks Council Western Silver ALM Group ACG	Mayor Mick Larkin and Councilors Stuart Harris, Elaine Wyatt, Cory Bellmore, and Bob Jackman - Village CAO Jonathan Clegg Clynt Nauman Dan Cornett	Reintroduce Carmacks Copper project and Western Silver's plans for completing the EA & permitting process. See Appendix C Briefing Notes and Meeting Summary Notes.	The Village of Carmacks Council continues to support Western Silver's development plans. The importance of social benefits was discussed and the need to ensure employment equity hiring for all Village and LSCFN members. Questions/comments: number of jobs created? what % expected to be local hire? where else will people be hired from? project scheduling/timing? is the access road bypass the responsibility of GY or Village of Carmacks? ore cut off grade? typical equipment size? use of local equipment operators? will there be competitive benefits for both the LSCFN and Village of Carmacks? continued project communication with the Village of Carmacks.
February 16, 2005	Meeting	LSCFN Chief & Council LSCFN Lands and Resources Western Silver ALM Group ACG	Chief Eddie Skookum and Councilors Terry Billy, Darlene Johnson, George Skookum, Johnny Sam (Elder), Mary Tulk and administrative staff Elizabeth Skookum, Cathy Cochrane, and Viola Mullet Susan Davis Jonathan Clegg Clynt Nauman Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss	Reintroduce Carmacks Copper project and Western Silver's plans for completing the EA & permitting process. See Appendix B Meeting Briefing and Summary Notes.	Similar concerns raised at this meeting as during the Feb 7/05 conference call. In addition, the importance of social benefits was discussed. A draft socioeconomic agreement was previously developed between Western Silver & LSCFN - LSCFN interested in revisiting the benefits agreement with the company. Socioeconomic issues such as meeting future housing needs, use of LSCFN contractors, and trapping within the project area were discussed. Potential environmental effects to wildlife and water quality and the need for recent baseline data from the site was also discussed. Noted that further discussion on EA process will need to occur. Interest in Western Silver Corporation shares.
February 16, 2005	Open House	Western Silver ALM Group ACG GY General Public	Jonathan Clegg Clynt Nauman Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss Kevin Brewer & Stuart Van Bibber (EMR Mineral Development) and Rob Walker (ECO DAP Branch) approximately 12 community members	Poster presentation of key project and environmental information; opportunity for the public to present comments or concerns directly with Western Silver and consultants; project newsletter provided for distribution. Comment sheets available to fill out. See Appendix C for Open House Visitor Sign-in, Comment Sheet, Posters, and Project Newsletter.	Comments/questions mainly focused on economic & employment benefits & opportunities. Visitors were advised of preparation of the assessment report and opportunities for public review and comment. Community members were interested in the project plans and encouraged to see Western Silver reactivating the project EA. Visitors were interested in the fisheries resources in Williams Creek and the measures to protect them. Many questions surrounded the EA review process and opportunities for community input.
February 17, 2005	Email Correspondence	Village of Carmacks ACG	Bob Jackman, CAO Nichole Speiss	Electronic versions of open house posters and newsletter provided to the Village for distribution. See Appendix C for Email Correspondence.	
February 17, 2005	Website Posting	ACG		Open house posters & newsletter posted on ACG website.	
March 7, 2005	Meeting	LSCFN LSCFN Lands and Resources ACG	Johnny Sam, Elder Susan Davis, Mark Nelson, Robbie Cashin Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss	EA process, overview of project development, review of environmental & traditional use information in the project area. See Appendix B for Meeting Summary Notes and Project Figures Distributed.	LSCFN wants to be an active participant in the EA process. Concerns expressed over YEAA/YESAA transition. Further meeting with GY should include LSCFN representatives - concern with GY not following through to involve First Nations. LSCFN concerned about not being involved in discussions with GY or YESAB on Project Agreements, EA process, and YEAA/YESAA transition. Methods to continue to brief LSCFN members and the community were discussed. LSCFN has goals and criteria to meet and would like to know what GY criteria are and be involved in BMPs. LSCFN does not want short cuts for profit margins, prefer to avoid a 'BYG situation'. Previous environmental, heritage, and cultural data was reviewed and recent maps compiling data collected from past studies was provided to the LSCFN Lands and Resources Branch for review and input. Concerns with increased truck traffic to the mine site were raised. Concern also expressed with not being able to perform traditional activities near the project area i.e.) trapping. Community consultation is important and LSCFN would like to be involved in the early stages of project development. Discussion of a community workshop.
March 8, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN Lands and Resources ACG	Mark Nelson, Heritage Officer Nichole Speiss	Electronic versions of two archaeological assessment reports for the Carmacks Copper project provided. See Appendix B Email Correspondence.	
March 9, 2005	Telephone Call	GY ACG	Bill Dunn, EMR Mineral Development Dan Cornett	Project Agreement; Open House; Potential project meeting between GY, Western Silver, and LSCFN; Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report update; project scheduling.	
March 11, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN Lands and Resources ACG	Susan Davis Nichole Speiss	Eight draft PD&EAR figures provided to LSCFN for review & discussion with community members as per March 7 meeting. See Appendix B Project Figures Distributed and Email Correspondence.	
March 11, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN Lands and Resources ACG	Susan Davis, Lands and Resources Dan Cornett	GY Carmacks Copper project performance standards provided, request for further discussions on EA process with GY. See Appendix B Email Correspondence.	
April 6, 8, & 21, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN Lands and Resources ACG	Susan Davis, Lands and Resources Nichole Speiss	Request for feedback on report figures provided on March 11, 2005. Received feedback on EA process. Meeting requested to discuss process. See Appendix B Email Correspondence.	Susan Davis comments on her research into the history of the project, requesting a detailed report on the changes made to the reactivated project to ensure that previous concerns were mitigated. Also requests further meetings to discuss the environmental screening process and requirements under YESAA. Comments that a community process is required for the process to be successful.
May 10, 2005	Email Correspondence	Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting ACG	Tim & Jen Mervyn Nichole Speiss	Introduce project & location, providing opportunity for input into development of PD&EAR. See Appendix C Email Correspondence.	Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting (Tim Mervyn) - does not currently see a problem with the project but appreciated being contacted and would like to be kept informed.
June 3, 2005	PD&EAR Submission	Western Silver Various	See Distribution Lists	See Appendix F for Distribution Lists.	
June 9, 2005	Meeting	LSCFN GY ACG	Johnny Sam (Elder), Fred Green, Susan Davis, and Joe Bellmore (Lands and Resources), Bill Slater (LSCFN Technical Advisor), Viola Mullet, Shirley Mullet, Mike Vance, and Ted Faircloud Bill Dunn (EMR Mineral Development), Randy Lamb (Environment), and Shane Andre (ECO DAP Branch) Dan Cornett	Project introduction and background; EA Process; Project Agreement; land use planning; updating baseline water quality data; project closure; YEAA/YESAA transition; planned community consultations; abandoned test site; trapping; traditional law; next steps - community meetings & site tour. See Appendix B Meeting Summary Notes.	LSCFN concerned with not being involved in the Project Agreement - traditional law not being addressed. Other concerns raised include: land use planning not being done; updating of baseline water quality data; heap and project closure; YEAA/YESAA transition; elders believe that an abandoned test site was left a mess by Western Silver as there may still be chemicals being stored in a fenced area; effects to trapping in the project area.
June 15, 2005	YERC Meeting	ACG Various	Dan Cornett See Meeting Minutes	Project history, overview & update; EA Process; YEAA; Comprehensive Study process; RA's identified Consultation package. See Appendix D Meeting Agenda & Minutes.	Bill Dunn (GY EMR) enquired as to any planned activities at the site.
June 28, 2005	Meeting	GY ACG	Bill Dunn (EMR Mineral Development), Shane Andre (ECO DAP Branch), and Rob Walker (ECO DAP Branch) Dan Cornett	RA's; YESAB shadowing.	
July 5, 2005	Email Correspondence	Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting ACG	Tim & Jen Mervyn Nichole Speiss	Outfitter notified of completion of PD&EAR and where to view the report. See Appendix C Email Correspondence.	
July 8, 2005	Meeting	GY ACG	Bill Dunn, EMR Mineral Development Dan Cornett	Technical committee development, terms of reference, and meeting schedule. Update provided on detoxification testwork.	
July 21, 2005	Meeting	GY ACG	Bill Dunn (EMR Mineral Development), Bill Klassen (EA Co-ordinator), Randy Lamb (Environment), and Shane Andre (ECO). Dan Cornett	EA coordination meeting - GY RA's & TA's identified, no federal RA's; Project Agreement; EA Scope; FN consultation; project scheduling; YESAB shadowing; Technical Committee meeting agenda; upcoming YERC meeting. See Appendix G for Meeting Agenda.	

Consultation Date	Method of Consultation	Parties Represented	Individuals Involved	Consultation Topics	Project Comments / Issues
July 28, 2005	Technical Committee Meeting	Environment Canada	Benoit Godin	Project overview, role of the committee. Draft updated project newsletter distributed for review/input. Selected PD&EAR figures and tables distributed to aid discussions. See Appendix E Meeting Agenda and Minutes.	LSCFN commented on the environmental & socioeconomic data in the PD&EAR needing to be updated; performance standards (Table 8-1 in PD&EAR) states "Leach pad design exceeds GY criteria with a double composite liner system with a LDRS" - GY standards speak to permeability; BS questions the interpretation of a "double-composite" liner, does not view the proposed liner system as "double composite"; question raised as to why two WWTP's required - 1 for operation & 1 for closure; question raised as to the consideration given to the overliner conveyor system and effects to liner system; question as to who carries liability upon mine closure for passive care; comment on security bonding to be developed (GY draft policy); in-depth discussion of technologies, closure, etc. to assist in determining project track; question as to what new technologies vs. standard/proven technologies are being proposed for the project; concern raised respecting detoxification & introducing reducing compounds to the environment.
		ACG	Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss		
		GY	Shane Andre (ECO), Rob Walker (DAP Branch), Randy Lamb (Environment), Wayne Kettley (EMR Water Resources), Bill Dunn (EMR Mineral Development), Bill Klassen (EA Co-ordinator)		
		LSCFN	Susan Davis, Fred Green, Joe Bellmore (Lands and Resources), Bill Slater (Technical Advisor)		
July 28, 2005	Meeting	ACG	Dan Cornett	Scheduling of community workshop in September 2005.	
August 4, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN	Susan Davis (Lands and Resources)	On behalf of the Technical Committee, DAP Branch requests additional information on detoxification test work. See Appendix E Email Correspondence.	GY DAP Branch requests additional information re heap detoxification test work to demonstrate that "walk-away" closure can be achieved. Requested that information received ASAP to ensure for adequate time for review.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
August 8, 2005	Meeting	ACG	Dan Cornett	Preliminary comments on PD&EAR. See Appendix F for September 1, 2005 Memorandum.	Bill Dunn (GY EMR) expressed some preliminary comments & questions upon reviewing the PD&EAR. Comments were related to leakage criteria; copper reduction through electrowinning; temperature of molten sulphur; updating baseline data; performance standards & design criteria parameters; heap leach pad liner design; & conceptual closure & reclamation. Errors in transcription noted.
		GY	Bill Dunn, EMR Mineral Development		
August 16, 2005	Email Correspondence	ACG	Nichole Speiss	DAP Branch notifies those on the Carmacks Copper project distribution list that the Consultation Document is available for review on the GY website. Comments to be submitted by September 13, 2005. See Appendix F for Distribution List, Consultation Document, and Email Correspondence.	
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
August 17, 2005	YERC Meeting	ACG	Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss	Project overview. Selected PD&EAR figures and tables distributed to aid discussions. Updated project newsletter also distributed. See Appendix D Meeting Minutes.	Comments/questions raised include: whether Western Silver would create trail access to the lower Williams Creek sample stations if necessary; Catherine Paish (GY Tourism) questioned about tourism activity in the project area, whether the area was visible from the Yukon River, how many trucks/day are anticipated to be traveling the highway & impacts on the highway; Morris George (GY Env't) questioned about the open pit filling with water.
		Various	See Meeting Minutes		
August 17, 2005	Email Correspondence	ACG	Nichole Speiss	Updated project newsletter provided for distribution to YERC members and to the Carmacks Copper stakeholders See Appendix C for Updated Newsletter.	
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
August 24, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY	Tourism & Culture	Tourism submits response to reviewing PD&EAR as well as list of current licenced wilderness tourism operators. See Appendix F for Original Comments & List, and a Summary of Comments Received.	Concerns exist surrounding the possible visual and noise (aesthetic) impacts on the Yukon River travelers - recommended minimum 100 m buffer setback from Yukon River; the Yukon Quest Trail includes a portion of the Freegold Road and crosses Williams Creek; commercial dog mushers offer trips along the Quest Trail that may include the area proposed for mine use; concern over the impacts of improving access to the Yukon River will be addressed, and impacts on water quality and fish.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
August 26, 2005	Telephone Call	LSCFN	Susan Davis, Lands and Resources	September 27, 2005 workshop; set up meetings with elders; poster display and presentation.	
		ACG	Dan Cornett		
August 30, 2005	Email Correspondence	Selkirk Renewable Resources Council	Dorothy Bradley, Executive Director	Request for information from GY on Carmacks Copper project. See Appendix F Email Correspondence.	
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
August 30, 2005	Note to File	GY	Shane Andre, ECO	GY attempted meeting with the LSCFN re the Carmacks Copper project. See Appendix F Note to File.	
September 1, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY	Bill Dunn, EMR Mineral Development	Response provided to preliminary comments expressed at Aug 8 meeting. See Appendix F for Memorandum.	
		ACG	Nichole Speiss		
September 13, 2005	Email Correspondence	CPAWS	Mac Hislop	CPAWS submits preliminary comments on GY Consultation Document. See Appendix F for Original Comments and a Summary of Comments Received.	Concerns raised respecting project economics, heap leaching technology, and reclamation bonding.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
September 13, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY	Todd Pinkess (Health & Social Services, EHS)	Environmental Health Services submits comments on GY Consultation Document. See Appendix F Email.	Concern/comments expressed respecting: the source & provision of potable water; means for domestic wastewater disposal; camp living quarters; submission of proposal on food service supply including camp kitchen layout; and garbage disposal.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
September 13, 2005	Email Correspondence	Environment Canada	Benoit Godin, Head, Assessment & Contaminants	Environment Canada submits comments on GY Consultation Document. See Appendix F for Original Comments and a Summary of Comments Received.	Extensive comments/concerns expressed respecting: spent ore decommissioning; waste rock; open pit; events pond; solvent extraction; electrowinning; decommissioning & reclamation; water management; sediment control pond; wastewater treatment & disposal; ABA of waste rock & ore; stream sediment quality; and surface water quality.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
September 14, 2005	Meeting	LSCFN	Doug Urquhart	Proposed workshop and field trip on Sept 27-28, 2005. See Appendix B for Draft Presentation Materials.	
		ACG	Dan Cornett		
September 14-23, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN	Susan Davis, Lands and Resources	Planning and eventual cancellation of proposed workshop and field trip on Sept 27-28, 2005. See Appendix B Email Correspondence.	Susan Davis comments on the precedent setting potential of the project with respect to YESAA; important to adhere to YESAA to avoid delays; concern with process for consultation; exploring a socioeconomic agreement. The workshop, meetings, and field trip to the site were subsequently cancelled as the LSCFN concerned with process & not prepared for public consultation.
		ACG	Dan Cornett		
September 19, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY	Randy Lamb, Environment	Dept. of Environment completes adequacy review of the Carmacks Copper project documents and submits comments to the DAP Branch. See Appendix F for Original Comments and a Summary of Comments Received.	Extensive comments/concerns expressed respecting: wildlife issues & key habitat; water management; solution storage; hydrology & streamflow assessment; groundwater quality; water quality monitoring; and heap detoxification.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
September 19, 2005	Email Correspondence	Yukon Conservation Society	Tracy Boyes, Watershed Health Coordinator	YCS submits comments on the Carmacks Copper project. See Appendix F for Original Comments and a Summary of Comments Received.	Extensive comments/concerns expressed respecting: project purposed & need; ARD; waste rock; heap leach operation; liner system; events pond; heap leaching; sulphuric acid plant; reagents & materials; haul roads; access road; culvert & bridge maintenance; mine staffing; site drainage & diversion; waste rock storage (sediment control pond); water sources; water treatment facility; ABA & waste rock; permafrost; surface hydrology; surface water quality; fisheries; benthic invertebrates; wildlife; trapping; socioeconomic concerns; use of calcium chloride; environmental management system; and environmental surveillance monitoring.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
September 20, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY	Shane Andre, ECO	DAP Branch again requests additional information on detoxification test work. See Appendix F Email Correspondence.	DAP Branch requests additional information on the proposed heap detoxification process - must be demonstrated that closure can be achieved through the conceptual closure plan. No known examples of the proposed detoxification technique exist.
		ACG	Dan Cornett		
September 28, 2005	Telephone Call	Western Silver	Dale Corman	Project status and update.	
		LSCFN	Chief Skookum		
September 28, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY	Shane Andre, ECO	Update on workshop cancellation. See Appendix F Email Correspondence.	
		GY	Jeff O'Farrell, ECO		
September 28, 2005	Email Correspondence	ACG	Dan Cornett	Items to move forward: site tour, community workshop to discuss the project (not process), and a socioeconomic participation agreement. See Appendix B Email Correspondence.	
		LSCFN	Susan Davis		
September 29, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN	Susan Davis, Lands and Resources	LSCFN submits review of the Carmacks Copper PD&EAR. See Appendix F for Review, Email Correspondence, and a Summary of Comments Received.	LSCFN submits an extensive review of the PD&EAR that includes comments on: liner type; effluent discharge; water balance analyses; socioeconomic information; heap leach pad subgrade conditions; wildlife & fish; heap leach spent ore - conceptual closure plan; water treatment facilities; liner design; heap leach pad embankment design; heap leach pad loading; low grade ore stockpile; water rock disposal (design); and water quality modeling.
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
October 6, 2005	Email Correspondence	LSCFN	Chief Skookum	Interim response to LSCFN preliminary review of PD&EAR. See Appendix F Email Correspondence.	
		GY	Shane Andre, ECO		
October 7, 2005	Email Correspondence	ACG	Dan Cornett	Plans for updating environmental baseline data and inclusion of LSCFN in the data collection. See Appendix B Email.	
		LSCFN	Susan Davis		
November 1, 2005	Meeting	GY	Shane Andre (ECO) and Bill Dunn (EMR Mineral Development)	Review of comments on EA; present Western Silver strategic response - draft. See Table 3.	
		ACG	Dan Cornett		
November 1, 2005	Meeting	Yukon Quest	Wendel Carey, Race Manager	Location of Yukon Quest trail in relation to Carmacks Copper project area. See Appendix C for Map.	Wendel Carey (Yukon Quest Race Manager) indicated on a map where the Yukon Quest Trail is located in relation to the project area. As the trail follows Freegold Road north, it has been suggested that 10 to 15 feet on the side of the road be set aside for Yukon Quest Trail traffic.
		ACG	Nichole Speiss		
November 9, 2005	Email Correspondence	ACG	Dan Cornett	Discussion of planned moose rut survey and inclusion of LSCFN member in survey.	
		LSCFN	Susan Davis		
November 14, 2005	EA Track Report Submission	GY		See Appendix F for EA Track Report.	
November 21, 2005	Notice of Decision...	GY		See Appendix F for Notice of Decision to Continue as a Comprehensive Study	
November 25, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY	Shane Andre, ECO	Table with Western Silver's strategic response to project comments/issues provided for circulation to technical committee members. See Appendix E for Strategic Response Table.	
		ACG	Dan Cornett		
November 28, 2005	Technical Committee Meeting	GY	Shane Andre (ECO), Rob Walker (DAP Branch), Randy Lamb (Environment), Wayne Kettley (EMR Water Resources), Bill Dunn (EMR Mineral Development)	EAA/YESAA assessment process, Environmental/Socioeconomic Effects Committees Terms of Reference, proposed work to address project issues, review of comments received summary document. See Appendix E Meeting Agenda & Minutes.	Comment raised respecting security bonding & providing supplementary information for the Yukon Water Board regulatory process. Following technical committee meeting will begin to address comments & concerns for the project.
		LSCFN	Susan Davis (Lands and Resources), Bill Slater (Technical Advisor)		
		Environment Canada	Benoit Godin		
		YESAB	Stephen Mills, Travis Ritchie, Patricia Randell, Lindsay Dehart		
December 5, 2005	Meeting	ACG	Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss	Discuss YEAA/YESAA transition and consultation requirements.	
		YESAB	Travis Ritchie		
December 6, 2005	Telephone Call, Email Correspondence	ACG	Dan Cornett	Telephone message left and email sent respecting planning of post rut moose survey to update wildlife usage data in the project area. Suggested meeting with LSCFN to develop and schedule survey. See Appendix B Email.	
		LSCFN	Susan Davis, Viola Mullett		
December 9, 2005	Meeting	GY	Shane Andre, ECO	Coordination of project "Consultation Summary" for YEAA/YESAA transition.	
		ACG	Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss		

Consultation Date	Method of Consultation	Parties Represented	Individuals Involved	Consultation Topics	Project Comments / Issues
December 9, 2005	Email Correspondence	ACG GY Various	Dan Cornett Shane Andre, ECO See Copy of Email	"Environmental Monitoring Program Update & Data Summary" submitted by ACG on behalf of Western Silver to GY who distributed the document. See Appendix E Email.	
December 16, 2005	Email Correspondence	GY Western Silver ACG	Shane Andre (ECO), Lindsay Dehart (ECO), Jeff O'Farrell (ECO), Bill Dun (EMR Mineral Development), Bob Holmes (EMR Mineral Resources) Jonathan Clegg Dan Cornett	GY (ECO DAP Branch) sends "Additional Information Requirements" to Western Silver. See Appendix F for Email, Cover Letter, & Document.	
January 11, 2006	Email Correspondence	ACG GY Various	Dan Cornett, Nichole Speiss Shane Andre, ECO See Copy of Email	"Environmental Monitoring Program Update & Data Summary - Revision #1" submitted by ACG on behalf of Western Silver to GY who distributed the document to Technical Committee members. See Appendix E Email.	
January 16, 2006	Email Correspondence	ACG GY Various	Dan Cornett Shane Andre, ECO See Copy of Email	Draft Memorandum on Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update sent out to Technical Advisory Committee on behalf of Western Silver. See Appendix E Email.	
January 16, 2006	Summary of Comments Received	GY	Shane Andre, ECO	Document filed in public registry. See Appendix F Summary of Comments Received.	
January 27, 2006	Technical Committee Meeting	Various	See Meeting Minutes	Review of "Environmental Monitoring Program Update & Data Summary" and discussion of upcoming meetings and expected project reports submissions. See Appendix E Meeting Agenda and Minutes.	
January 27, 2006	Email Correspondence	ACG GY Various	Dan Cornett Shane Andre, ECO See Copy of Email	"Detoxification and Rinsing Testwork Report" and "Technical Design Memorandum - Carmacks Copper Project Solution Storage/Events Pond Sizing" submitted by ACG on behalf of Western Silver to GY who distributed the documents to Technical Committee members. See Appendix E Email.	
February 13, 2006	Email Correspondence	ACG GY Various	Dan Cornett Shane Andre, ECO See Copy of Email	Draft Memorandum on Water Balance Update sent out to Technical Advisory Committee on behalf of Western Silver. See Appendix E Email.	

¹ ACG is agent for Western Silver Corporation

3.0 REVIEW OF PROJECT UNDER YEAA

The Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report was formally submitted to Government of Yukon on June 3, 2005. The project was presented to the Yukon Environmental Review Committee (YERC) on February 16, 2005, June 15, 2005 and again in August, 2005 (see Appendix D for YERC meeting agendas and minutes). YERC is made up of government and First Nations representatives and YERC meetings provide an opportunity for project proponents to discuss project plans, gather views and provide feedback.

The first YEAA Technical Committee meeting was held on July 28, 2005, by which time the project Responsible Authorities for the project had been determined. Subsequent to this initial meeting, the DAP Branch requested additional information on detoxification test work to demonstrate that a viable closure plan for the project can be achieved. Technical Committee meetings have also been held on November 28, 2005 and January 27, 2006. The Technical Committee meetings provide an opportunity for Western Silver to present new information to government and LSCFN for review and discussion. Generally, information is provided to the committee at least 2 weeks in advance of a meeting for review. The material is subsequently reviewed at the next committee meeting. Meetings are facilitated by an independent Chair with meeting minutes transcribed. Appendix E provides correspondence relating to the Technical Committee as well as Technical Committee meeting agendas and minutes.

On August 16, 2005, the DAP Branch posted their Consultation Document for the project on their website and distributed the document for public review and participation. This document was distributed to Federal and Yukon Government departments, the YERC, First Nations, Yukon Chamber of Mines, Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council, Yukon Salmon Committee, and the Village of Carmacks (see Appendix F). The public was requested to provide comments back to Government of Yukon by September 13, 2005.

Comments on the project were received from Tourism and Culture, Health and Social Services, GY Environment, Environment Canada, CPAWS, Yukon Conservation Society, and the LSCFN. A summary of the comments received from the public regarding the project are contained in Government of Yukon's January 16, 2006 Summary of Comments Received (see Appendix F).

On November 14, 2005 Government of Yukon issued their YEAA Environmental Assessment Track Report with the subsequent Notice of Decision to Continue as a Comprehensive Study on November 21, 2005 (see Appendix F). These two documents confirmed that the project should continue the YEAA assessment process at a comprehensive study level.

"It is the RAs' view that the scale of the project and potential environmental effects is in line with similar projects that have undergone comprehensive study assessments in the past. The Comprehensive Study approach to project assessment has been successfully applied to northern Canadian mining projects in recent years and there have been no significant public concern raised regarding the track that the assessment of this project should proceed on.

The responsible authorities will ensure that the public is provided with an opportunity to participate in the comprehensive study. The comprehensive study process will utilize a technical advisory subcommittee and socio-economic subcommittee as well as a Public Registry to gather public input.

It is the opinion of the RAs that the Comprehensive Study process will afford the opportunity to harmonize the EAA review with the YESAB assessment process."

Pertinent documents from the project environmental assessment are found in Government of Yukon's public registry located at the DAP Branch and available on their website at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html.

4.0 ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section describes how Western Silver has considered the views and information presented during the consultations as described in this report. In general, the company has received numerous comments and views surrounding the project. Western Silver has taken a proactive approach to addressing views in the most efficient manner possible. Where appropriate, depending on the method of consultation, responses are provided immediately to parties. If further work or information is required, then the company has actively undertaken measures to address particular views.

4.1 RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

In addition to consultation initiated by Western Silver, the company has also reviewed comments that Government of Yukon received during consultation under YEAA to determine if any new issues were raised that needed to be addressed. Table 2 provides a summary of Western Silver's responses to comments/issues raised during consultations. Please see Appendix F for Government of Yukon's summary of comments received.

Table 2 Response to Comments/Issues Raised During Consultations

Consultation Date & Method	Parties Represented	Response to Comments
February 7, 2005 Conference Call	LSCFN	Concerns are being addressed & incorporated into the project: Potential effects to ground & surface water will be avoided by incorporating preventative measures into the project components design (heap leach pad, waste rock storage area, etc.) Any discharged effluent will have to meet required standards. A water treatment facility will be available for treating effluent if necessary. If required, a trapper compensation agreement will be arranged for loss of income during active mining operations. Trapping trails will be identified & relocated/reestablished if necessary. Trapper will be notified to operations & timing. To assist in addressing effects to local wildlife resulting from the project an updated wildlife survey was conducted in December, 2005 to document wildlife usage in the project area. A socioeconomic agreement will be negotiated with the LSCFN. When possible, local individuals will be preferentially hired for the project.
	Access Consulting Group ¹	
February 16, 2005 YERC Meeting	Western Silver	Project files to be scanned and available electronically for easy access. No target dates set for construction at the site.
	Access Consulting Group	
	Various	
February 16, 2005 Meeting with Village of Carmacks Council	Village of Carmacks Council	Number of jobs created is upwards of 130 with as much local hire as possible; people will be hired from Yukon, Local First Nations, and from outside Yukon; project scheduling/timing depends on the assessment process & licencing, production decision to be made in 2007; the access road bypass is the responsibility of GY; ore cut off grade is around 1%; equipment will be similar to the Brewery Creek mine fleet; local equipment operators will be used; there will be competitive benefits for both the LSCFN and Village of Carmacks; project communication with the Village of Carmacks will continue.
	Western Silver	
	ALM Group	
	Access Consulting Group	
February 16, 2005 Meeting with LSCFN Chief & Council	LSCFN Chief & Council	A socioeconomic agreement will be renegotiated with the LSCFN. When possible, local individuals will be preferentially hired for the project. More recent baseline data was collected in 2005 and more collection is planned for 2006.
	LSCFN Lands Branch	
	Western Silver	
	ALM Group	
	Access Consulting Group	
February 16, 2005 Open House in Village of Carmacks	Western Silver	A socioeconomic agreement will be renegotiated with the LSCFN. When possible, local individuals will be preferentially hired for the project. Opportunities for local hire and contracting opportunities will be provided. Visitors advised that national environmental quality guidelines would be used to ensure downstream resources are protected. The community continues to be provided with information updates as the project proceeds.
	ALM Group	
	Access Consulting Group	
	Government of Yukon	
	General Public	
March 7, 2005 Meeting with LSCFN	LSCFN	Hosting of a community meeting/workshop discussed, to involve elders and other community members, learn about traditional knowledge and current land uses in the project area. Susan Davis & Robbie Cashin will be meeting with elders over next four weeks and indicate they will bring project maps to discuss at this time. LSCFN forwarded performance standards (Appendix A of Carmacks Copper Project Agreement) by way of explaining how the EA for the project will be guided. This same email is copied to GY, as it describes the need for further discussions on EA process with the company, GY, and LSCFN. See Appendix B March 11 Email. Subsequent to the meeting Mark Nelson (LSCFN Heritage Officer) is provided with digital copies of previously completed archaeological assessment reports in the project area See Appendix B March 8 Email. Truck traffic is estimated at 1 transport truck per day - to be updated.
	LSCFN Lands Branch	
	Access Consulting Group	
April 8, 2005 Email Correspondence	LSCFN Lands Branch	To address process concerns, it is requested that a meeting be set up with LSCFN, ACG, and GY. See Appendix B April 6 - 21 Email Correspondence. A meeting is scheduled June 9 in Carmacks.
	Access Consulting Group	
June 9, 2005 Meeting with LSCFN	LSCFN Lands Branch	More recent baseline data was collected in 2005 and more collection planned for 2006. A fully remediated abandoned pilot test site was left by Western Silver, fencing around test site was removed, site is now used by the Village of Carmacks. Trapper compensation agreement is expected.
	GY	
	Access Consulting Group	
July 28, 2005 Technical Committee Meeting	Environment Canada	More recent baseline data was collected in 2005 and more collection is planned for 2006. GY has provided guidance regarding design standards for liner design - these standards require a LDRS with contingency plans; EBA's design indicate that an LDRS is in place. 2 WWTP issue to be clarified. Ore loading schedule to be provided. Closure bonding to be in place. Company committed to providing additional information & results of testwork respecting detoxification & introduction of reducing compounds into the environment.
	Access Consulting Group	
	Government of Yukon	
	LSCFN	
August 4, 2005 Email Correspondence	Government of Yukon	DAP advised that never stated that project would result in "walk away" closure. Approach to closure is active care followed by passive care to eventually get to a walk away scenario. Further test work required as the project proceeds. At this point looking to demonstrate that passive care is realistic and achievable - consistent with GY performance standards.
	Access Consulting Group	
August 8, 2005 Meeting	Government of Yukon	Memorandum provided to GY: "Response to Comments on Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report." See Appendix F Memorandum.
	Access Consulting Group	
August 17, 2005 YERC Meeting	Access Consulting Group	If necessary, the company would provide access to the lower Williams Creek sample stations. Project area is not visible from the Yukon River where tourism/recreational activities are most likely to occur. Truck traffic is estimated at 1 transport truck per day - to be updated. Would take up to 300 years for the open pit to fill with water.
	Various	
August 24, 2005 Email Correspondence - Comments Submission	Government of Yukon (Tourism)	100 m buffer recommended for Yukon River to mitigate impacts on Yukon River travelers. Yukon Quest Office contacted to determine trail location, 10 to 15 feet set aside along Freegold Road for Yukon Quest trail traffic. More recent baseline data was collected in 2005 and more collection is planned for 2006. National environmental quality guidelines will be used to ensure downstream resources are protected.
	Government of Yukon (ECO)	

Table 2 Response to Comments/Issues Raised During Consultations

Consultation Date & Method	Parties Represented	Response to Comments
September 13, 2005 Email Correspondence - Comments Submission	CPAWS Government of Yukon (ECO)	See Strategic Response Table 3.
September 13, 2005 Email Correspondence - Comments Submission	Government of Yukon (EHS) Government of Yukon (ECO)	Potable water will be obtained from a deep wells developed in bedrock below Williams Creek valley. Domestic wastewater will be disposed of in a conventional septic tank & drainage field. Solid waste originating as camp and office waste (organic wastes) will be collected in covered metal containers and incinerated regularly. Additional concerns will be addressed as the project proceeds.
September 13, 2005 Email Correspondence - Comments Submission	Environment Canada Government of Yukon	See Strategic Response Table 3 (describes how comments/concerns will be addressed).
September 14-23, 2005 Email Correspondence	LSCFN Access Consulting Group	Meetings with the LSCFN to discuss and address concerns have been suggested, planned and subsequently cancelled several times. See Appendix F Note to File and Appendix B September 14-23 Email Correspondence.
September 19, 2005 Email Correspondence - Comments Submission	Government of Yukon (Envt) Government of Yukon (ECO)	To assist in addressing effects to local wildlife resulting from the project an updated wildlife survey was conducted in December, 2005 to document wildlife usage in the project area.
September 19, 2005 Email Correspondence - Comments Submission	Yukon Conservation Society Government of Yukon	Majority of comments/concerns are addressed in the Strategic Response Table 3.
September 20, 2005 Email Correspondence	Government of Yukon Access Consulting Group	See Strategic Response Table 3.
September 29, 2005 Review of PD&EAR Submitted	LSCFN Government of Yukon	See Strategic Response Table 3 (describes how comments/concerns will be addressed).
November 1, 2005 Meeting	Yukon Quest Access Consulting Group Government of Yukon	The Yukon Quest Trail will be accommodated. 10 to 15 feet on the side of the road will be set aside for Yukon Quest Trail traffic.
November 28, 2005 Technical Committee Meeting	LSCFN Environment Canada YESAB Access Consulting Group	See Strategic Response Table 3.

¹ Access Consulting Group is agent for Western Silver Corporation

4.2 STRATEGIC RESPONSE WORK PLAN

The company has undertaken a strategic response approach to address the views raised during the assessment process. Table 3 provides a strategic response work plan developed by Western Silver to address various comments and issues raised during the project assessment. As can be seen in Table 3, comments/issues can be grouped into the following categories and were generally raised by similar parties:

- Update Environmental Data;
- Heap Detoxification /Closure;
- Site Hydrology Update;
- Heap Water Balance Review;
- Solution Storage/Events Pond Sizing;
- Site Water Balance Model;
- Water Quality Model/Assessment;
- Water Treatment Plant;
- Heap Geotechnical Conditions;
- Heap Liner Design;
- Heap Embankment Design;
- Heap Loading;
- Low Grade Ore Stockpile;
- Waste Rock Dump Design;
- Waste Rock/Open Pit Geochemical Assessment;
- Closure Bonding Costing; and
- Community Consultations.

The company's approach has been to engage the services of independent specialists and experts to respond to specific comments/issues that fall within their area of expertise. For example, views expressed on the historic environmental data that was used in the Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report were addressed by Access Consulting Group. An environmental monitoring program was developed to address these comments and field programs commenced to gather site-specific field survey data. This data was then summarized and presented in a report back to the

various parties for their further input. This report was the subject of a Technical Committee meeting and discussed by all parties present. A similar approach is planned with the other comments/issues raised and information will be prepared by the company and presented to various parties for further discussion and feedback. This approach is intended to address comments/issues and provide an opportunity for further input and feedback.

It is expected that some information will support the company's existing data and project rationale, while other comments/issues may require revisions to the project design and or mitigation measures. In this manner it is expected that the public comments/issues received as a result of project consultations will produce a superior project where potential adverse environmental and socio-economic effects are known and mitigated and supported by the community.

As noted earlier, Western Silver plans further community consultation, particularly community workshops with the LSCFN. It is expected that comments/issues expressed during these workshops will be addressed by the company as part of the assessment process.

In summary, Western Silver believes that it has fulfilled its obligations to consult with affected parties prior to initiating the YESAA process. The company has given full and fair consideration to all views received by various concerned parties and has actively undertaken studies or provided further information to address these views. Western Silver will continue to work with all parties and the YESAB to complete the assessment process.

Table 3 – Strategic Response to Carmacks Copper PD&EAR Rview Comments

Revised Feb 21/06

ISSUE	WESTERN SILVER	ACCESS CONSULTING GROUP	ALM GROUP	ARCADIS	EBA ENGINEERING LTD.	CLEARWATER CONSULTING LTD.
Overall Response	Response Oversight & Management	Overall Response Coordination & Management	Specific Input/Review	Input – Heap Detox/Closure	Input – Heap Liner/Geotechnical/Waste Rock Dump	Input – Site Hydrology Update; Site Water Balance/Model; Heap Water Balance
Update Environmental Data	Commitment from WS to initiate update of environ data collection program. WQ/stream sediment data initiated August 05.	Aug&Oct 05 WQ & sediment – complete. Dec 05 Post moose rut survey – complete. Winter low flow WQ survey – Mar 06. Spring/Summer/Fall 2006 WQ, flow, & ground water surveys. Fisheries Survey – Oct 05 (complete) & Spring/Summer 2006. Benthos sampling – Summer 2006 Sediment sampling – Fall 2006 (Include LSCFN in surveys). Update community socio data – community consultation workshops OUTPUT: Next update revision – Dec 06	Review data	N/A	N/A	N/A
Heap Detox/Closure	Commitment to further ongoing test work. Input on research for other Cu heaps/Detox	Coordinate response, input and review. Research for other Cu heaps/Detox	Develop response, update on test work. Coordinate with Arcadis. Review further test work needs. OUTPUT: Heap Detox/Closure Summary – completed Jan 06.	Develop response, update on test work. Coordinate with ALM/ACG. Review further test work needs. Technology review & assessment. Mineralogy review. Expert input.	N/A	Update heap water balance for closure
Site Hydrology Update	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	N/A	Review site climate data. Update hydrological/meteorological parameters. Develop overall site water balance. OUTPUT: Site Hydrology Update – completed Jan 06. Overall Site water Balance memo – completed Feb 06. Review all sediment and ditch event sizing.
Heap Water Balance Review	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Review CCL report and modify BCM water balance for project	N/A	N/A	Review CCL report and modify BCM water balance for project. OUTPUT: Updated heap water balance – completed (site water balance memo).
Solution Storage/Events Pond Sizing	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review. Develop rationale for pond sizing OUTPUT: Updated rationale for events pond sizing – completed Jan 06	N/A	N/A	Assist with rationale and risk characterization of events

Table 3 – Strategic Response to Carmacks Copper PD&EAR Rview Comments

Revised Feb 21/06

ISSUE	WESTERN SILVER	ACG	ALM	ARCADIS	EBA	CCL
Site Water Balance Model	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	Input to ACG/ ALM as required.	N/A	Develop overall site water balance – used as basis for water quality model and input. OUTPUT: Site Water Balance Model for project – Jan. 13/06
Water Quality Model/Assessment	Review/Input	Coordinate response and review. OUTPUT: Site Water Model and downstream effects assessment. Adaptive Management Plan – April 06	Provide input and review.	Input to ACG/ ALM as required.	N/A	Ensure overall site water balance as basis for water quality model and input.
Water Treatment Plant	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Clarify operational and closure WTP needs. Develop response. OUTPUT: Updated Site Water Treatment Plant requirements (Operations & Closure). – April 06	Input to ALM as required.	N/A	Ensure site water balance input for WTP requirements
Heap Geotechnical Conditions	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review comments and assess need for additional data. Develop response. OUTPUT: Geotechnical data assessment , response to differential settlement and effects to liner – March 06	N/A
Heap Liner Design	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review comments and develop response to indicate that an YG liner criterion is met. OUTPUT: Liner criterion – March 06	N/A
Heap Embankment Design	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review KP design and bring design forward. OUTPUT: Updated heap embankment design – Mar 06	N/A
Heap Loading	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Develop heap loading plan. OUTPUT: Heap loading plan. – April 06	N/A	Review and input into heap loading plan.	N/A
Low Grade Ore Stockpile	Commitment to no low grade ore stockpile.	Coordinate response OUTPUT: Response for no low grade ore stockpile – Mar 06.	Input and review.	N/A	N/A	N/A

ISSUE	WESTERN SILVER	ACG	ALM	ARCADIS	EBA	CCL
Waste Rock Dump Design	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review KP design and bring design forward. OUTPUT: Updated waste rock dump design – April 06	N/A
Waste Rock/Open Pit Geochemical Assessment	Review/Input. Assess need for additional test work	Coordinate response, input and review. Assess need for additional test work Input into Overall WQ model. OUTPUT: Updated geochemical assessment - waste rock and open pit – April 06.	Provide input and review. Assess need to additional test work	Assess need for additional test work. Input to ACG & ALM as required.	N/A	N/A
Closure Bonding Costing	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input on costs and review.	Develop reclamation costing. OUTPUT: Closure Costs. – Closure costs to be provided as supplementary data to YWB & EMR – May 06	Input to ALM as required.	Input to ALM as required.	N/A
Community Consultations	Community meeting/workshop participations	Coordinate community consultations with LSCFN and VoC. Expect 2 LSCFN workshop and assistance with family visits. Update local socio-economic conditions and traditional knowledge. OUTPUT: Summary of community consultations and issues. Updated socio-economic and traditional knowledge. Timing dependant on LSCFN – Q1/06.	Provide input and participate as required.	Input to ALM as required.	Input to ACG as required.	Input to ACG as required.



**CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT
CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT**

**APPENDIX A
Historic Communications**

February 2006

Table A1 Western Silver Corporation Consultation with the General Public and Representatives of the General Public 1992 - 1994

Date	Topic	Personnel Involved	Purpose of Consultation
30-Jul-92	letter	To: White; cc. Ken McNaughton-Western Copper From: Louann Johnson, Village of Carmacks	Comments Solvent Extraction Pilot Project
19 to 21-Aug-92	presentation	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper, Carmacks community members and First Nations	Project presentation
Oct-92	meeting	P.A. Harder and Associates Ltd. and Kathy Sam of Carmacks	Discussing fish harvesting practices in the Yukon River
Oct-92	meeting	P.A. Harder and Associates Ltd. and Gladys Johnny of Carmacks	Discussing fish harvesting practices in the Yukon River
16-Jul-93	tour	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper, RERC and Public	Project site tour
12-Aug-93	meeting	P.A. Harder and Associates Ltd. and Johnny Sam of Carmacks	Discussing fish resource use and trapping in Williams Creek drainage
10 to 12-Sep-93	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and Carmacks Mayor	Providing update
14-Oct-93	tour	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper, government and media	Public information meeting and tour of Pilot Plant
14-Oct-93	tour	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and members of Carmacks community	Tour of pilot plant in conjunction with YTG open house for Freegold Road re-alignment
Nov to Dec-93	education	Western Copper and community members	Sponsored a mill operations course at Yukon College for 6 persons, included 20 hours practical experience in the pilot plant
7-Dec-93	course	Western Copper and community members	Short course on heap leaching and tour of pilot plant
8-Dec-93	seminar	Western Copper and community members	Seminar for Carmacks High School students and pilot plant tour
19&20-Mar-94	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper, Carmacks Mayor and government leader	Providing update on project

Table A2 Western Silver Corporation Consultation with the RERC and Other Government Agencies 1991 - 1998

Date	Topic	Personnel Involved	Purpose of Consultation
22 to 24-May-91	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper with RERC	
22-Jun-92	letter	To: Lois Craig From: Ken McNaughton-Western Copper	Submission of six copies of proposed studies for 1992 and the Initial Assessment of Aquatic Resources in Williams Creek
25-Jun-92	letter	To: Rosanna White From: Ken McNaughton-Western Copper	Permits for pilot heap leach and invitation to July 10 RERC meeting
3-Jul-92	Permits	To: L. Craig, Chair RERC From: K. McNaughton	Copies pilot plant permit application (fish sample permits w/ DFO)
4-Aug-92	letter	To: Ken McNaughton-Western Copper From: Rosanna White	Deficiency Letter
21-Sep-92	letter	To: Fairclough From: R. A. Quartermain	Response to Aug. 14 letter to R. White
16-Jul-93	tour	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper, RERC and public	Project site tour
23-Jun-93	letter	To: Ken McNaughton-Western Copper From: Percival-Public Works and YTG C&TS	Follow Up June 17 Site Meeting, Permits, Notifications
23-Sep-93	letter	To: McNaughton From: Edmond	Request for additional info on Pilot Project
8-Oct-93	invitation	To: J. Guscott, a/Director E&LC From: Quartermain	Invitation to tour Pilot Plant Oct. 19
28-Oct-93	letter	To: Edmond From: McNaughton	Submission (response to 93.09.23 letter)
22-Dec-93	letter	To: White, Emond From: McNaughton	Solution Leakage
5-Jan-94	letter	To: Cornett, White From: McNaughton	Solution Disposal
23-Mar-94	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and RERC	Project update and baseline data feedback
21-Apr-94	letter	To: Ken McNaughton-Western Copper From: R. White	Deficiency Letter
22-Apr-94	letter	To: Ken McNaughton-Western Copper From: R. White	Comment Letter - RERC
31-May-94	letter	To: McNaughton From: Edmond	Handling & Transportation Leached Waste Rock in the Plant to the Claims
6-Jun-94	letter	To: D. Adam From: K. McNaughton	Williams Cr. Comments
14-Jun-94	letter	To: K. McNaughton From: D. Adam	Final RERC minutes March 23
8-Sep-94	letter	To: Craig From: Quartermain	YEC / Carmacks Copper
20-Sep-94	letter	To: McNaughton From: Craig	Assessment and Guidelines
26-Oct-94	letter	To: Craig From: McNaughton	IEE
18-Nov-94	letter	To: DIAND From: Western Copper	Western Copper's submission of their IEE
25-Nov-94	letter	To: McNaughton From: Crombie	Independent Review
25-Nov-94	letter	To: McNaughton cc: K. McNaughton From: Adam	Independent Geotechnical Consultant
13-Jan-95	letter	To: Adam From: Godin	Review of IEE
6-Feb-95	letter	To: McNaughton From: Adam	DIAND consultants reports: tech subgroup

Table A2 Western Silver Corporation Consultation with the RERC and Other Government Agencies 1991 - 1998

Date	Topic	Personnel Involved	Purpose of Consultation
15-Feb-95	letter	To: K. Simpson From: McNaughton	Additional geo-tech investigations
15-Feb-95	letter	To: Simpson cc: K. McNaughton From: W. Hidingier	IEE Addendum Comments
23-Feb-95	letter	To: K. Simpson From: McNaughton	Leach pad - site selection criterion
4-Mar-95	letter	To: McNaughton From: McDonnell	Additional geo-tech investigations
22-Mar-95	letter	To: Western Copper and Public Distribution List From: Kirstie Simpson (RERC)	Submission of Yukon Electrical Company Limited's IEE for Electrical Transmission Line Proposal
1-May-95	letter	To: K. Simpson From: Brown - Hallam Knight Piesold	Report on preliminary design
8-May-95	letter	To: McNaughton, Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Initial Environmental Evaluation
30-May-95	letter	To: McNaughton, Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Timing for EARP Review of Carmacks Copper Project
28-Jun-95	letter	To: McNaughton From: Crombie	IEE addendum and timing for earp review
29-Jun-95	letter	To: McNaughton From: McDonnell	Fish distribution survey
10-Jul-95	letter	To: Iannone From: Blundell	IEE Addendum
14-Jul-95	letter	To: Craig From: Quartermain	Water Licence Application and Thermal Exploration
25-Jul-95	letter	To: McNaughton From: Adam	Heap Leach consultant's report regarding Carmacks Copper
7-Aug-95	letter	To: Hidingier From: Blundell	Estimated haul quantities
8-Aug-95	letter	To: McDonnell cc: Ken McNaughton	IEE Addendum and Design Report Comments
8-Aug-95	letter	To: McDonnell cc: K. McNaughton From: Godin	IEE Addendum Comments
9-Aug-95	letter	To: McDonnell From: McNaughton	Response to comments by AGRA on heap leach pad design
10-Aug-95	letter	To: McDonnell From: McNaughton	Response to the comments received from AGRA and GEO-Engineering
14-Aug-95	letter	To: McDonnell From: McNaughton	Response to AGRA's review of IEE addendum
21-Aug-95	letter	To: Judi Doering, YTWB From: Susan Blundell, Hallam Knight Piesold	Submission of Water Licence Application and request for October 12, 1995 hearing
29-Aug-95	letter	To: Crombie From: McNaughton	Scope of work outline
30-Aug-95	letter	To: Susan Blundell, Hallam Knight Piesold From: Judi Doering, YTWB	Re: August 21 letter - request Schedule IV Application and fees; advise that October 12 hearing impossible
19-Sep-95	letter	To: McNaughton, Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Report on outstanding issues (with attached issues and responses)
3-Oct-95	letter	To: McDonnell From: McNaughton	follow up to the permitting meeting on Friday
12-Oct-95	letter	To: McDonnell From: McNaughton	Resolutions from meeting between RERC and consultants
12-Oct-95	letter	To: McNaughton, Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Follow up to September 29 meeting (with attached Resolutions from Meeting)

Table A2 Western Silver Corporation Consultation with the RERC and Other Government Agencies 1991 - 1998

Date	Topic	Personnel Involved	Purpose of Consultation
13-Oct-95	letter	To: McNaughton From: Adam	Recommended frequency of permeability tests
24-Oct-95	letter	To: McNaughton, Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Re: September 19, 1995 letter and Resolutions from September 29 meeting
8-Nov-95	letter	To: Crombie From: Hallam	Addendum #3 to the IEE
7-Dec-95	letter	To: McNaughton, Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Carmacks Copper Project Status of Review and Additional Concerns
17-Jan-96	fax	To: T. Wachmann From: K. McDonnell, DIAND	Draft Study Plan Outline
22-Jan-96	telephone call	Blundell and McDonnell	
7-Feb-96	letter	To: Dale Corman - Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	IEE Addendum #3 and EARP Review (with attached List of Issues)
22-Feb-96	letter	To: Dale Corman - Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Follow up to Feb. 13 and 14 meetings
11-Mar-96	letter report	To: Dan Cornett, DIAND Water Resources From: M.J. Brodie, P.Eng.	Presentation of letter report - Initial review of Mine Reclamation Plan
11-Mar-96	letter	To: Dale Corman - Western Copper From: Kevin McDonnell, DIAND	Request for Timelines (with attached timelines)
28-Mar-96	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: Dale Corman-Western Copper	Response/Proposed Action Plan
11-Apr-96	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: Dale Corman-Western Copper	Response/Proposed Action Plan and potential meeting
29-Apr-96	letter	To: K. McDonnell From: T. Wachmann	RERC Comments on IEE Response / Action Plan
10-May-96	letter	To: Dale Corman-Western Copper and RERC distribution list From: Marg Crombie	Response/Proposed Action Plan
10-May-96	letter	To: Dale Corman-Western Copper From: Bill Slater/McDonnell	Bill Slaters' comments on Action/Proposed Response Plan
17-May-96	letter	To: McDonnell From: T. Wachmann	Week of 7 June on-site Geotech. Review
17-Jun-96	letter	To: McDonnell and McAlpine From: Brown	Geotech. Hydrogeo. Survey
18-Jun-96	letter	To: McDonnell From: T. Wachmann	Access road information
20-Jun-96	letter	To: Brown, Corman From: McDonnell	Notes of 15 June 96 site visit
27-Jun-96	letter	To: McDonnell From: Corman	Type 'B' Water Licence
19-Jul-96	letter	To: Corman/ Beaubier From: Crombie	re: Type 'B' Water Licence
7-Aug-96	letter	To: Marg Crombie (RERC) From: Dale Corman - Western Copper	Addendum No. 4 to the IEE
30-Aug-96	letter	To: McDonnell From: Wachmann/ Beckstead	3 copies Addendum #4
13-Sep-96	letter	To: Dale Corman and Tony Wachmann - Western Copper From: Kevin McDonnell	Notes regarding review of Draft #1 for Addendum No. 4
13-Sep-96	letter	To: Western Copper and Knight Piesold From: Hugh Copland	Preliminary comments on waste dump information in Draft #1 or Addendum No. 4
16-Sep-96	letter	To: McDonnell From: Beckstead	Concrete aggregate assessment

Table A2 Western Silver Corporation Consultation with the RERC and Other Government Agencies 1991 - 1998

Date	Topic	Personnel Involved	Purpose of Consultation
8-Oct-96	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell (RERC) From: Western Copper	Review of Draft #2 for Addendum No. 4 before submission
11-Oct-96	conference call	Tony Watchmann, Dale Corman and Kevin McDonnell	Review of Draft #2 for Addendum No. 4 before submission
15-Oct-96	letter	To: Dale Corman and Tony Wachmann - Western Copper From: Kevin McDonnell	Review of Draft #2 for Addendum No. 4 before submission
28-Oct-96	letter	To: Tony Watchmann, Kilborn (with a cc to Dale Corman) From: K. McDonnell, DIAND	To provide a copy of March 11 Brodie letter report. Letter explains that report probably never forwarded to company.
1-Nov-96	meeting	Western Copper and RERC	Discussing detoxification of Heap
4-Nov-96	letter	To: Western Copper and RERC From: Kevin McDonnell	Points from Nov-1-96 meeting with Western Copper regarding detoxification of heap
22-Jan-97	letter	To: Dale Corman From: Hugh Copland	Permafrost Issues at Williams Creek with the noted report attached: Review of Western Copper Proposal Permafrost Aspects
27-Jan-97	letter	To: Dale Corman - Western Copper From: Mike Ivanski	Response to letter advising of winter cutting and grubbing program
6-Feb-97	letter	To: Marg Crombie (RERC) From: Dale Corman - Western Copper	Revised Heap Leach Pad Liner Design (with Knight Piesold Heap Leach Pad Updated Design Criteria)
4-Mar-97	letter	To: Dale Corman - Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Revised Heap Leach Pad Liner Design
23-Apr-97	meeting	Jilson, Cornett, Slater, Copland, McDonnell	Resumption of EA of Western Copper
28-Apr-97	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell, DIAND From: D. Cornett, AMCL	Issue/Action Summary
7-May-97	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: AMCL	Submission of the following reports: Report on Updated Detailed Design of the Heap Leach Pad and Events Pond, 1996 Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Site Investigations, and Lawrence and Beattie Reports on Geotechnical Investigations of Ore
8-May-97	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: AMCL	Submission of the Report on Updated Detailed Design of the Heap Leach pad and Events Pond
13-May-97	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: Dale Corman-Western Copper	Issue/Action Summary
21-May-97	letter	To: RERC and Western Copper From: Marg Crombie (RERC)	Issue/Action Summary
28-May-97	meeting	Western Copper and RERC	Discussing status of project, highlighting design changes, review of issue/action summary and next steps
28-May-97	meeting	Western Copper and RERC technical subgroup	Approach to detoxification and mine abandonment
29-May-97	minutes	RERC cc: Cornett	Circulation of draft RERC meeting minutes from May 28 meeting
30-May-97	letter	To: McDonnell From: Copland	Comments Issue/Action Summary
11-Jun-97	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: Access Mining Consultants Ltd. (AMCL)	Submission of two more copies of the following reports: Report on Updated Detailed Design of the Heap Leach Pad and Events Pond, 1996 Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Site Investigations, and Lawrence and Beattie Reports on Geotechnical Investigations of Ore
25-Jun-97	fax	To: Dan Cornett, AMCL From: Kevin McDonnell	Request that a digital copy of all climatic data including monthly precipitation through the available period of record be sent to Golder Associates. Les Sawatsky
30-Jun-97	letter	To: AMCL From: Kevin McDonnell	Providing requested correspondence exchanged between Western Copper and the RERC
4-Jul-97	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: AMCL	Submission of the following reports: Technical Issues Response Document, WRSA Evaluation and Detailed Design Report and Conceptual Closure and Reclamation Plan
7-Jul-97	fax	To: McDonnell From: D. Cornett, AMCL	Timetable for Site visit July 11, 1997
7-Jul-97	letter	To: McDonnell From: Cornett	Additional copies of each 7/4/97 report submissions
11-Jul-97	tour	RERC and Western Copper	Site Tour

Table A2 Western Silver Corporation Consultation with the RERC and Other Government Agencies 1991 - 1998

Date	Topic	Personnel Involved	Purpose of Consultation
18-Jul-97	letter	To: Kevin McDonnell From: AMCL	Correction of two errors within the Conceptual Closure and Reclamation Plan dated June 30, 1997
7-Aug-97	letter	To: McDonnell From: D. Cornett, AMCL	RERC Site Visit - July 11, 1997
15-Sep-97	letter	To: Corman From: Crombie	Outstanding issues and how to continue with EA review
25-Sep-97	conference call	Marg Crombie and Dale Corman	Potential 12(d) Project Screening
29-Sep-97	letter	To: Marg Crombie and RERC including Russell Blackjack From: Dale Corman-Western Copper	Response to potential 12(d) Project Screening
4-Nov-97	letter	To: Cornett From: McDonnell	Draft letter Re: Addendum #4
28-Nov-97	letter	To: L. Craig From: D. Corman	Status of Project Screening
4-Dec-97	letter	To: Corman From: Simpson	Reply to Sept. 29, 97 letter Re: approach to Addendum #4
9-Dec-97	letter	To: Corman From: Sewell	Re: expected letter from Env. Dir
13-Jan-98	fax w/attach	To: Georgie McStevens From: Access	Clearwater Consultants Memo CCL-dg11a
19-Jan-98	letter	To: Dist. List From: Aatelma	Draft Dec. 23 meeting minutes
3-Feb-98	letter	To: McDonnell From: Cornett	Draft Table of Contents for ADD. #4
17-Feb-98	e-mail	To: MacStephen From: Cornett	comments on the draft RERC Feb 17 meeting
18-Feb-98	fax	To: Cornett From: McDonnell	Description of Phase I water balance tech. Submissior
20-Feb-98	minutes	To: Dist. List From: G. MacStephen	Draft RERC mtg. minutes Feb. 17/98
2-Mar-98	e-mail	From: MacStephen To: Cornett	Re: draft Feb. 17 RERC minutes
13-Mar-98	letter	To: McDonnell From: Cornett	Site Hydrology Revisions - Draft Design Memo CCL-CC2 Clearwater Consultants
21-Mar-01	letter	To: Ian Church-DIAND From: Dale Corman-Western Copper	Re: Request to transfer the environmental assessment for the project from EARPGO to CEAA.
2-Nov-01	letter	To: Dale Corman-Western Copper From: Ian Church-DIAND	Re: Response to March 21, 2001 letter. Unable to transfer project from EARPGO to CEAA, however, EARPGO environmental assessment terminated.
20-Dec-01	letter	To: Dale Corman-Western Copper From: Judi White, Yukon Territory Water Board	Re: Intent to proceed with Water Use Application, suggested that current (1995) application be withdrawn.
14-Jan-02	letter	To: Judi White, Yukon Territory Water Board From: Dale Corman-Western Copper	Re: Response to December 20, 2001 letter. Request to withdraw Water Use Application.

Table A3 Western Silver Corporation Consultation with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations 1991 - 1997

Date	Topic	Personnel Involved	Purpose of Consultation
Spring-1991	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and Chief Eric Fairclough	Initial meeting with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations
11-Aug-92	meeting	Antiquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd. and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations Band and Council	Discussing upcoming archaeological field program
14-Aug-92	meeting	Antiquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd. and Chief Eric Fairclough	Discussing results of archaeological field program
Aug-92	interviews	Antiquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd. and members of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations (Mr. Wilfred Charlie, Ms. Viola Mullet, Mr. Johnny Sam, Chief Eric Fairclough)	Determining First Nations traditional land use in development area
19 to 21-Aug-92	presentation	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper, Carmacks community members and First Nations	Project presentation
21-Sep-92	letter	To: Fairclough-Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations From: Quartermain-Western Copper	Response to Fairclough's August 14 letter to R. White
23-Nov-92	meeting	McNaughton - Western Copper and Eric Fairclough	Update Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations on the project
17 to 21-Feb-93	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	Information on project and discussion of traplines
12-Aug-93	meeting	P.A. Harder and Associates Ltd. and Chief Fairclough	Discussing fisheries resource use and environmental concerns
21-Aug-93	letter	To: Chief Eric Fairclough From: P.A. Harder and Associates Ltd.	Request for further information on activities and concerns of First Nations members in relation to project
10 to 12-Sep-93	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	Discussing Economic Development Agreement
24-Nov-93	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	Discussing Economic Development Agreement
19&20-Mar-94	meeting	McNaughton and Quartermain -Western Copper and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	Discussing Economic Development Agreement
14-May-97	meeting	Western Copper and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	
20-May-97	letter	To: Dale Corman-Western Copper From: E. Skookum, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	Confirming verbal agreement at May 14, 1997 meeting at council chamber (confirm meeting) and Project Update
30-Jun-97	letter	To: R. Blackjack-Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations From: AMCL	Draft letter to RERC
2-Jul-97	letter	To: Dale Corman-Western Copper From: R.Blackjack-Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	Copy of letter submitted to RERC indicating support for project and requesting that the environmental review be speeded up
10-Jul-97	meeting	AMCL, Dale Corman-Western Copper and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations	Project update and discussion of heap leach technology & potential risks/impacts
29-Sep-97	letter	To: Marg Crombie and RERC including R. Blackjack From: Dale Corman-Western Copper	Response to potential 12(d) Project Screening

07/02/97 12:03
SENT BY:

604 686 70

7-2-97 :10:56AM : CARMACKS FIRST NATIONS

DALE CORMAN

002/002
604 686 4670: # 2/ :

LITTLE SALMON CARMACKS FIRST NATIONS
BOX 135
CARMACKS, Y.T.
Y0B 1C0

July 02, 1997

Department of Indian Affairs
Northern Development
Room 134-300 Main Street,
Whitehorse, Y.T.
Y1A 2B5

Attention: Ms. Lois Craig, Associate Regional Director General

Dear Ms. Craig,

RE: Western Copper Holdings Ltd. Carmacks Copper Project,

Our partner, Western Copper Holdings Ltd., wants to start work on the Carmacks Copper Project which is situated in our Selected Traditional Land. We as a First Nations have, a great opportunity to employment and Economic Development.

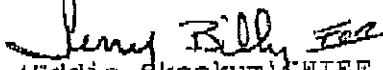
We have worked with Western Copper, for five years and since gained confidence, in the responsibility shown by the Company, when dealing with Environmental issues in order to run the mine safely. We would like to see the project started.

The Water License is a key ingredient to start this project, and we believe that Western Copper Holdings Ltd. has shown there commitment to, protection of the Environment.

Please give me, your assurance that all needed resources are available to get this licensing done as quickly as possible and that this project is a top priority for your department.

Your attention is greatly, appreciated,

Sincerely,


(Eddie Skookum) CHIEF
LS/CFN

(12)

LITTLE SALMON/CARMACKS FIRST NATIONS
BOX 135
CARMACKS, Y.T.
Y0B 1C0

Environment Directorate,
Northern Affairs Program, DIAND
345-300 Main Street,
Whitehorse, Y.T.
Y1A 2B5

August 27, 1997

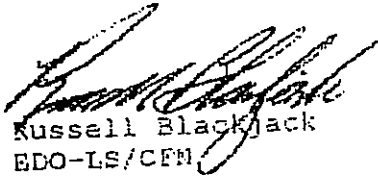
RE: Concerns of LS/CFN, in regards to Western Copper,

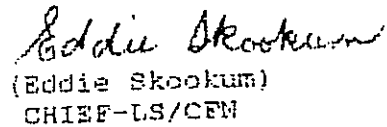
- 1) Main concern, is the stability of the leach pad, in maintaining the chemicals within the padded area during the season of frost heaves and the ground thawing.
- 2) Also the run off of chemicals into the stream, from a leakage, can it be detained before major damage to the river system?
- 3) The leach padding it's self, is it durable enough to maintain the pressure of the over burden pile, for the ten year project?
- 4) Western Copper should have a work plan in place, to deal with a chemical leak prior, to starting the Carmacks Copper Project, so the problem can be dealt with promptly.
- 5) Will the leach pad with stand the pressure of the angle of which the over burden is piled?

- 6) The person who traps in the area, will never be able to trap in this area for the next twenty years, up to the blasting, and the continue movement of people, coming and going from the project site.

These are the concerns that, LS/CFM would like to be addressed prior to any further, work being done on this project, as the devastation is already noticed from the Leach Pad clearing at the site.

Sincerely,


 Russell Blackjack
 EDO-LS/CFM


 (Eddie Skookum)
 CHIEF-LS/CFM

LITTLE SALMON/CARMACKS FIRST NATIONS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
BOX 135
CARMACKS, Y.T.
Y0B 1C0
PH:403-863-5016
FA:403-863-5710

September 30,1997

To: RERC Members
Distribution list attached

Dear Sirs/Madame

RE: Western Copper Holdings Limited-Carmacks Copper Project,

We understand that the Environmental Directorate of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is seriously considering discontinuing the RERC review of the Carmacks Copper Project. We do not support this position and demand that the process be allowed to continue.

We entered the Spring of 1997 with a letter from the RERC Chair setting out a program which planned to reach the drafting of a screening report in the Fall of 1997. Within this process Western Copper asked to have the RERC technical sub-group review specific technical reports, submitted by Western Copper, responding to outstanding concerns. These reports were submitted in May and July 1997.

The responses of our technical consultants and members of the RERC to these were contained in a collection of reports/memos issued September 5, 1997 by DIAND's Marg Crombie. As members of RERC we have yet to digest these responses or hear the Company's reaction to them. We think it is time the two sides and their consultants sat across the table from each other and reviewed their respective positions. Settlement of Disagreements on technical issues will not occur via long distance telephone calls and/or written materials.

We have reviewed the major issues with the Company and accept their position that solutions are available. In our letter of August 1997 we raised our original and general concerns with the project. We feel the Company must be given an opportunity to respond to those concerns and its representatives assure us that they are prepared to adjust their plans and thereby meet our remaining environmental concerns.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations, and-we believe-the general public, want the project to proceed. We are currently drafting an agreement with the Company that contains a number of favourable proposals including the following:

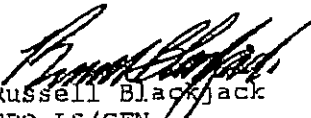
(2)

1. a "best efforts" commitment that members of the First Nations will constitute 30% of the workforce at the Project;
2. preferential treatment on the supply of goods and services;
3. scholarships for members of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations;
4. a 5% equity interest in the project;
5. LS/CFN will appoint one person, to liaise with Western Copper in all Environmental Matters that relate to the Carmacks Copper Project.

We want and need these jobs and consistent with its mandate, DIAND should be encouraging such economic development for our Community-not sidetracking or postponing and, perhaps losing the project through cancellation.

We oppose the position, of slowing the process down and demand that the current review process be continued and that a renewed effort be made to resolve the outstanding issues.

Sincerely,


Russell Blackjack
EDO-LS/CFN


Eddie Skookum
CHIEF-LS/CFN

THE LIFE OF A MINING OPERATION

Find the orebody

Define the size and type of orebody

Do baseline environmental surveys

Design the mine

Get permits

Build the mine

Dig out the rock

Extract the valuable metals from the rock

Dispose of the left over rock

Close out the mine

MINING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

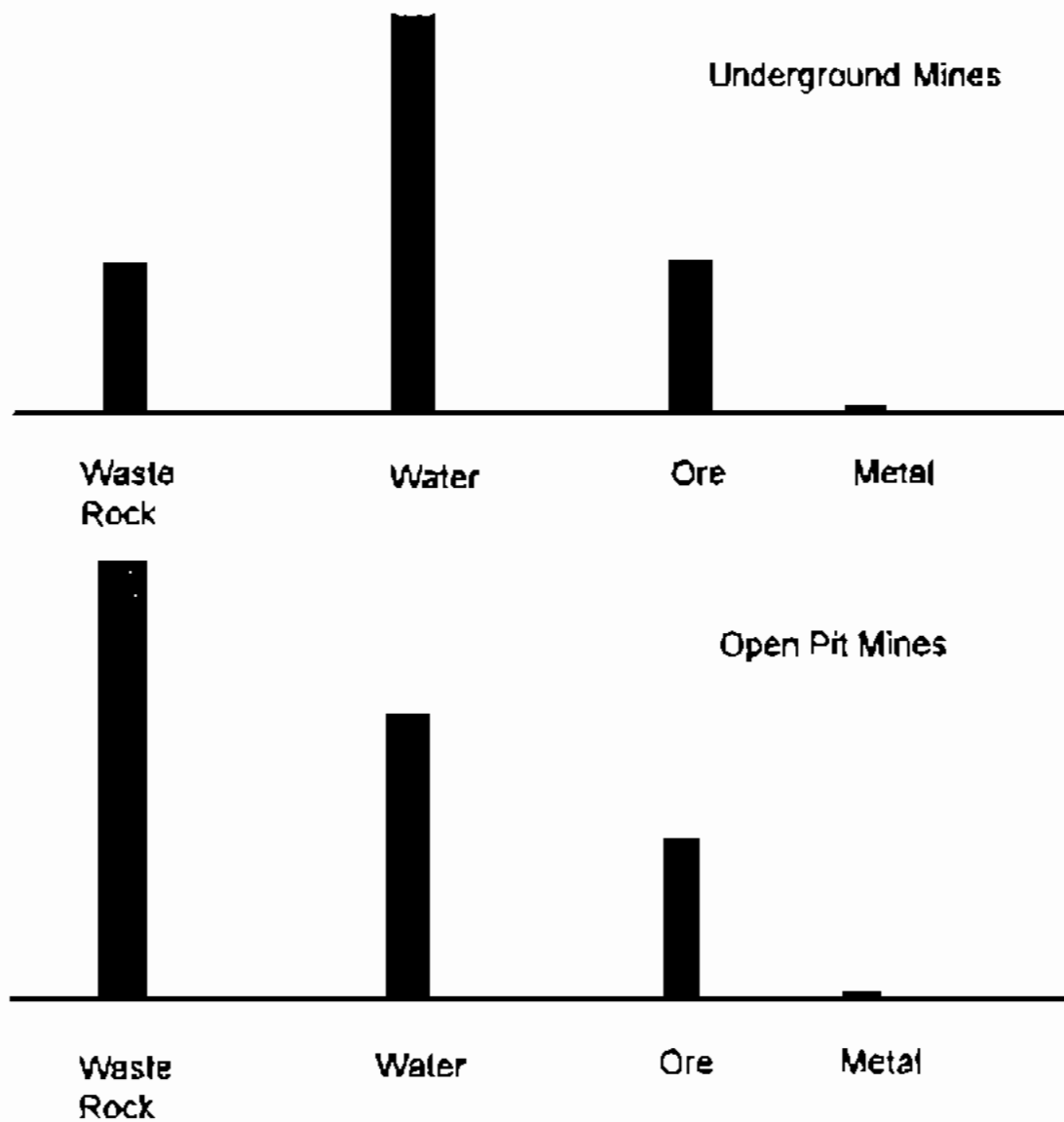
Time line of mining activities

Exploration Development & Operation Decommissioning Post-Closure



MINING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Products of Mining - Relative Volumes



STEPS IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- **Baseline studies that characterize the site = the receiving environment**
 - **Aquatic Resources - fisheries, benthics (bugs)**
 - **Wildlife inventory**
 - **Climate**
 - **Soils and surficial geology**
 - **Surface water hydrology**
 - **Rock characterization**
 - **Stream and lake sediments**
 - **Vegetation**
 - **Heritage and Archeology**
- **Design the mine**
- **Impact Assessment of the design**
- **Change design if needed**

LEVEL II EARP SCREENING
Yukon Region

W
A
T
E
R

B
O
A
R
D

PROJECT
PROPOSAL

RERC
REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION
FOR
EARP PANEL

DRAFT INFORMATION
GUIDELINES

INFORMATION
GUIDELINES

PROPONENT INFORMA-
TION
PREPARATION (eg. IEE)

INFORMATION REVIEW/
POSSIBLE PROJECT MOD-
IFICATION
(Addenda request, if any)

RERC SCREENING RE-
PORT
(to DIAND)

PUBLIC
COMMENT

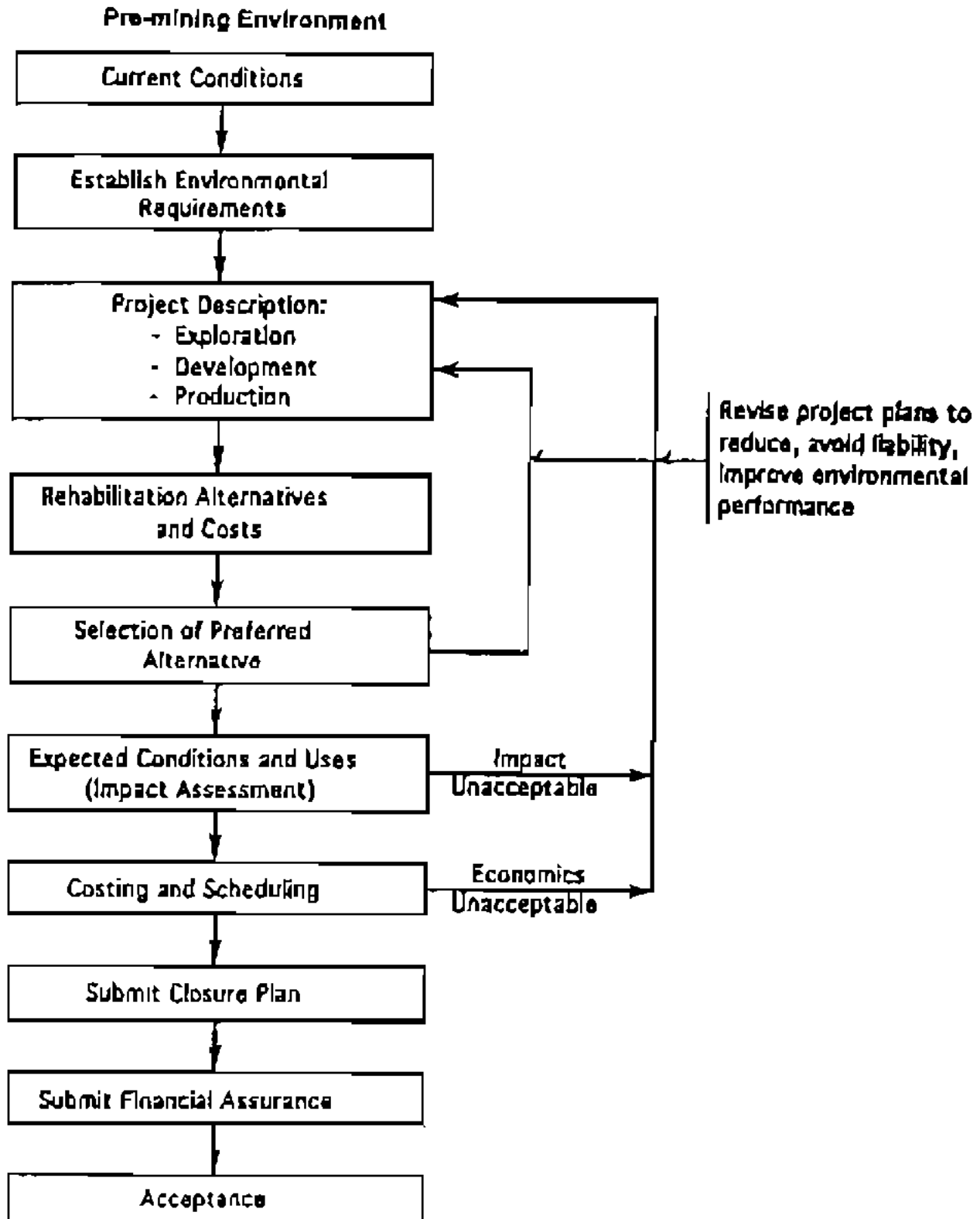
DECISION REPORT
BY DIAND

REJECT/
RETURN

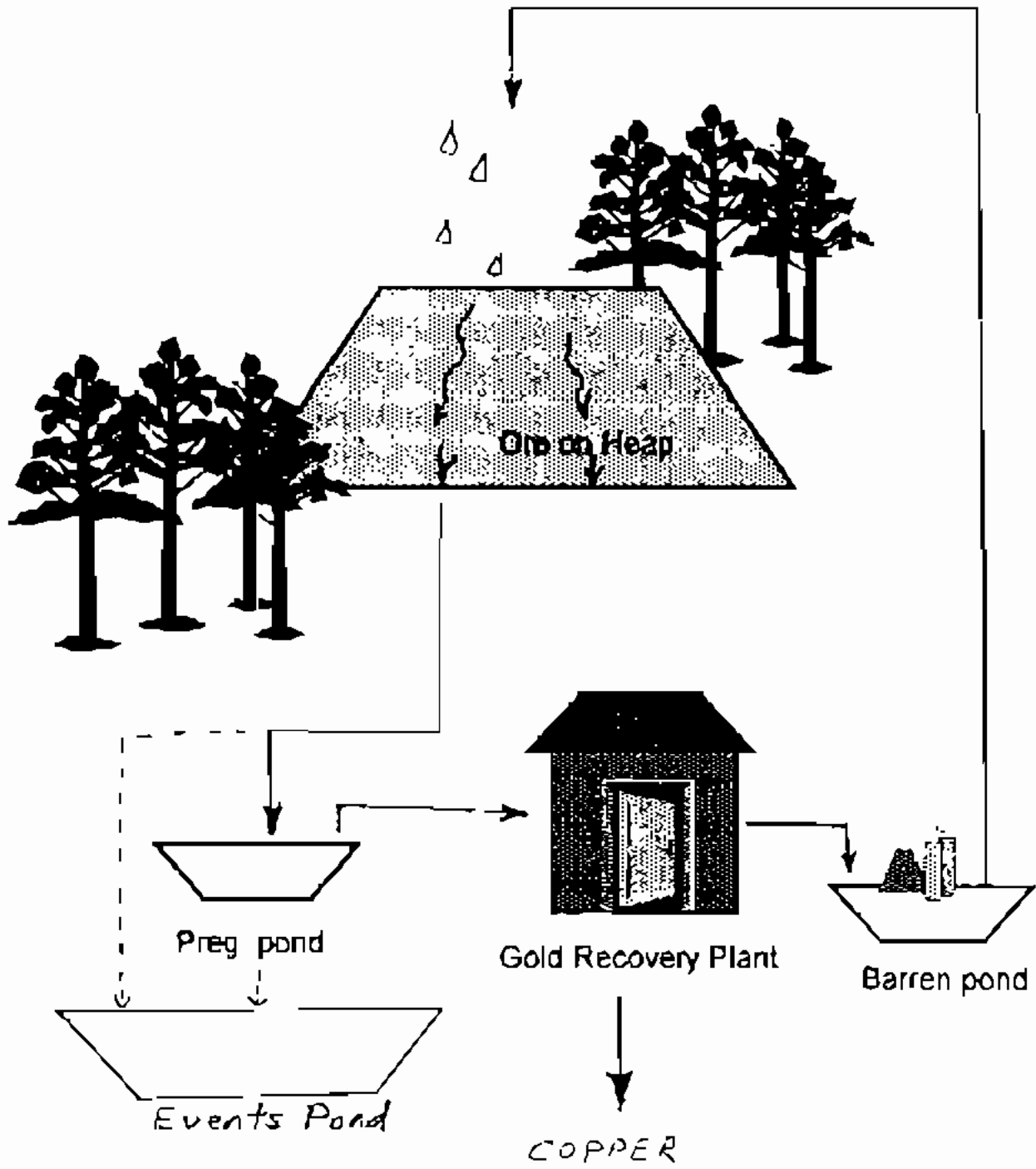
REGULATORY
ACTION

EARP
PANEL

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN



LEACH PROCESS SCHEMATIC



WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF A MINE?

Environmental impact (on the surroundings)

- **local environment**
 - **receiving waters**
 - **lands**
 - **wildlife**
- **Downstream Environment**
- **Other Development**

Socio-economic Impact (on the people)

- **Local Community**
- **Land Use**
- **Development**
- **Employment**

MAJOR IMPACTS TO ADDRESS

- **Water Quality**
- **Containment of leaching solutions**
- **Fisheries resources**
- **Land use**
- **Wildlife**
 - **direct mortality**
 - **impact of development on habitat**
- **Air quality**
- **Closure of facilities**

WATER QUALITY

Issues

- **Issues differ between operation and closure**
- **reagents from processing**
- **Containment of leaching solutions**
- **Wildlife mortality -- birds, animals**
- **Acid generation from pit walls and rock piles**
- **Metal leaching -- dissolved metals**
- **Suspended solids**
- **Nutrients -- nitrate, phosphate**

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Contaminants must not leach or migrate to the receiving environment in amounts that can damage the water or it's life in the short or the long term = water quality protection

Impact

- **protection of drinking water quality**
- **Protection of aquatic life**
- **Protection of irrigation water**

Effects

- **Short term: acute toxicity**
- **Longer term: chronic toxicity, sub-lethal**
- **Health, life span, fetal damage**
- **Productivity of land**

MINE CLOSURE

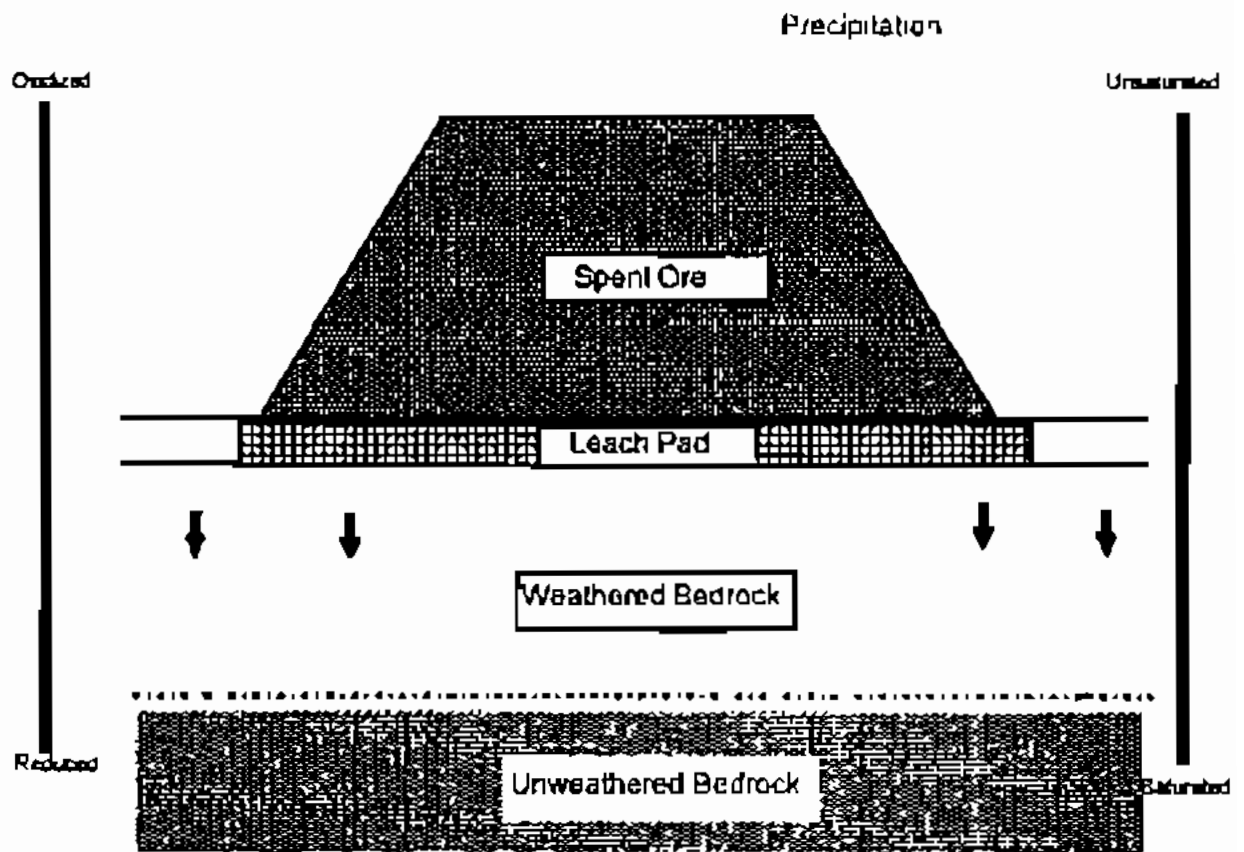
Closure Issues for Heap Leaching

- **Mine workings - open pit**
- **Waste rock piles**
- **Spent heap - ore, liner**
- **Water management system - ponds, piping**
- **Gold recovery plant**
- **Roads, camp, shops, offices**
- **Long-term water treatment?**
- **Monitoring**
- **Closure costing and bonding**

HEAP CHEMISTRY

Geochemistry in an Abandoned Heap

(After Struhsacker & Smith, 1989)



SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT HEAP LEACH PAD DESIGN

- Depth and extent of permafrost in construction areas?
- Design provisions for road construction including ditching, culverts, stream crossings and traffic?
- Construction control on foundation materials?
- Field sampling and field / laboratory testing been done for soil types, depths, variability to address potential for differential settlement in the areas of construction?
- Leak detection criteria? Compared to standards?
- Design events for water balance?
- Is there recycle of water?
- Source and volume of water used for the process?
- Amount, duration, timing and location of discharge, if any?

POSSIBLE FURTHER TOPICS

- **Background Studies**
- **Design and construction**
- **Mine/Heap Operation**
- **Spills and Emergency Response**
- **Mine and Heap Closure & Reclamation**
- **How Impact Assessment is Done**
- **Effect on Water, Wildlife, and Fish**
- **Other areas of concern to Chief/Council**



**CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT
CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT**

**APPENDIX B
Little Salmon Carmacks
First Nation Consultations**

February 2006



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

MEMO TO FILE

Prepared by: Dan D. Cornett, B.Sc., P.Biol., CCEP

Date: February 11, 2005

Subject: **Conversation with Chief Eddie Skookum – LSCFN and Terry Billy – Councilor**

Chief Skookum called me February 7, 2005 to raise a concern with Western Silver planning a meeting with the Village of Carmacks.

- Had previously set up meetings with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) and Village of Carmacks (VOC) in Carmacks - Feb 16th to introduce project to these stakeholders.
- Chief wanted to know why we were meeting with VOC at all. Advised that we had an obligation to talk with all effected parties – including VOC, as part of the project EA. If project proceeds, then people will be living there. Need to keep people appraised. After some discussion as to why the VOC would be affected and that LSCFN had a more direct project involvement and role, he understood why we were meeting with the VOC.
- Advised that Western Silver did not want to get involved with local politics.
- Meeting – more of an informal meet and greet - let people know who Western Silver is and that project getting reactivated. Company proceeding with project EA and that a decision to start the project would be made at a later date.

Other points discussed about the project:

Main project EA concerns

- Effects to local ground and surface water resulting from the heap leach pad. LSCFN wants a design and project that does not effect local downstream resources including future reclamation

- Effects to local trapper ability to harvest and use the area. Understand that the concession is part of LSCFN group trapping concessions. A trapper compensation agreement will probably be needed for the project.
- Effects to local wildlife resulting from the project.

Socio Economic Benefits:

LSCFN interested in economic benefits from the project including jobs, contracts etc. LSCFN has established training programs to build FN skills and capacity. Work at Mt. Nansen care and maintenance is an example of this.

LSCFN interested in providing houses and local infrastructure support in Carmacks for the project. Provide an indication to them of possibilities to consider.

Expect that some sort of benefits agreement would be developed.

DDC

Nichole Speiss

From: colette [colette@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2005 12:22 PM
To: Nichole Speiss
Subject: FW: Western Silver Corporation - Public Open House Notice, February 16th, 2005



Public Open House
notice large...

-----Original Message-----

From: colette [mailto:colette@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: February 14, 2005 2:09 PM
To: cathy.cochrane@lscfn.ca
Subject: Western Silver Corporation - Public Open House Notice, February 16th, 2005

Dear Cathy:

Please find attached a pdf file containing a notice of Public Open House for Western Silver Corporation's Carmacks Copper Project, on Wednesday, February 16th, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

It would be very much appreciated if you could post this notice for viewing by Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation members.

If you have any questions, please contact me by Email, or by phone at (867) 668-6463.

Thank you,

Colette MacMillan
Office Manager
Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2V3
Tel: (867) 668-6463
Fax: (867) 667-6680
colette@accessconsulting.ca

This transmission is directed in confidence solely to the addressee, and may not otherwise be distributed, copied or disclosed. The contents of this transmission may also be subject to solicitor-client privilege and all rights to that privilege are expressly claimed and not waived. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by telephone at (867) 668-6463 and delete this transmission from your system.

Project Description

- Located some 43 km northwest of Carmacks, Yukon
- Reserves 13.3 M tones at 0.97% Copper
- Mining rate 5000 tonnes/day ore at 23000 tonnes/day waste (strip ratio 4.6:1)
- Three stage crushing
- Mine life a minimum of 8.5 years.
- Mining equipment similar to Brewery Creek operation
- Heap leach with solvent extraction electrowinning (SXEW)
- Leach pad loaded 230 days/yr, leached 365 days
- Acid consumption approx 20 to 25 kg/tonne of ore (120 tonnes acid per day)
- Heap solution operates at pH1.2
- Total raffinate to heap – 540 m3/hr; half to SXEW
- Manpower 120 personnel at 7 days/week – 12 hour shifts
- Projected to produce 30 to 32 million pounds of copper annually in the form of pure copper
- Requires 6.6 to 7.8 MW power
- \$6.6 million spent on exploration, engineering and environmental assessment in preparation for a production decision
- The leach pad site and preliminary road alignment was cleared in 1997.
- Current copper price is near US \$1.32 per pound.
- All preparatory aspects of the project, with the exception of environmental screening and permitting are now complete.

Critical Components for Economic Decisions

- Power (Availability & cost)
- Acid (Generation, Production and cost)
- Copper price
- Business Cycle (Capital market strong – advantage)

Project Schedule

- Complete Project Description and initiate environmental assessment – March 1/05
- Continue community consultations and EA review – April – September/05
- Regulatory hearing - Yukon Water Board – Dec/05
- Assess Business cycle for Production Decision - 2006

Socio-Economic Benefits

- Jobs/Capital Investment
- 120 mine personnel
- 136 direct project related jobs
- 60% (82) of the jobs are expected to be local – people moving into Carmacks area
- 40 dwellings expected in Carmacks – gradual increase
- \$20-25 million per year in Yukon Economy
- Company supports Sound Environmental Standards for the Yukon
- No significant environmental effects

LSCFN First Nations

- Opportunities for employment at the mine
- Opportunities for supplying services to the project on contract, both during construction and during operations
- Opportunities to partner with the First Nation community for training, including apprenticeships, to qualify for employment at the mine
- Build a strong business relationship with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation throughout the life of the William Creek project



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

#3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3

PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

February 16, 2005

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Prepared by: Dan Cornett/Nichole Speiss, Access Consulting Group

Re: Meeting Between LSCFN Chief and Council, Western Silver Corporation, ALM Group, and Access Consulting Group on February 16, 2005

Attendees:

LSCFN Chief and Council

- Chief Eddie Skookum
- Terry Billy, Councilor
- Darlene Johnson, Councilor
- George Skookum, Councilor
- Johnny Sam, Elder
- Mary Tulk
- Elizabeth Skookum, Administrative
- Cathy Cochran, Administrative
- Viola Mullet, Administrative

LSCFN Lands Branch

- Susan Davis, Director

Western Silver Corporation

- Jonathan Clegg, Project Manager

ALM Group

- Clynt Nauman, President, Technical Advisory to Western Silver Corporation

Access Consulting Group

- Dan Cornett, Environmental Assessment Manager, for Western Silver Corporation
- Nichole Speiss, Environmental Scientist

Notes:

- Introduction:
 - Western Silver Corporation
 - Project Description Information
 - Socioeconomic/Community Issues
 - Consultation
 - Project Newsletter & copies of open house posters distributed
- Need to revisit old benefits agreement between LSCFN and Western Silver Corporation
- Project socioeconomic effects
 - future housing
 - LSCFN contractors i.e.) provision of diesel/gas
 - trapping in project area
- Project environmental effects
 - wildlife/trapping
 - water quality
 - leach pad
- Community expectations
 - baseline data update
 - discussion on EA process
- Share interest in Western Silver Corporation



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

#3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3

PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

March 7, 2005

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Prepared by: Dan Cornett/Nichole Speiss, Access Consulting Group

Re: Meeting Between LSCFN Lands Branch and Access Consulting Group on March 7, 2005

Attendees:

LSCFN

- Johnny Sam, Elder
- Mark Nelson, Heritage Officer
- Susan Davis, Lands Branch
- Robbie Cashin, Lands Branch

Access Consulting Group

- Dan Cornett, Environmental Assessment Manager, for Western Silver Corporation
- Nichole Speiss, Environmental Scientist

Notes:

- Dan provided an introduction to the Carmacks Copper project providing historical context;
- LSCFN expressed concern over YEAA/YESAA transition;
- Concerns also expressed with GY not following through – involving First Nations;
- LSCFN has goals and criteria to meet, would like to know what GY criteria are and be involved in best management practices;
- ACG to provide GY Performance Standards to LSCFN;
- LSCFN does not want short cuts for profit margins, would like to avoid a 'BYG situation';
- Brewery Creek provided as an example of successful mining practices;
- Dan discussed updating traditional knowledge for the project;
- Question on number of trucks per day traveling to the mine site – concerns with traffic volume;
- LSCFN informed of Company's no hunting/fishing/firearms/recreation activities policies;
- Concern expressed over not being able to perform traditional activities near the project area;
- Community consultation is important, would like to be involved at early stages in project development;
- Concerns that LSCFN have not been involved in discussions with GY or YESAB regarding the Project Agreements, EA process, and the YEAA/YESAA transition;

Notes Cont'd:

- Discussion of a community workshop, in hopes of meeting with community members including elders to discuss current and traditional land uses in the project area;
- Susan and Robbie will be canvassing elders within the next month and will take ACG draft figures along for discussion;
- Draft project figures distributed at meeting and will be provided electronically.

Nichole Speiss

From: Mark Nelson [mark.nelson@lscfn.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 3:44 PM
To: Nichole Speiss
Subject: RE: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project - Archaeological Assessments

Hi Nicole,
I've had a look through our files on Western Copper and I don't see those reports. I'd love to get a copy, so please do drop them in the mail. LSCFN's address is Box 135 Carmacks Y0B 1C0. Thanks very much...

Mark Nelson
Heritage Officer,
Nan Nena Dan-do K'anete (Dept. of Lands and Resources)
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
P.O. Box 135
Carmacks YT
Y0B 1C0
Ph: (867) 863-5576 ext.237
Fax: (867) 863-5710

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: March 8, 2005 1:03 PM
To: Mark Nelson
Subject: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project - Archaeological Assessments

Hi Mark,

If you are interested, Access Consulting now has digital adobe acrobat pdf versions of the following reports:

Antiquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd., Western Copper Holdings Limited,
Williams Creek Copper Oxide Project, An Archaeological Impact Assessment for
the Proposed Williams Creek Copper Oxide Project; Williams Creek Valley,
Near Carmacks, Yukon Territory; Volume III of IEE, 31 January 1993

Anitquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd., An Archaeological and Heritage Resource Overview Assessment of the Proposed Carmacks Copper 138 kV Transmission Line Project Route Options Near Carmacks, Yukon Territory,
1
May 1995

The files are too big to email, but I can put the reports on our ftp site and send you instructions for accessing them if you would like. Let me know.

Thanks,

Nichole Speiss, BSc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3

Nichole Speiss

From: Nichole Speiss [nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 9:01 AM
To: susan.davis@lscfn.ca; robbie.cashin@lscfn.ca
Subject: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project - Figures



Fig14_WQ.pdf



Fig15_BH.pdf



Fig16_Fish.pdf



Fig17_Land.pdf



Fig18_Wild.pdf



Fig2_OV.pdf



Fig5_Gen_Arr.pdf



Fig7_Flow.pdf

Hi there,

As discussed, please find attached the 8 Figures distributed at our meeting March 7 from the Western Silver Corporation Carmacks Copper Project - Draft Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report.

Regards,

Nichole Speiss, BSc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
tel: (867) 668-6463
fax: (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



Legend:

- Town
- Ore Deposit
- Water Course
- Proposed Access Road
- Exploration Road
- Limited-used Road
- Road
- Trail
- Contour
- Water Body
- Environmental Assessment Study Area

UTM Zone 8 NAD83 Meters

Project Area Overview

Figure Number:

2

Scale:

1:150,000

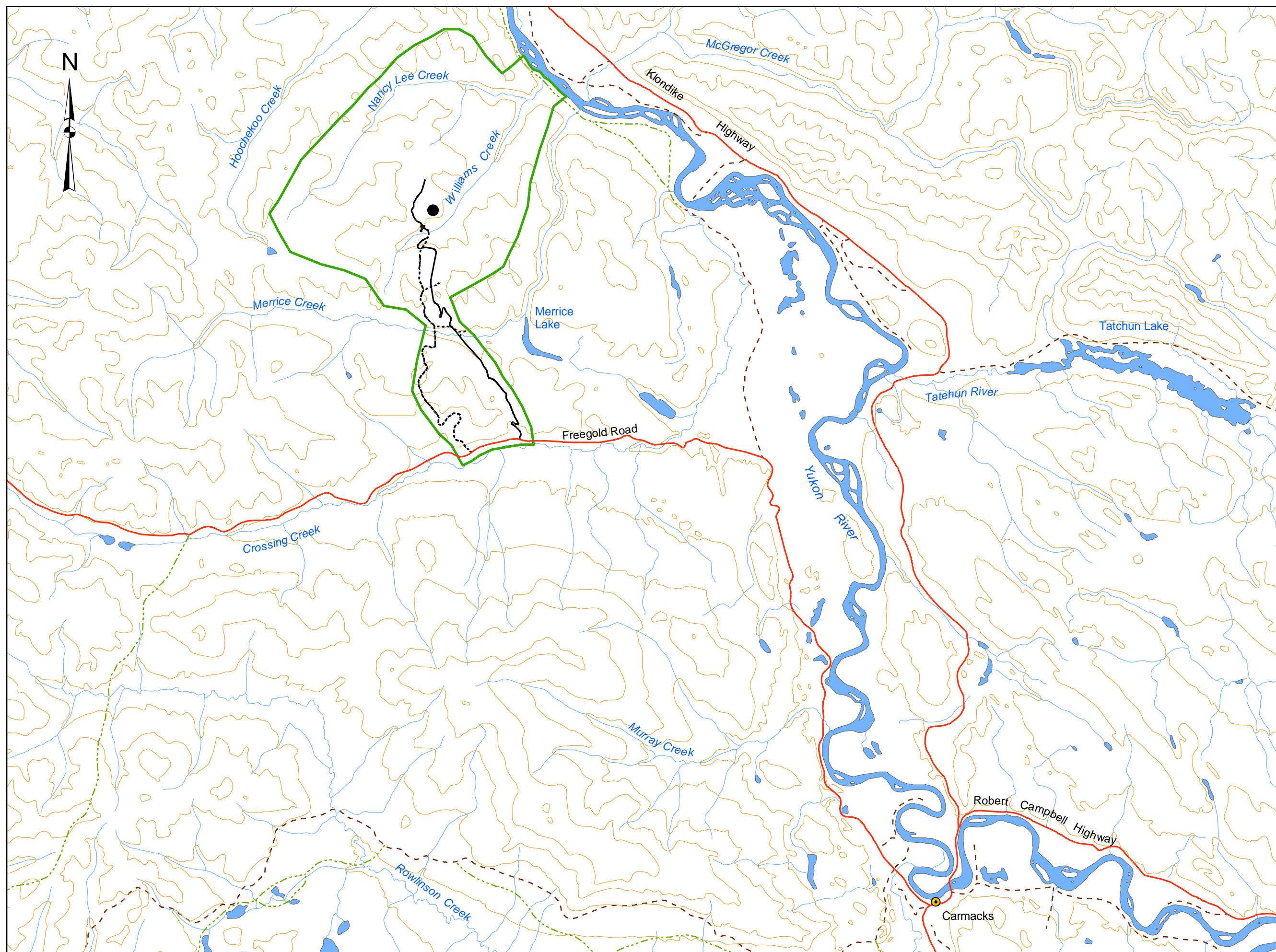


Drawn by: HD

Checked by: DC

Date: Feb. 1, 2005

Our File: D:\Project\AllProjects\WCH-01\gis\mxd\???.mxd



**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



Note: Drawing is for illustrative purposes only,
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Original drawing from Knight Piesold Limited,
"Overall Site Plan Year 2",
Drawing #100-13-45

General Arrangement

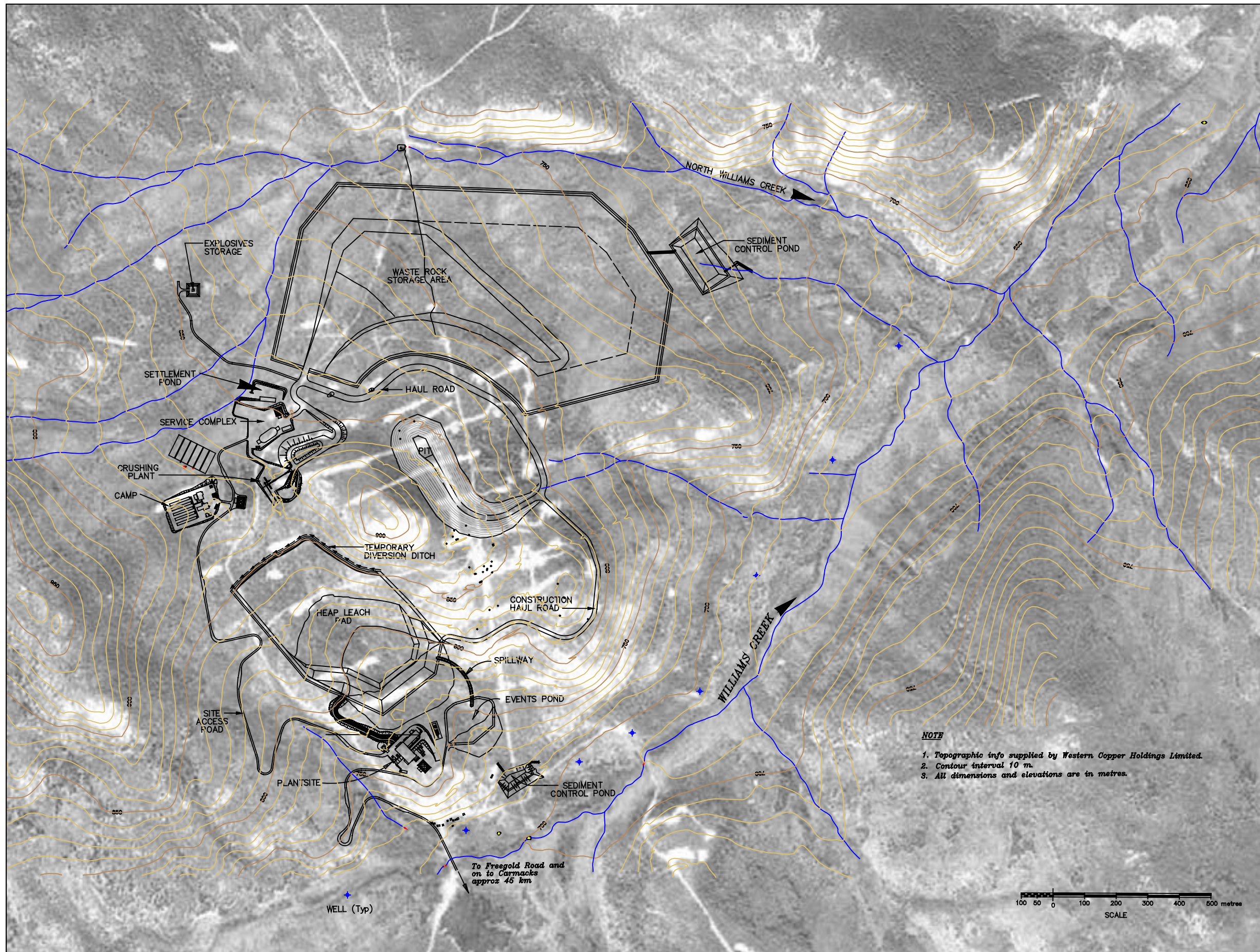
Figure Number:
5



Revised by: HD Checked by: DDC

Date: Feb. 1, 2005

File: D:\Project\AllProjects\DEV-04-02\dwg\figures\Fig5_Gen_Arr.dwg



**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



Note: Drawing is for illustrative purposes only, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Original drawing from Kilborn,
"Western Copper Holdings Limited Carmacks
Copper Project Simplified Flowsheet",
Drawing #100-10-02

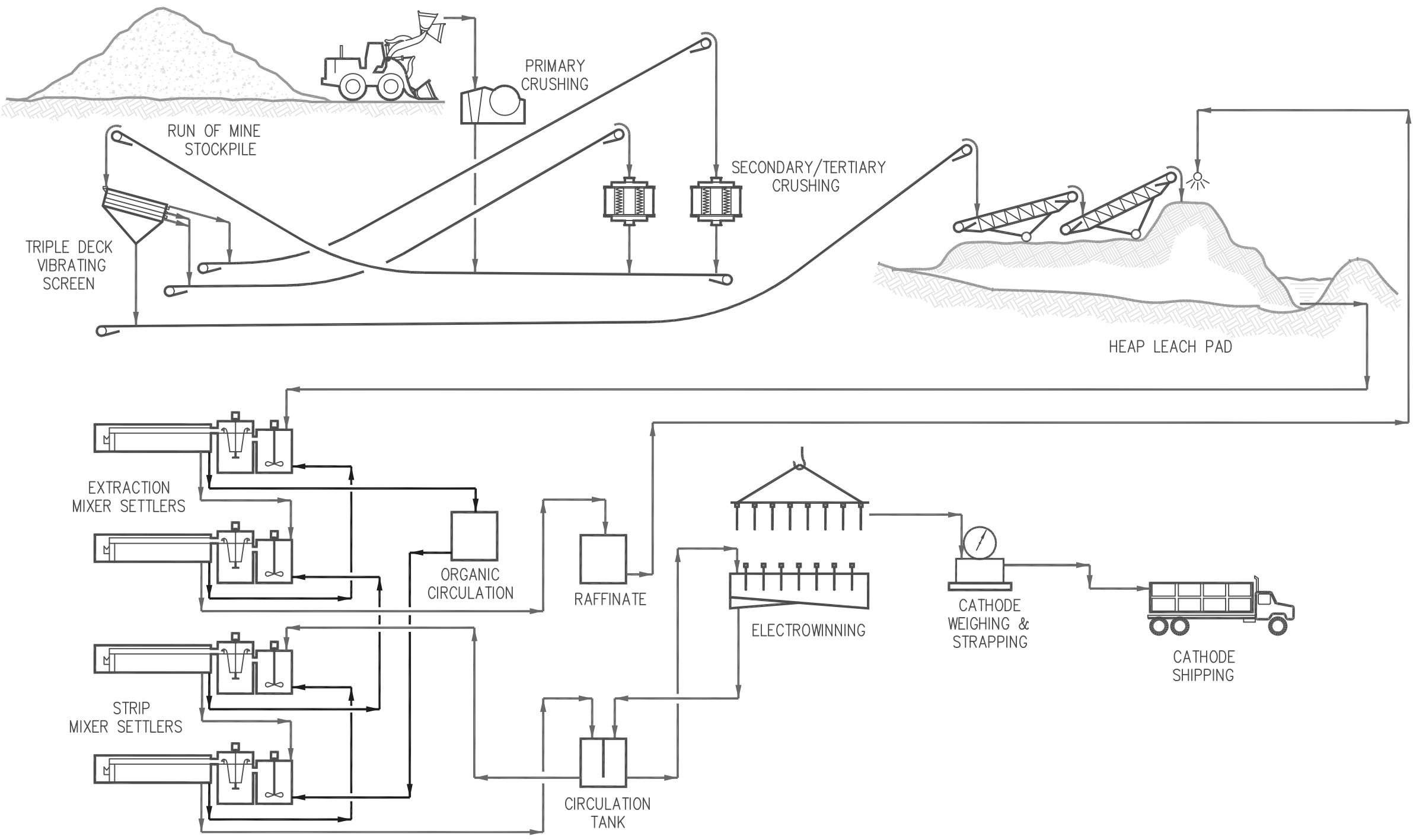
**Simplified Flowsheet of
the Carmacks Copper
Project Process**

Figure Number:
7



Revised by: HD Checked by: DDC
Date: Feb. 1, 2005

File: D:\Project\AllProjects\DEV-04-02\dwg\Figures\Fig7_Flow.dwg



**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



- Legend:**
- ◆ Monitoring Well
 - Water Well (by Others)
 - Ore Deposit
 - ▲ Water Quality Station
 - Road
 - Proposed Access Road
 - - - Exploration Road
 - Contour
 - Water Course
 - Water Body
 - Environmental Assessment Study Area

Reach and Sample Site Locations obtained from:
"Western Copper Holding Williams Creek Copper Oxide
Project Volume 1 Biophysical Assessment of the
Williams Creek Mine Site"
Figure 2.5.1 Location of water quality and benthic
invertebrate sites in the Williams Creek drainage.

UTM Zone 8 NAD83 Meters

**Water Quality Sample
Station Locations**

Figure Number:
14

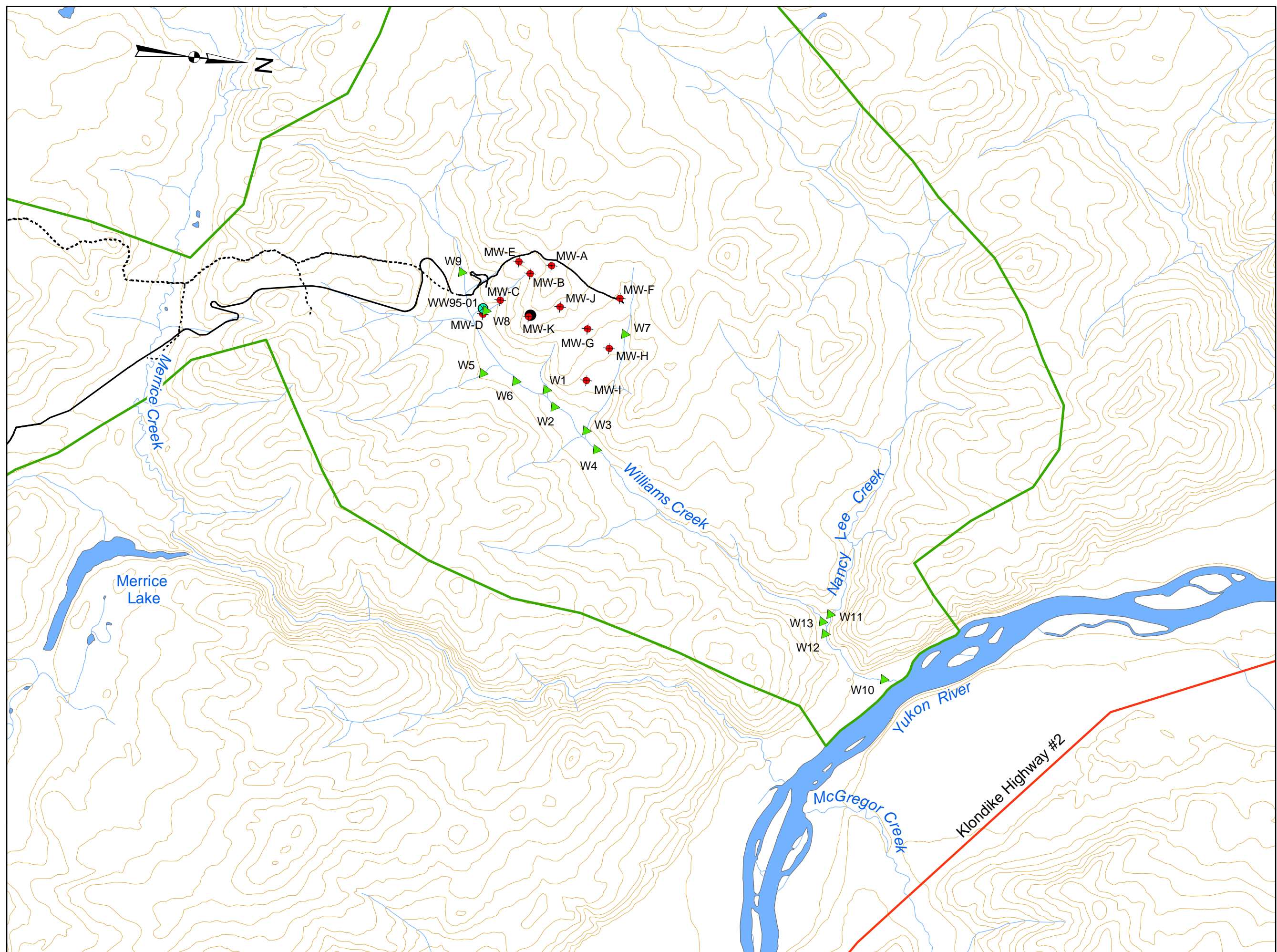
Scale:
1:50,000



Drawn by: HD Checked by: DC

Date: Feb. 1, 2005

Our File: D:\Project\AllProjects\WCH-01\gis\mxd\Fig12.mxd



**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



Note: Drawing is for illustrative purposes only, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Original drawing from Kilborn, The engineering data on this drawing is solely for the purpose and project for which this drawing is issued. "Borehole and Test Pit Location Plan", Drawing #100-13-35

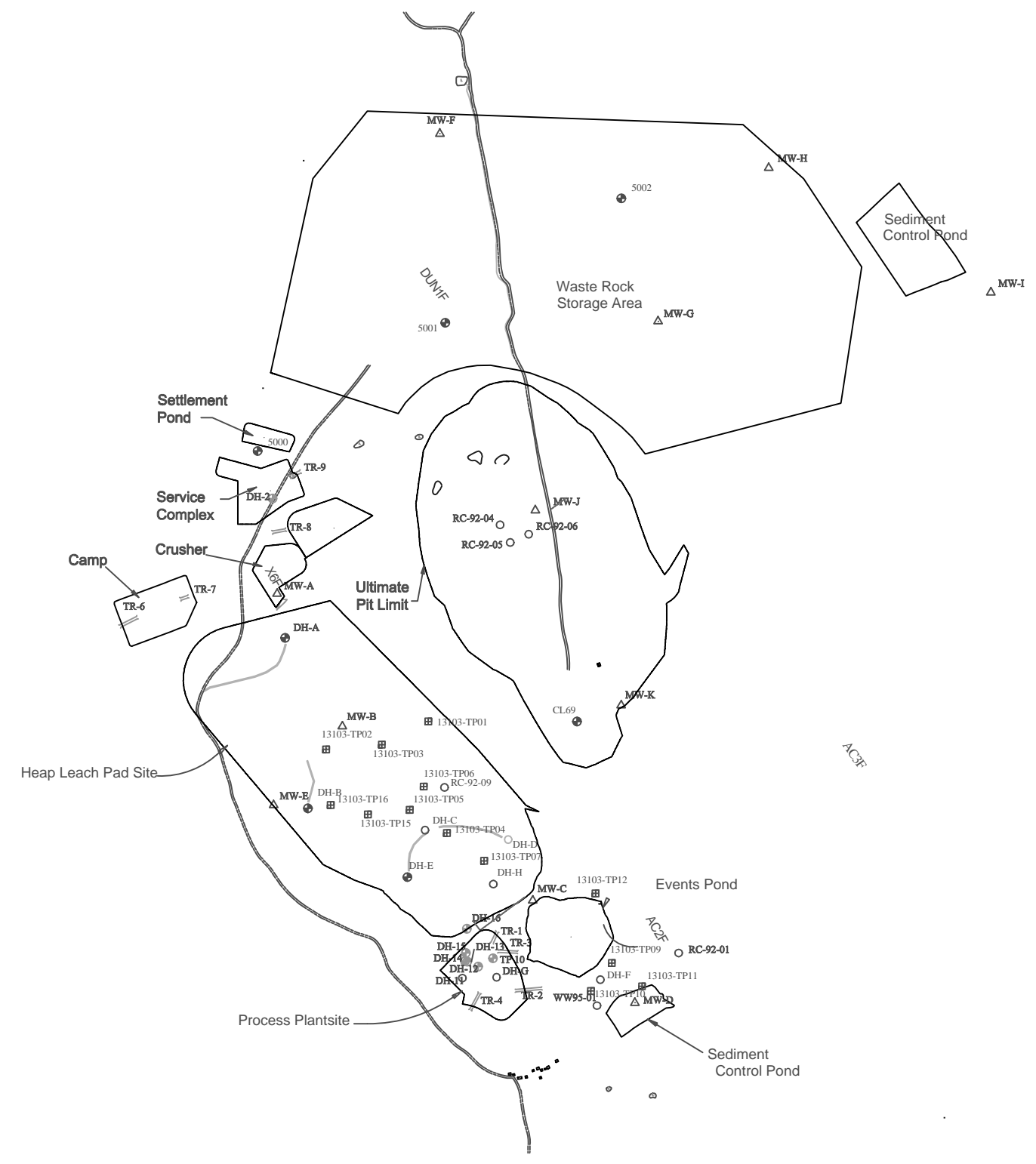
Borehole and Test Pit Locations

Figure Number: **15**



Revised by: HD | Checked by: DDC

Date: Feb. 1, 2005



- NOTES**
1. Topographic info supplied by Western Copper Holdings Limited.
 2. Contour interval - 10m

BOREHOLE AND TEST PIT LOCATION

WELL-HOLE No.	COORDINATES		DATE	LOGS & TEST RESULTS
	N	E		
DH-A	30 660.00	29 852.00	FEB-AUG-95	KNIGHT PIERCE REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DESIGN DATED 1 MAY, 1995
DH-B #1	30 293.00	29 901.00	FEB-AUG-95	
#2	30 293.00	29 901.00	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-C	30 246.08	30 153.11	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-D	30 226.00	30 332.00	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-E	30 145.00	30 115.00	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-F	29 924.25	30 530.24	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-G #1	29 929.45	30 306.96	FEB-AUG-95	
#2	29 929.45	30 306.96	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-H	30 130.00	30 300.00	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-I	31 621.13	32 332.55	FEB-AUG-95	
DH-2 #1	31 711.57	32 396.34	FEB-AUG-95	
#2	31 711.57	32 396.34	FEB-AUG-95	
RC-92-01	29 981.67	30 698.84		
RC-92-04	30 903.17	30 314.57		
RC-92-05	30 865.21	30 336.44		
RC-92-06	30 883.15	30 376.04		
RC-92-09	30 338.00	30 195.00		
WW95-01	29 868.35	30 522.92	10-SEP-95	
MW-A	30 755.26	29 834.92	JUNE-96	
MW-B	30 469.51	29 974.92	JUNE-96	
MW-C	30 095.17	30 385.30	JUNE-96	
MW-D	29 874.79	30 604.75	JUNE-96	
MW-E	30 299.94	29 826.84	JUNE-96	
MW-F	31 745.34	30 184.95	JUNE-96	
MW-G	31 341.10	30 655.00	JUNE-96	
MW-H	31 672.06	30 892.70	JUNE-96	
MW-I	31 403.63	31 371.13	JUNE-96	
MW-J	30 934.97	30 389.91	JUNE-96	
MW-K	30 515.00	30 575.00	JUNE-96	
TR-1	30 015.65	30 302.75	JUNE-96	
TR-2	29 903.00	30 375.75	JUNE-96	
TR-3	29 984.50	30 331.00	JUNE-96	
TR-4	29 877.25	30 260.50	JUNE-96	
TR-6	30 694.50	29 515.25	JUNE-96	
TR-7	30 746.00	29 635.00	JUNE-96	
TR-8	30 890.00	29 839.00	JUNE-96	
TR-9	31 012.00	29 873.75	JUNE-96	
DH-2	30 960.00	29 825.00	JUNE-96	
DH-11	29 927.59	30 233.41	JUNE-96	
DH-12	29 982.52	30 267.34	JUNE-96	
DH-13	29 963.26	30 243.78	JUNE-96	
DH-14	29 964.06	30 238.82	JUNE-96	
DH-15	29 981.83	30 240.89	JUNE-96	
DH-16	30 033.92	30 242.97	JUNE-96	
13103-TP1	30 480	30 160	DEC-97	
13103-TP2	30 420	29 940	DEC-97	
13103-TP3	30 430	30 060	DEC-97	
13103-TP4	30 240	30 200	DEC-97	
13103-TP5	30 290	30 120	DEC-97	
13103-TP6	30 340	30 150	DEC-97	
13103-TP7	30 180	30 280	DEC-97	
13103-TP8	30 074	30 415	DEC-97	
13103-TP9	29 960	30 555	DEC-97	
13103-TP10	29 900	30 510	DEC-97	
13103-TP11	29 910	30 620	DEC-97	
13103-TP12	30 110	30 520	DEC-97	
13103-TP13	30 015	30 354	DEC-97	
13103-TP14	30 230	30 050	DEC-97	
13103-TP15	30 030	30 030	DEC-97	
13103-TP16	30 030	29 950	DEC-97	

- LEGEND**
- Main access road
 - Secondary road
 - Exploration Drill Hole
 - Monitoring Well
 - Borehole or test pit
 - Test pit
 - TR-8 Test Trench
 - Survey Point

**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



Legend:

- Sample Station
- Ore Deposit
- Proposed Access Road
- Exploration Road
- Road
- Contour
- Water Course
- Reach
- Water Body
- Environmental Assessment Study Area

Reach and Sample Site Locations obtained from:
"Western Copper Holding Williams Creek Copper Oxide
Project Volume 1 Biophysical Assessment of the
Williams Creek Mine Site"
Figure 3.6.1 Location of reach boundaries and
summary of physical habitat characteristics for the
Williams Creek study area.

UTM Zone 8 NAD83 Meters

**Reach Boundaries &
Fisheries Investigation
Sample Stations**

Figure Number:

16

Scale:

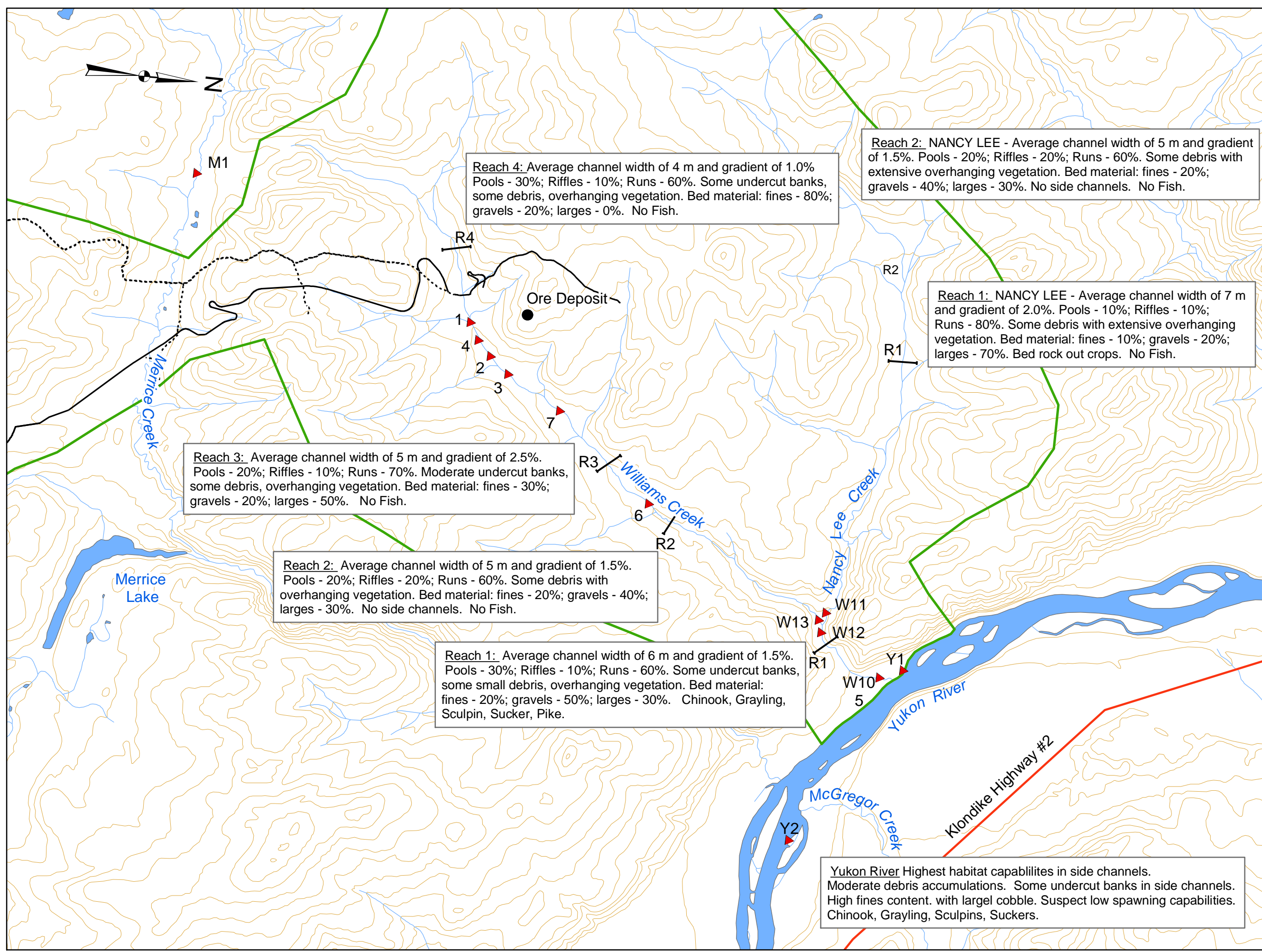
1:50,000



Drawn by: HD Checked by: DC

Date: Feb. 1, 2005

Our File: D:\Project\AllProjects\WCH-01\gis\mxd\Fig16_Fish.mxd



Reach 4: Average channel width of 4 m and gradient of 1.0%. Pools - 30%; Riffles - 10%; Runs - 60%. Some undercut banks, some debris, overhanging vegetation. Bed material: fines - 80%; gravels - 20%; larges - 0%. No Fish.

Reach 2: NANCY LEE - Average channel width of 5 m and gradient of 1.5%. Pools - 20%; Riffles - 20%; Runs - 60%. Some debris with extensive overhanging vegetation. Bed material: fines - 20%; gravels - 40%; larges - 30%. No side channels. No Fish.

Reach 1: NANCY LEE - Average channel width of 7 m and gradient of 2.0%. Pools - 10%; Riffles - 10%; Runs - 80%. Some debris with extensive overhanging vegetation. Bed material: fines - 10%; gravels - 20%; larges - 70%. Bed rock out crops. No Fish.

Reach 3: Average channel width of 5 m and gradient of 2.5%. Pools - 20%; Riffles - 10%; Runs - 70%. Moderate undercut banks, some debris, overhanging vegetation. Bed material: fines - 30%; gravels - 20%; larges - 50%. No Fish.

Reach 2: Average channel width of 5 m and gradient of 1.5%. Pools - 20%; Riffles - 20%; Runs - 60%. Some debris with overhanging vegetation. Bed material: fines - 20%; gravels - 40%; larges - 30%. No side channels. No Fish.

Reach 1: Average channel width of 6 m and gradient of 1.5%. Pools - 30%; Riffles - 10%; Runs - 60%. Some undercut banks, some small debris, overhanging vegetation. Bed material: fines - 20%; gravels - 50%; larges - 30%. Chinook, Grayling, Sculpin, Sucker, Pike.

Yukon River Highest habitat capabilities in side channels. Moderate debris accumulations. Some undercut banks in side channels. High fines content. with largel cobble. Suspect low spawning capabilities. Chinook, Grayling, Sculpins, Suckers.

**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



- Legend:**
- Ore Deposit
 - Historic Archaeological Sites
 - Contour
 - Water Course
 - - - Trail
 - - - Limited-used Road
 - Road
 - Access Road
 - - - Exploration Road
 - First Nations Traditional Territory Border
 - ▨ Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
 - ▭ Mineral Parcel
 - Western Copper Holdings Limited Claims
 - Other Claims
 - - - Expired License or Lease
 - Environmental Assessment Study Area
 - Water Body
 - ▨ Medium Heritage Site Potential

UTM Zone 8 NAD83 Meters

Heritage Resources & Current Land Uses

Figure Number:
17

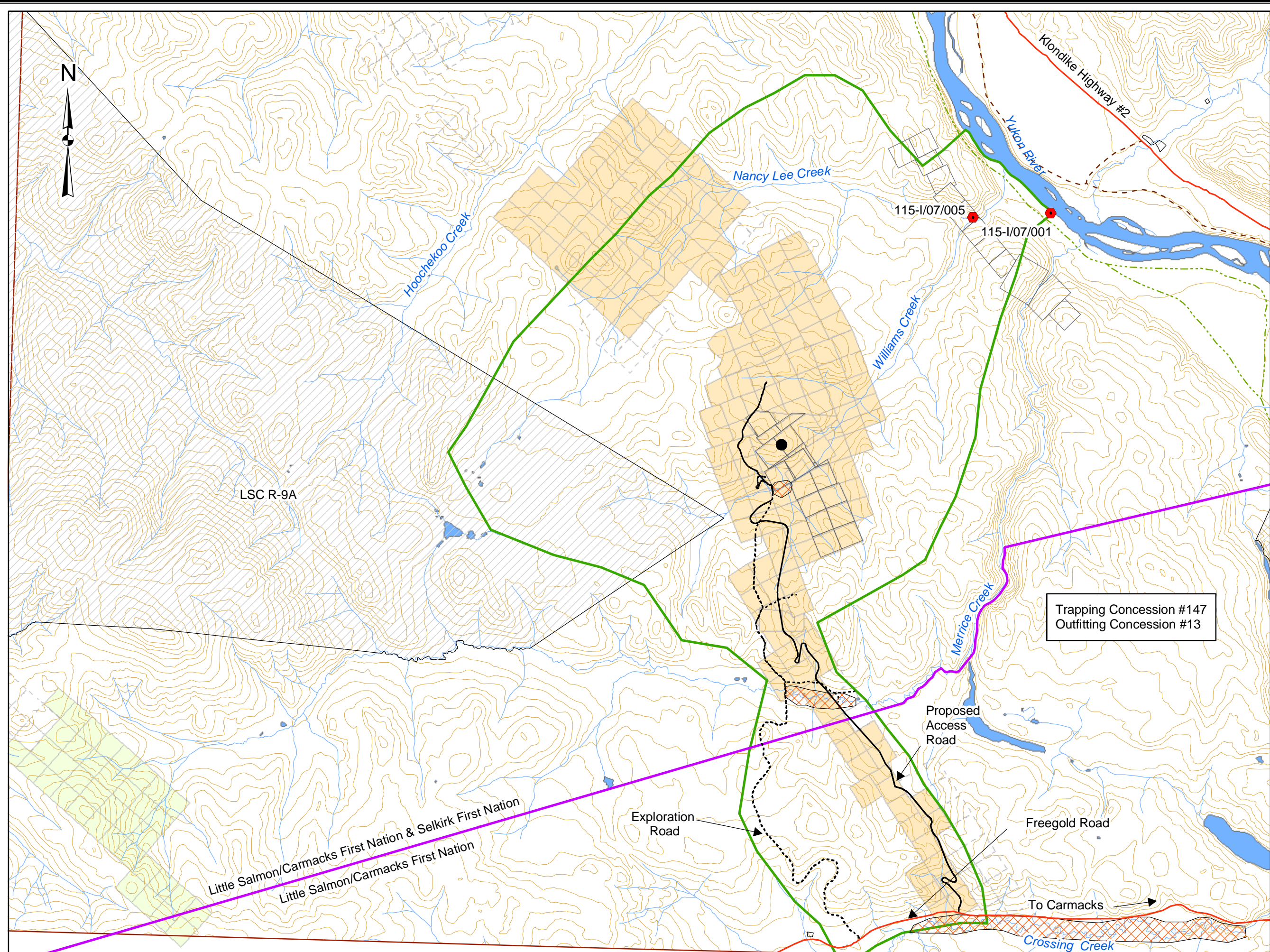
Scale:
0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 Meters



Drawn by: HD Checked by: DC

Date: Feb. 1, 2005

Our File: D:\Project\AllProjects\WCH-01\gis\mxd\Fig14.mxd



LSC R-9A

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation & Selkirk First Nation
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation

Trapping Concession #147
Outfitting Concession #13

Exploration Road

Proposed Access Road

Freegold Road

To Carmacks

**Project Description
& Environmental
Assessment Report
DRAFT
Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**



Legend:

- Town
- Ore Deposit
- Water Course
- Proposed Access Road
- Exploration Road
- Limited-used Road
- Road
- Trail
- Contour
- Water Body
- Environmental Assessment Study Area
- Game Management Zone

Wildlife Key Areas

- Bald Eagle
- Bison
- Golden Eagle
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Woodland Caribou

UTM Zone 8 NAD83 Meters

**Game Management Zones
& Wildlife Key Areas**

Figure Number:

18

Scale:

1:150,000

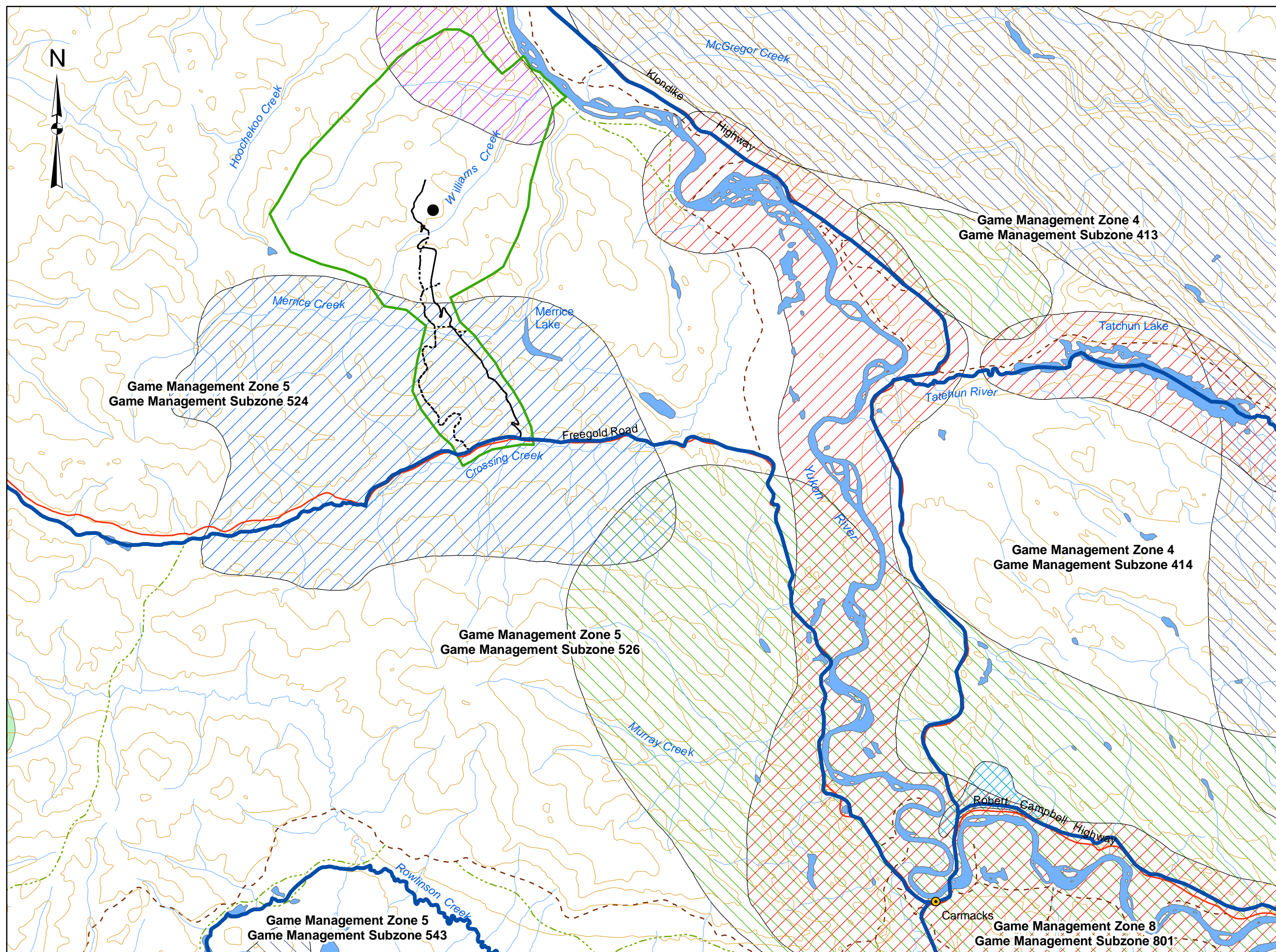


Drawn by: HD

Checked by: DC

Date: Feb. 1, 2005

Our File: D:\Project\AllProjects\WCH-01\gis\mxd\Fig18.mxd



Nichole Speiss

From: Dan D. Cornett [dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 11:02 AM
To: Susan Davis
Cc: Jonathan Clegg; Bill Dunn
Subject: Carmacks Copper Performance Standards



Carmacks Copper
Performance St...

Hello Susan;

Thanks again for spending some time to meet and discuss the Carmacks Copper Project. The meeting was beneficial to us.

As I indicated at the meeting, Western Silver and YG have been developing an agreement regarding the company's participation in the environmental assessment process. A component of the agreement is a listing of performance standards and objectives for the project. These standards are intended to help guide the environmental assessment for the project. I have attached these standards for your information. These are broad guidelines intended to set the minimum requirements for the project as none have existed previously.

I have discussed with Jonathan further community meetings. I believe that they are supportive, it is a matter of timing. We can discuss possible timing, but expect that it would not occurred until late April or June, after the project description has been submitted.

Please let me know when you are in Whitehorse next time round. I think that it would be useful now to have further discussions with both YG and LSCFN regarding the EA process.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

Regards

Dan D. Cornett
Access Consulting Group
Vice President
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
ph: 867-668-6463
Fax: 867-667-6680
Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca
Web: www.accessconsulting.ca

Nichole Speiss

From: Nichole Speiss [nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2005 11:43 AM
To: Susan Davis
Cc: 2Dan Cornett
Subject: RE: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project

Hello Susan,

When you are back at the office could you please contact us so that we can set up a meeting with LSCFN, Access, and Yukon Government to discuss the environmental assessment process?

Thanks,

Nichole

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Davis [mailto:susan.davis@lscfn.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2005 11:41 AM
To: Nichole Speiss
Cc: Viola Mullett; Eddie Skookum; Terry Billy; George Skookum; Mary Tulk; Darlene Johnson; Mark Nelson; Robbie Cashin
Subject: RE: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project

Hello,

Yes we do have feed back. I have done some research on the history of this mine and the previous environmental report. There seems to be significant differences between the parties as to why the previous environmental screening did not move forward! I will require a detailed report on the changes that have been made to this project to ensure the previous concerns were mitigated.

I believe we will have to meet again as I do not feel that I was able to clearly communicate our position regarding the environmental screening process and requirements under the new YESAA process. It is clear that Access Consulting and LSCFN have two different perspectives of this and we need to resolve this. A community process is required for the success of this process. I will be away from the office for the next two weeks and we should schedule a meeting soon after my return as possible.

Mussi Cho,

Susan Davis
Director, Land and Resource Department
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2005 9:31 AM
To: Mark Nelson; Susan Davis; Robbie Cashin
Subject: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project

Hi there,

Just wondering if you would like to provide any feedback on the Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project? Were the figures at all useful?

Thank you,

Nichole Speiss, BSc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
tel: (867) 668-6463
fax: (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

#####

This e-mail message has been content scanned for Viruses and Content and cleared by NetIQ MailMarshal. LS/CFN and any of its subsidiaries each reserve the right to monitor all e-mail communications through its networks.

If you are receiving junk mail that you do not wish to receive, please forward it to the Administrator so that it can be added to the list of known spammers.

Mussi-cho.

#####



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

#3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3

PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

June 9, 2005

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Prepared by: Dan Cornett/Nichole Speiss, Access Consulting Group

Re: Meeting Between LSCFN Lands Branch, Government of Yukon, and Access Consulting Group on June 9, 2005

Attendees:

LSCFN

- Johnny Sam, Elder
- Fred Green, Lands Branch
- Susan Davis, Lands Branch
- Bill Slater, Technical Advisor
- Joe Bellmore
- Viola Mullet
- Shirley Mullet
- Mark Vance
- Ted Faircloud

Government of Yukon

- Bill Dunn, EMR Mineral Development
- Randy Lamb, Environment
- Shane Andre, ECO DAP Branch

Access Consulting Group

- Dan Cornett, Environmental Assessment Manager, for Western Silver Corporation

Notes:

- Introduction;
- Background on Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report;
- EA Process;

Notes Cont'd:

- Project Components;
- Project Agreement – LSCFN concern with not being involved in the agreement, traditional knowledge not being addressed;
- Concerns with land use planning not being done;
- Updating baseline water quality data, determining differences between new and old data;
- Concerns with the heap and project closure;
- Discussion of YEAA/YESAA transition;
- Planned community consultation: meetings/dinner;
- Independent advisor;
- Elders believe that the pilot heap test site was left a mess by Western Silver as there is fencing and chemicals being stored there – not Western Silver's material;
- Trapping and effects to the trap line;
- Traditional law – Dooli System;
- Next steps – community meetings, site tour, updated project newsletter, gathering project briefing materials.

Nichole Speiss

From: Susan Davis [susan.davis@lscfn.ca]
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2005 10:50 AM
To: Bill Dunn
Cc: Bill Klassen; Shane Andre; Travis Ritchie; bslater@whtvcable.com; Viola Mullett; Doug and Judi Urquhart; Dan D. Cornett; 5Nichole
Subject: FW: LSCFN Meeting

Hi Bill (Dunn),

I just want to clarify with you that the LSCFN is not ready for a community consultation process on the 27th yet as the e-mails below articulate. There may still be some confusion on this. Can you let me know if you get this e-mail? Again sorry for the inconvenience.

Susan

From: Susan Davis
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2005 4:35 PM
To: Travis Ritchie; 'Bill Slater'; Bill Klassen; Bill Dunn; Shane Andre; 'Robert.Walker@gov.yk.ca'
Cc: Viola Mullett; Chief & Council; Cathy Cochrane; Robbie Cashin; 'Doug and Judi Urquhart'
Subject: RE: LSCFN Meeting

Hi Dan,

While preparing for the community workshop it has become clear that we are not ready for this. My previous e-mail recommended that we do not have a community meeting on the 27th and to use that time to meet with the parties to discuss the outstanding concerns, however I feel there is still some confusion on this. To date I do not feel that LSCFN's concerns have been clearly understood and the process is continuing to move forward on a foundation of uncertainty. Unfortunately there are too many concerns regarding the process for us to participate in a community consultation process at this time. I apologize for this inconvenience.

The Technical Review Committee has agreed that this project will move forward through YEA while applying YESSA standards however there are no YESSA standards to apply. I am recommending that LSCFN make arrangements to meet with the YESSA Board and Yukon Government so we can clearly articulate our concerns and to discuss how to move this project forward.

LSCFN is committed to working with the YESSA Board, Yukon Government and Western Silver to create a process that meets the Spirit and Intent of the UFA and our Final Agreement.

Mussi Cho,

Susan Davis,
 Director, Land and Resources Department
 Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

From: Susan Davis
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2005 4:23 PM
To: 'Dan D. Cornett'
Cc: Bill Dunn; Shane Andre; Bill Klassen; Jonathan Clegg (Jonathan E. Clegg); Travis Ritchie; 1Rob; 5Nichole; Viola

Mullett

Subject: RE: LSCFN Meeting

Hi,

I am not sure you understood my e-mail. Doug will meet with you and explain further on how we need to move forward.

Susan

From: Dan D. Cornett [mailto:dan@accessconsulting.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2005 12:05 PM

To: Susan Davis

Cc: Bill Dunn; Shane Andre; Bill Klassen; Jonathan Clegg (Jonathan E. Clegg); Travis Ritchie; 1Rob; 5Nichole; Viola Mullett

Subject: RE: LSCFN Meeting

Susan;

I agree that this project is likely to fall under a YEAA/YESAA transition. We have already asked the YESAB to shadow the project and they have agreed (Mr. Travis Ritchie - YESAB).

I think that it would be beneficial to have YG and YESAB representation at the workshop to discuss the EA requirements and transition. We have been trying to ensure that YESAA requirements are being considered now for the project including the socio-economic assessment. By copy of this email, we can give a heads up to YG staff involved in with the EA of the project and see if they can attend the workshop and speak to the EA process and transition. They can help the community and Chief and Council to understand the process.

With regards to a socio-economic agreement, I do not think that Western would want to discuss details in an open work shop at this time - possibly general considerations for an agreement. The company would first like to present a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to Chief and Council regarding a Participation Agreement for the project. A draft MOU (2 pages) is being prepared for discussion. We talked about doing this as a separate meeting with Chief and Council (say Wednesday morning - before heading out to the site). The MOU could set a framework for future discussions with LSCFN and lead to a formal agreement. From a YESAA stand point- they will want to know that a Participation Agreement is in the works and supported by LSCFN.

These are first impressions. It would be nice to sit down with the workshop facilitator (or could even be YG staff) and get a few more details down. From our end for the workshop, we will have some wall posters and maps for the project, the EA report, a PowerPoint presentation on who Western Silver is and some details in the project and location (mainly pictorial based slides), and a basic discussion of the mining process (exploration, mine development/construction, operations and closure).

I will give you a call to follow up.

Dan D. Cornett
 Access Consulting Group
 Vice President
 #3 Calcite Business Centre
 151 Industrial Road
 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
 ph: 867-668-6463
 Fax: 867-667-6680
 Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca
 Web: www.accessconsulting.ca

From: Susan Davis [mailto:susan.davis@lscfn.ca]

12/8/2005

Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2005 11:40 AM
To: dan@accessconsulting.ca
Cc: Viola Mullett
Subject: Meeting

Hi Dan,

Sorry I have been unable to speak with you lately – it has been really busy.

We are paying special attention to the Western Silver application and review because of its precedent setting potential with respect to YESSA. We understand that although the review begins under YEA it will be transferred to YESSA when appropriate. Therefore, it is imperative that the YESSA standards be adhered to throughout - both to avoid delays and to help us all learn together how it will work.

In this respect, there are several substantial issues of concern to us, the most important being the process for consultation and the depth and detail of the socio-economic arrangement called for in YESSA.

As we have discussed at the Technical Review Committee, we do not have a clear idea of these and we feel there is a need to discuss them more thoroughly before we proceed with anything at the community level. We suggest, therefore, that the meeting on the 27th be comprised of LSCFN representatives (including Chief and Council), Western Silver representatives and relevant YTG staff. At this meeting we would present the challenges of consulting in a community such as ours and from the discussion work towards an efficient and effective approach. Similarly, the elements of a socio-economic agreement for a project of this scale should also be explored as you have suggested. We would still arrange the field trip for the next day.

Again, I should stress that we feel like we are under the magnifying glass for this review since it is the first one to span YEA and YESSA.

I look forward to your thoughts on this, and to any suggestions you might have about who should attend this meeting.

Susan

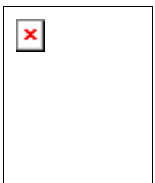


Note: This message is for the named person's use only. It may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mistransmission. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. You must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient. **LS/CFN** and any of its subsidiaries each reserve the right to monitor all e-mail communications through its networks.

Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the message states otherwise and the sender is authorized to state them to be the views of any such entity.

NOSEND=1>

Mussi-cho



This e-mail message has been content scanned for Viruses and Content and cleared by NetIQ MailMarshal. **LS/CFN** and any of its subsidiaries each reserve the right to monitor all e-mail communications through its networks.

[Report this user for sending Junkmail](#)

12/8/2005

Western Silver Corporation

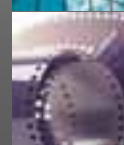
Carmacks Copper Project

DRAFT PRESENTATION



WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION

- In 2003 Western Copper Holdings Ltd. changed its name to Western Silver Corporation.
- Publicly traded mineral exploration company.
- Listed on the American (AMEX:WTZ) and Toronto (TSX:WTC) stock exchanges.
- Member of the Mining Association of Canada.
- Western Silver is 100% owner of 240 claims on the Carmacks Copper property.
- Western Silver is now completing the permitting process for the Carmacks Copper project.





People – Western Silver & Representatives

- Dale Corman – Chairman & CEO (WS)
- Jonathan Clegg – Project Manager (WS)
- Thomas Patton – President & Chief Operating Officer (WS)
- Brad Thrall – ALM Group
- Clynt Nauman – ALM Group
- Dan Cornett – Access Consulting Group



Carmacks Copper Project - Overview

- Williams Creek property staked in 1970.
- Exploration in 1970's.
- In 1989 property optioned to Western Copper Holdings (Western Silver).
- During 1989 – 1993 major work programs conducted: metallurgical testing, exploration and condemnation drilling, trench cuts, geophysical and geotechnical surveys, baseline environmental studies, feasibility study.





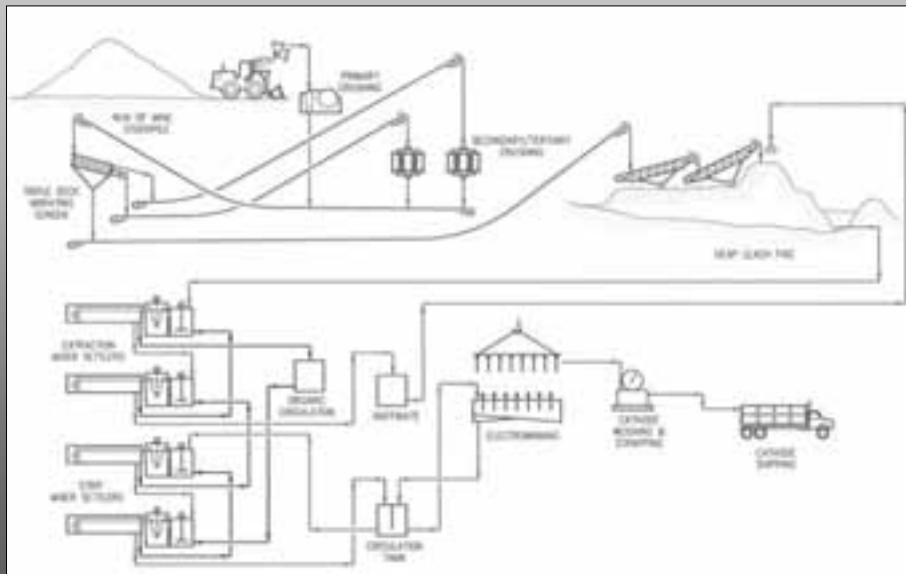
Carmacks Copper Project - Overview

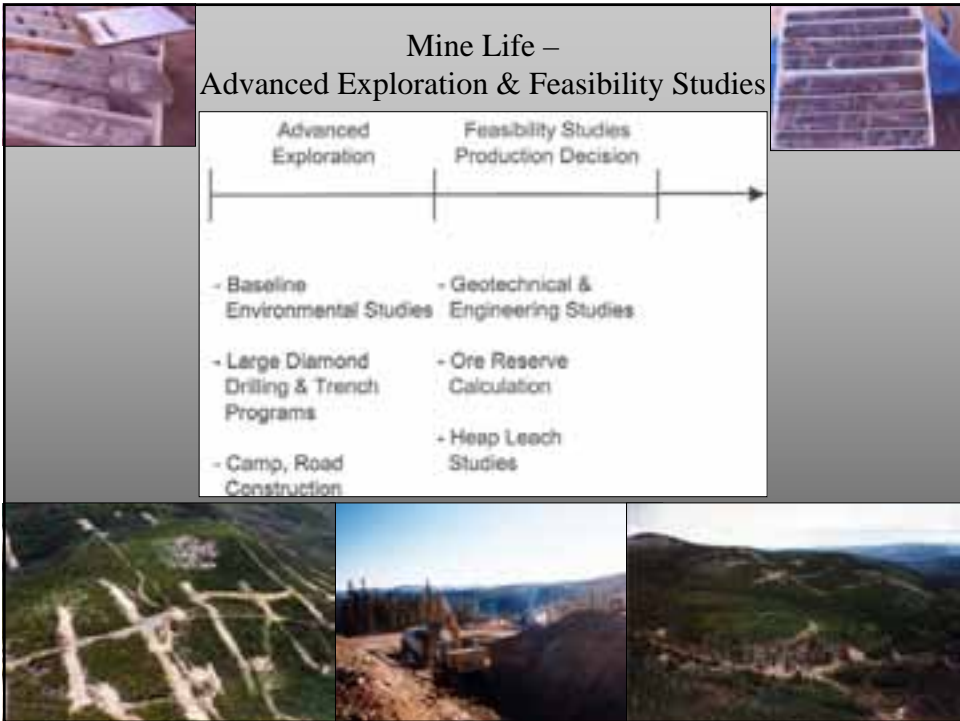
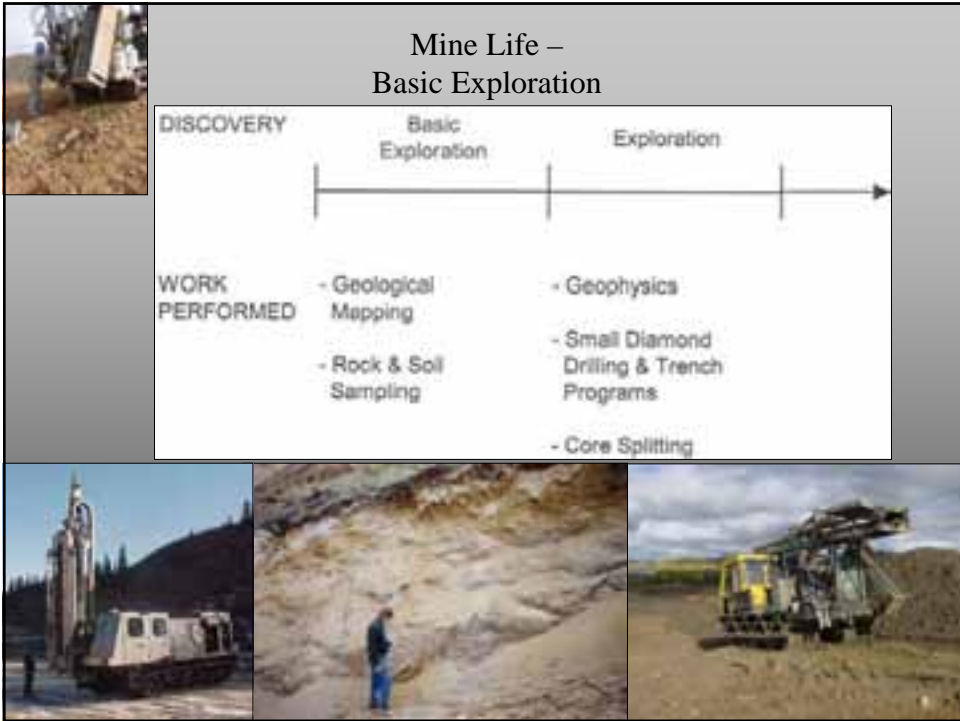


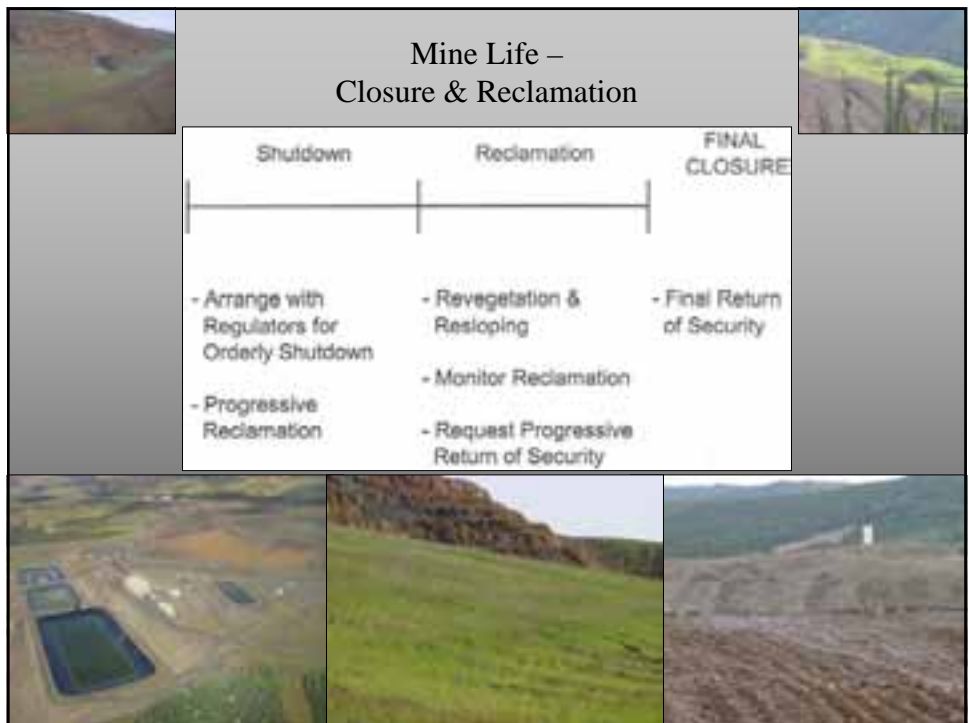
- In 1994 Western Silver began permitting process.
- 1996 – 1998 continued geotechnical and engineering studies under CEAA.
- 1997 – access road, leach pad, and plant site cleared.
- Leaching and decommissioning testwork carried out.
- Project feasible at prices above US\$1.10/lb copper – recent rise in copper prices has prompted project advancement.



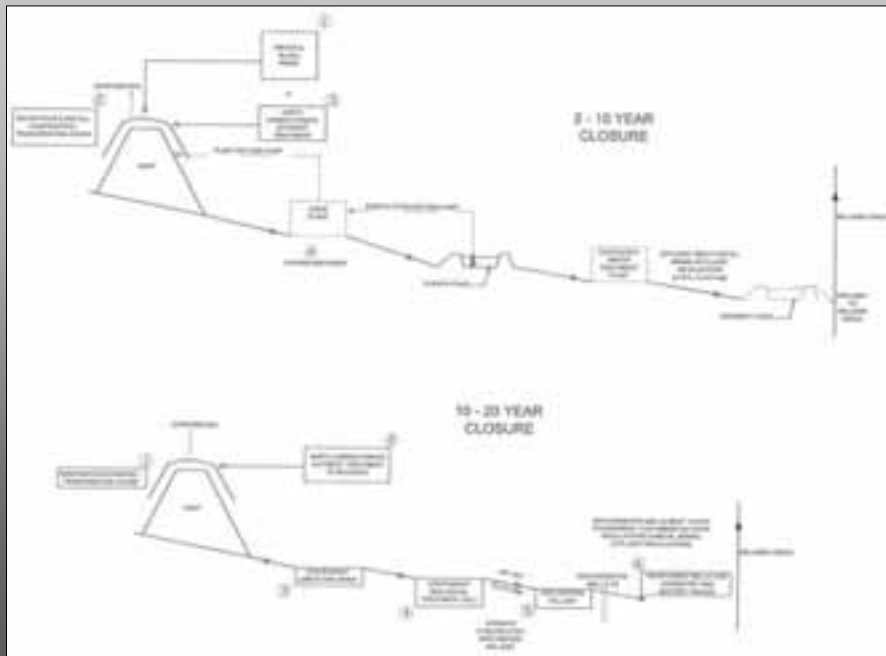
Open Pit Mining and Extraction Process



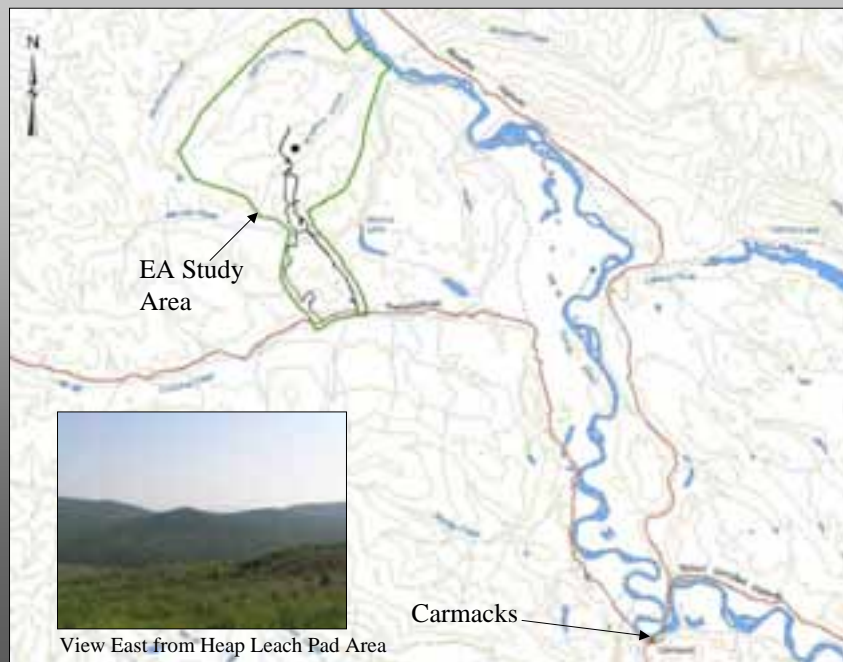




Closure Planning



Project Area Overview



Carmacks Copper Project – General Layout



Freegold Road
Crossing Creek Bridge



Proposed Access Road &
Freegold Road Intersection

Property Access
Roads

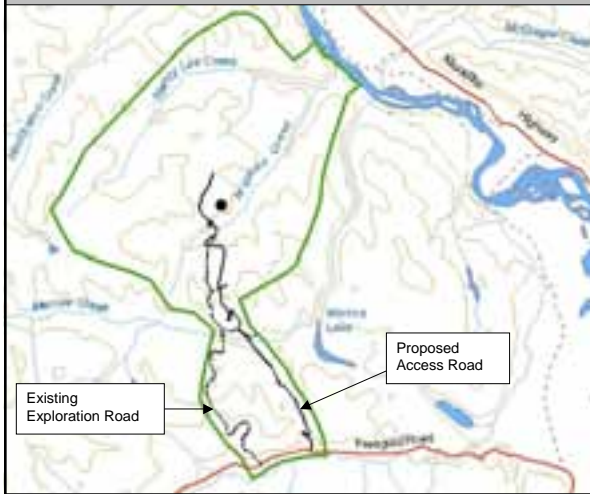


Exploration Road & Mine
Site



Exploration Road and
Freegold Road Intersection

Proposed Access Road



Proposed Access Road



Existing Exploration Road

Project Stream Crossings



Merrice Creek Crossing – Exploration Road

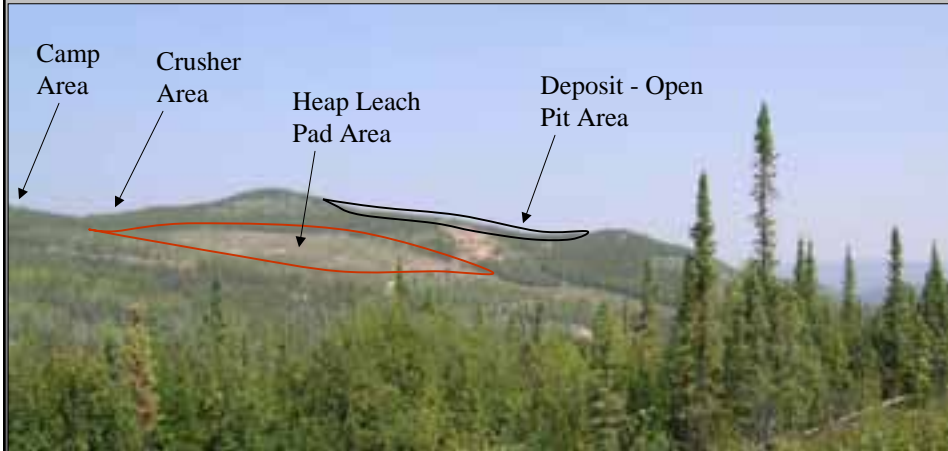


Williams Creek Crossing – Exploration Road



North Williams Creek Crossing

Project Area



Recent photo of project area taken August 2005

Project Components

Heap Leach Pad Area – View



Open Pit Area – View – Exploration Trenches



Heap Leach Pad Area - View



Events Pond Area

Confining Embankment Area

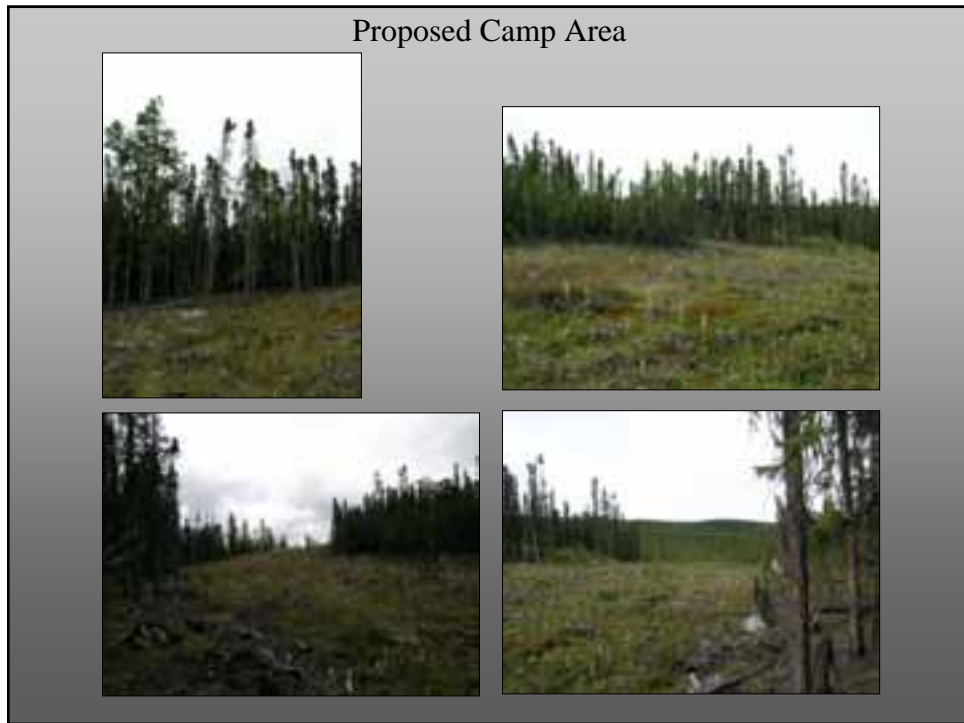


Open Pit Area



Exploration Trenches

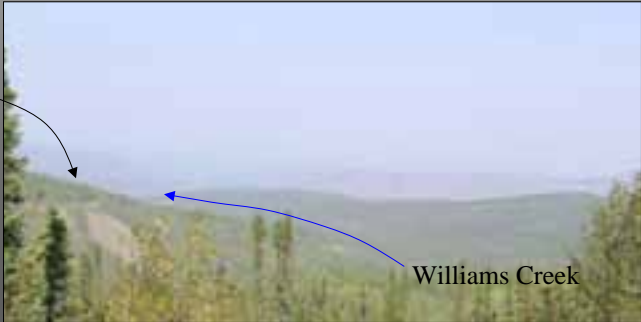




View of Williams Creek Valley



Yukon River



Williams Creek

Sample Station Locations



Williams Creek Sampling



Williams Creek Downstream of W4



Staff Gauge Near W4

Williams Creek Sampling



Hydrometric Station
Downstream of W4



Sample Station W2

Williams Creek Sampling

W9 Williams Creek Upstream
of Access Road Crossing



W7 North Williams Creek

Meteorological Station – Near Camp



Dan D. Cornett

From: Dan D. Cornett [dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2005 12:11 PM
To: 'Susan Davis'; 'Bill Dunn'; 'Shane Andre'; 'Travis Ritchie'
Cc: 'Viola Mullett'; 'Chief & Council'; 'Cathy Cochrane'; 'Robbie Cashin'; 'Joe Bellmore'; 'Doug and Judi Urquhart'; 'Bill Slater'; Jonathan Clegg (Jonathan E. Clegg)
Subject: RE: Western Silver copper mne

Thanks for the update Susan.

Although Western Silver understands LSCFN concerns with respect to the EA process, we are still interested in meeting the community to discuss and present the project (not the process). As such there are a number of items that we would like to carry forward with ASAP ,including;

Site tour,
 Community workshop to discuss the project (not the process)
 Socio-economic Participation Agreement.

I believe that a couple of these items should be advanced fairly quickly - for example we would like to have a site tour before the snow flies. Can we try to do this next week??
 I also believe that some discussions could occur with Chief and Council regarding the outline for a Participation Agreement. This could as a separate meeting.

Please let me know your thoughts re these two items

Dan D. Cornett
 Access Consulting Group
 Vice President
 #3 Calcite Business Centre
 151 Industrial Road
 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
 ph: 867-668-6463
 Fax: 867-667-6680
 Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca
 Web: www.accessconsulting.ca

From: Susan Davis [mailto:susan.davis@lscfn.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2005 11:31 AM
To: Bill Dunn; Dan D. Cornett; Shane Andre; Travis Ritchie
Cc: Viola Mullett; Chief & Council; Cathy Cochrane; Robbie Cashin; Joe Bellmore; Doug and Judi Urquhart; Bill Slater
Subject: Western Silver copper mne

Hello,

I have received everyone's e-mails and phone messages this week. I have been away from the office and have just returned. LSCFN will provide our preliminary comments regarding the project description by Friday. LSCFN will then be putting together a comprehensive review of the process that will clearly articulate our concerns with the process and we will provide a framework that will illustrate how to move forward. This will take approximately 4 weeks at which time LSCFN will contact the appropriate people to arrange meetings.

Thank you for your time.

Mussi Cho,

Susan Davis
Director, Land and Resources Department
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation



Note: This message is for the named person's use only. It may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mistransmission. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. You must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient. **LS/CFN** and any of its subsidiaries each reserve the right to monitor all e-mail communications through its networks.

Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the message states otherwise and the sender is authorized to state them to be the views of any such entity.

Mussi-cho

Dan D. Cornett

From: Dan D. Cornett [dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2005 1:31 PM
To: Susan Davis (susan.davis@lscfn.ca)
Cc: Viola Mullett; Jonathan Clegg (Jonathan E. Clegg); Bill Dunn (William.Dunn@gov.yk.ca); Shane Andre (shane.andre@gov.yk.ca); David Petkovich (Caribou@yknet.ca)
Subject: Carmacks Copper Data - field program

Hi Susan:

I was speaking with Viola and indicated to her yesterday that Western Silver will continue with the environmental data collection program update. We have already collected water quality and stream sediments in late August and plan the following;

Fall fisheries/WQ/stream sediment survey - survey to be initiated as early as next week
Post moose rut survey - mid November.

Further follow up work will be done in 2006 (Stream WQ; grd WQ and fisheries).

We are looking to invite a member from LSCFN to help participate with the field survey. The individual should have some interest (experience with data collection, field work and ok to fly in a helicopter). David Petkovich will be conducting the fish work next week and will contact you directly regarding LSCFN member involvement. He can coordinate with you as I am out of town next week.

You can also see who is interested in the wildlife survey. This survey would involve LSCFN member acting as a spotter in a helicopter. The survey will be refined later this month.

We also tried to get out to the site with LSCFN members today, but got rained out. (Thanks Viola for setting up). Can we look to the week of Oct 17th to try and get a few people out to site. I will be in touch once I return
Regards

Dan D. Cornett
Access Consulting Group
Vice President
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
ph: 867-668-6463
Fax: 867-667-6680
Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca
Web: www.accessconsulting.ca

Dan D. Cornett

From: Dan D. Cornett [dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2005 5:00 PM
To: Susan Davis (susan.davis@lscfn.ca)
Cc: Viola Mullett
Subject: Carmacks Copper Moose Survey

Hello Susan;

I thought that I would give this one more try instead of a phone call. We are planning a post rut moose survey to update wildlife usage data in the area. As you know this was a concern raised by LSCFN and YG Environment and the company is planning to address it. This is ground floor planning with LSCFN. We have not scheduled the survey, not developed a survey plan. We are prepared to meet to develop a plan, conduct the survey with LSCFN participation and gather the data.

I know that you have advised us regarding the consultation plan that LSCFN is developing and that LSCFN has opted to not engage in other work. However, our window to complete the survey this winter is running out of time. The survey should be completed before Xmas and we would like to have it completed this winter.

Please advise if LSCFN is interested in planning for the survey.

Thanks'

Dan D. Cornett
Access Consulting Group
Vice President
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
ph: 867-668-6463
Fax: 867-667-6680
Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca
Web: www.accessconsulting.ca



WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION

**CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT
CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT**

**APPENDIX C
Public/Community Consultations**

February 2006

Nichole Speiss

From: colette [colette@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2005 12:22 PM
To: Nichole Speiss
Subject: FW: Western Silver Corporaiton - Public Open House Notice, February 16th, 2005



Newspaper Ad.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: colette [mailto:colette@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: February 10, 2005 9:54 AM
To: Bob Jackman
Cc: Dan
Subject: Western Silver Corporaiton - Public Open House Notice, February 16th, 2005

Dear Mr. Jackman:

Please find attached a pdf file containing a notice of Public Open House for Western Silver Corporation's Carmacks Copper Project, on Wednesday, February 16th, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

It would be very much appreciated if you could post this notice for public viewing.

If you have any questions, please contact me by Email, or by phone at (867) 668-6463.

Thank you,

Colette MacMillan
Office Manager
Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2V3
Tel: (867) 668-6463
Fax: (867) 667-6680
colette@accessconsulting.ca

This transmission is directed in confidence solely to the addressee, and may not otherwise be distributed, copied or disclosed. The contents of this transmission may also be subject to solicitor-client privilege and all rights to that privilege are expressly claimed and not waived. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by telephone at (867) 668-6463 and delete this transmission from your system.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



Western Silver Corporation will be holding a Public Open House in Carmacks to provide an update on their Carmacks Copper Project.

- When: Wednesday, February 16, 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Where: Village of Carmacks Recreation Centre

Come out and hear about this exciting project
Everyone is Welcome to Attend
Refreshments will be served

Project Description

- Located some 43 km northwest of Carmacks, Yukon
- Reserves 13.3 M tones at 0.97% Copper
- Mining rate 5000 tonnes/day ore at 23000 tonnes/day waste (strip ratio 4.6:1)
- Three stage crushing
- Mine life a minimum of 8.5 years.
- Mining equipment similar to Brewery Creek operation
- Heap leach with solvent extraction electrowinning (SXEW)
- Leach pad loaded 230 days/yr, leached 365 days
- Acid consumption approx 20 to 25 kg/tonne of ore (120 tonnes acid per day)
- Heap solution operates at pH1.2
- Total raffinate to heap – 540 m3/hr; half to SXEW
- Manpower 120 personnel at 7 days/week – 12 hour shifts
- Projected to produce 30 to 32 million pounds of copper annually in the form of pure copper
- Requires 6.6 to 7.8 MW power
- \$6.6 million spent on exploration, engineering and environmental assessment in preparation for a production decision
- The leach pad site and preliminary road alignment was cleared in 1997.
- Current copper price is near US \$1.32 per pound.
- All preparatory aspects of the project, with the exception of environmental screening and permitting are now complete.

Critical Components for Economic Decisions

- Power (Availability & cost)
- Acid (Generation, Production and cost)
- Copper price
- Business Cycle (Capital market strong – advantage)

Project Schedule

- Complete Project Description and initiate environmental assessment – March 1/05
- Continue community consultations and EA review – April – September/05
- Regulatory hearing - Yukon Water Board – Dec/05
- Assess Business cycle for Production Decision - 2006

Socio-Economic Benefits

- Jobs/Capital Investment
- 120 mine personnel
- 136 direct project related jobs
- 60% (82) of the jobs are expected to be local – people moving into Carmacks area
- 40 dwellings expected in Carmacks – gradual increase
- \$20-25 million per year in Yukon Economy
- Company supports Sound Environmental Standards for the Yukon
- No significant environmental effects

LSCFN First Nations

- Opportunities for employment at the mine
- Opportunities for supplying services to the project on contract, both during construction and during operations
- Opportunities to partner with the First Nation community for training, including apprenticeships, to qualify for employment at the mine
- Build a strong business relationship with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation throughout the life of the William Creek project



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

#3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3

PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

February 16, 2005

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Prepared by: Dan Cornett/Nichole Speiss, Access Consulting Group

Re: Meeting Between Village of Carmacks Council, Western Silver Corporation, ALM Group, and Access Consulting Group on February 16, 2005

Attendees:

Village of Carmacks Council & Administrative Staff

- Ed Larkin, Mayor
- Stuart Harris, Councilor
- Elaine Wyatt, Councilor
- Cory Belmore, Councilor
- Bob Jackman, Village CAO

Western Silver Corporation

- Jonathan Clegg, Project Manager

ALM Group

- Clynt Nauman, President, Technical Advisory to Western Silver Corporation

Access Consulting Group

- Dan Cornett, Environmental Assessment Manager, for Western Silver Corporation

Notes:

- Introduction:
 - Western Silver Corporation
 - Project Description Information
 - Socioeconomic/Community Issues
 - Consultation
 - Project Newsletter & copies of open house posters distributed

- Questions
 - number of jobs?
 - % local hire?
 - hiring for jobs – where?project schedule/timing?
 - access bypass – GY or Village of Carmacks?
 - ore model? cut off grade? 0.25 – 0.3%
 - equipment size? 100 tonne trucks, truck and shovel operation
 - local equipment operators?
 - competitive benefits – LSCFN / Village of Carmacks
 - continued communication with Village of Carmacks
 - project information to be posted on Access Consulting Group website



WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION

CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT - PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

February 16, 2005 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CARMACKS OPEN HOUSE VISITOR SIGN-IN

Name	Affiliation/Address
ANDRÉ FORTIN	DYNAMIC SYSTEMS
Dennis Mitchell	Recreation Coordinator
Kevin Brewer	EMR, Mineral Development
Stuart Van Bibber	EMR, Mineral Development
Rob Walker	ECO. Development Association Branch
Mike Vance	Administration Dept's LSEFN



CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT – PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
February 16, 2005 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**CARMACKS OPEN HOUSE
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

We would like to hear from you about the Carmacks Copper Project. If you wish, please take a few minutes to provide comments to us.

Comments

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO WESTERN SILVER'S PROPOSED PLANS AT CARMACKS COPPER, WE INVITE YOU TO CONTACT:

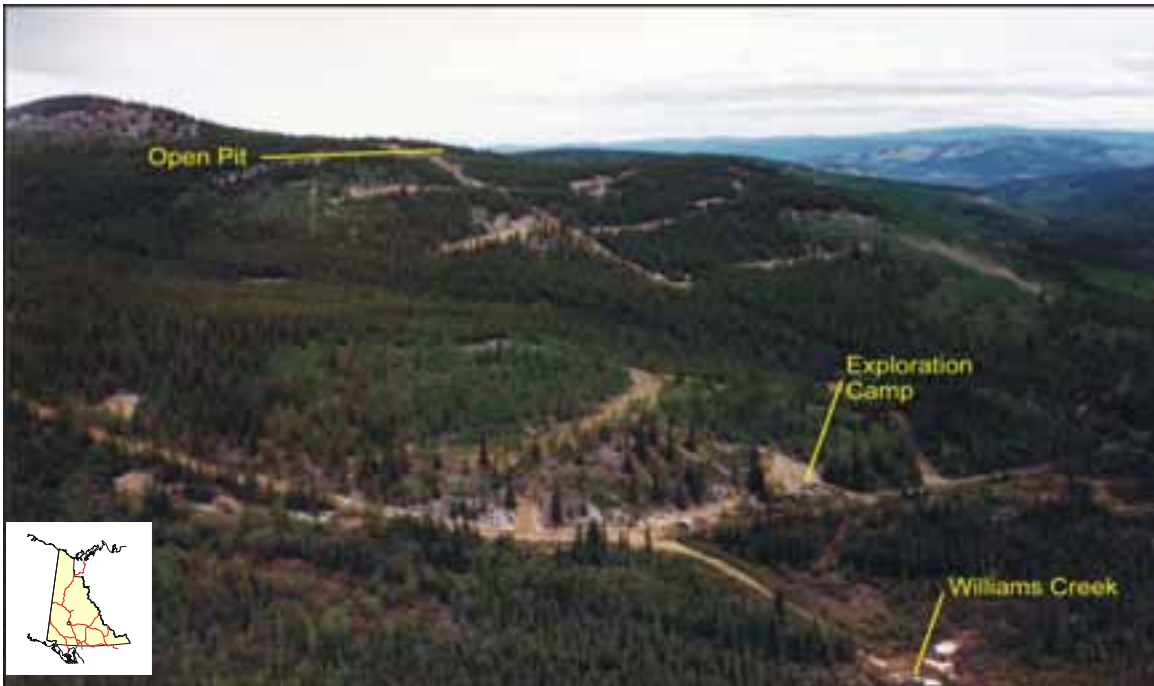
Dan Cornett
Agent for Western Silver
Access Consulting Group
Tel: (867) 668-6463
Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca

Jonathan Clegg, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Western Silver Corporation
Tel: (604) 641-2774
Email: jclegg@westernsilvercorp.com

Thank you for providing your comments. Please drop the form off at the Public Open House Comments Box, or mail it directly to Dan Cornett, Access Consulting Group, #3 - 151 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2V3, or fax it to (867) 667-6680 Attention: Dan Cornett.



PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT – OVERVIEW



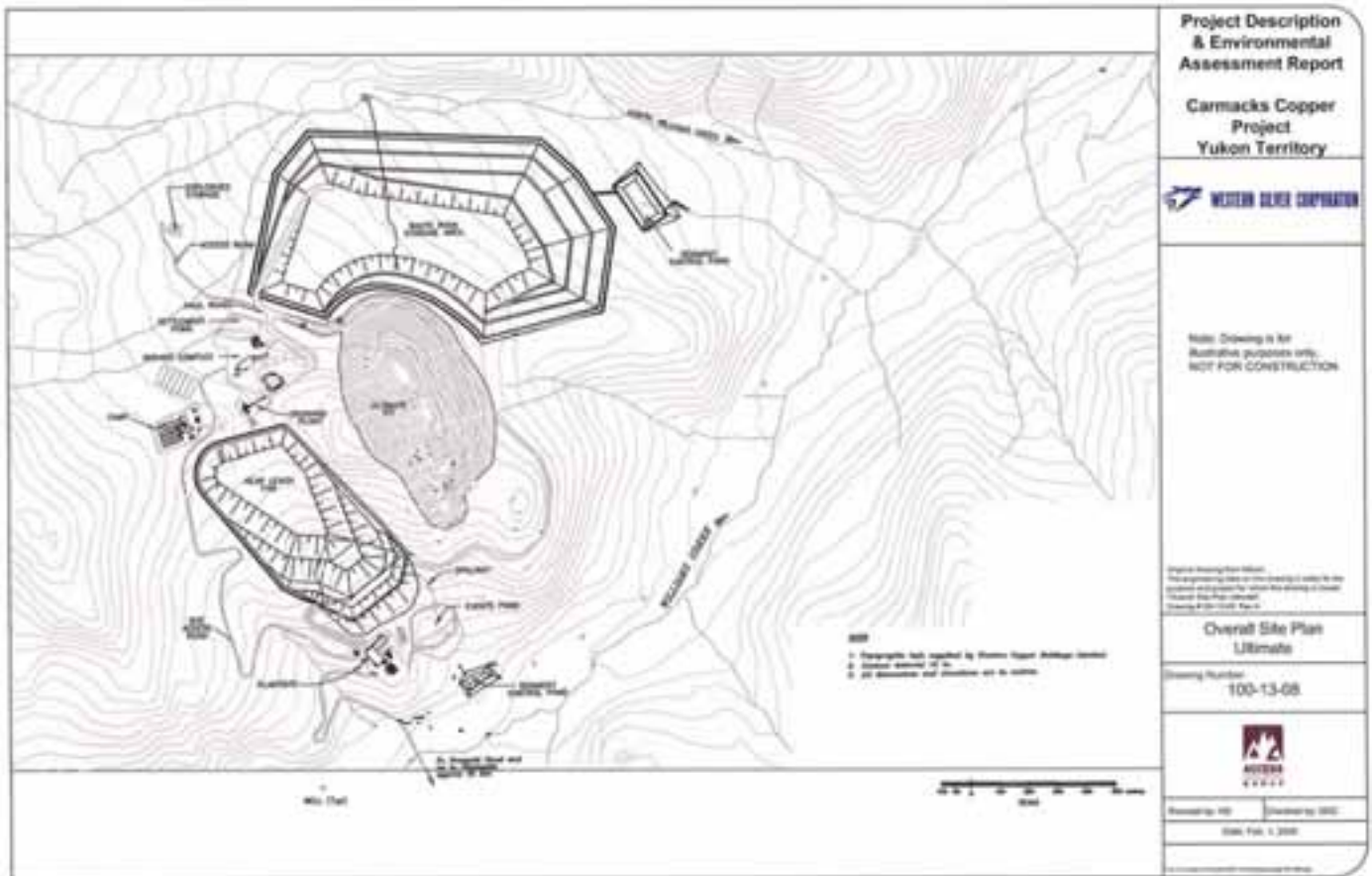
Carmacks Copper Project Area

- The Carmacks Copper Project is located 46 km by gravel road (Freegold Road and an exploration trail) northwest of Carmacks in Yukon
- The project site is located within a group of mineral claims covering 1,000 ha.
- Deposit has 13.3 million tonnes of mineable reserves at an average grade of 0.97% total copper. Active mining is estimated to be for eight years.
- The open pit mine will have a stripping ratio of 4.6 tonnes of waste to 1 tonne of ore (4.6:1).
- Copper in solution will be recovered from the oxide ore by acid heap leaching of crushed minus 19 mm, agglomerated ore.
- The project will treat oxide ore to produce 14,310 tonnes of copper cathodes per year, at a recovery rate of 80%.
- Pregnant leach solution (PLS) will be treated in a solvent extraction electrowinning (SX/EW) plant to produce high purity copper cathodes for shipment via truck to the ice-free port of Skagway, Alaska.
- Mine operations will be carried out using conventional mining equipment.
- Crushing and heap leach pad loading will take place during 200 days of the year (early summer to late fall). Ore leaching will continue year round.
- The process facilities, ultimate leach pad, open pit and waste rock storage will occupy an area of approximately 100 ha.
- Water supply for the project will come from wells in the Williams Creek Valley and make up water from local settlement ponds
- Other site facilities will include: offices, changehouse, operations camp, gatehouse/first-aid; work shops/warehouse and laboratory; water supply and distribution system, power supply, fuel storage, acid storage, sewage treatment, and communications system.



PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT – OVERVIEW

- Power will be generated on-site by 5 x 1.6 mW modulized diesel generators complete with heat recovery equipment. Alternatively, Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) may supply power to the site via a transmission power line.
- Sulphuric acid required for the heap leach will be produced on site from commercial 120 tpd contact catalytic plant using sulfur trucked to the site.
- Off-site infrastructure includes: 13 km of property access road (which has already been cleared and grubbed), and project administration offices and warehousing in Carmacks.
- After mining ceases, the heap will be leached for two years, covered with an evaporative transpiration soil cover, and decommissioned. In-situ biological treatment will be undertaken in the heap to assist in stabilization of metals. Active water treatment may be required for a period of time to reach effluent performance standards; however, a long-term passive treatment (infiltration gallery) is proposed for final closure.
- The waste rock storage area and heap will be resploped, covered, and revegetated. Site infrastructure and hazardous materials will be removed from the site and reclaimed.



Western Silver Corporation
 # 1550 – 1185 West Georgia St.
 Vancouver, BC V6E 4E6
 Telephone: (604) 684-9497
 Fax: (604) 668-4670
 Website: www.westernsilvercorp.com

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO WESTERN SILVER'S PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT WE INVITE YOU TO CONTACT:

Dan Cornett
 Agent for Western Silver
 Access Consulting Group
 Tel: (867) 668-6463
 Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca

Jonathan Clegg
 Project Manager
 Western Silver Corporation
 Tel: (604) 641-2774
 Email: jclegg@westernsilvercorp.com

Western Silver Corporate Information:

- Publicly traded mineral exploration company focused on discovering and developing silver properties in the Americas.
- Internationally recognized for technical ability.
- Listed on the American (AMEX:WTZ) and Toronto (TSX:WTC) stock exchanges.
- Member of the Mining Association of Canada.
- Western Silver is the 100% owner of 206 claims on the Carmacks Copper property.
- To take advantage of higher copper prices, Western Silver is moving the Environmental Assessment and permitting process to completion so that development can proceed in a timely basis.

Carmacks Copper Project Scope:

- Proposed open pit copper mine and solvent extraction and electrowinning (SX/EW) processing facility.
- Orebody is located in the Yukon Territory northwest of the Village of Carmacks.
- Deposit contains an open pit mineable reserve of 13.3 million tonnes.
- Project will include an open pit, acid heap leach and copper extraction facility, waste rock storage area, soil stockpiles, event pond, drainage ditches, sediment control ponds, roads, construction camps, and miscellaneous facilities to support mining operations.



Western Silver Commitments:

- Committed to sustainable development, including protection of human health, the natural environment and a prosperous economy.
- Protect the safety of its workers, conserve natural resources, and minimize the impact of its activities on the environment.
- Diligent application of appropriate technology and responsible conduct at all stages of exploration, mine development, mining, mineral processing, decommissioning, and reclamation.
- Evaluate, plan, construct, and operate all projects and facilities to reduce adverse environmental impacts and to meet or exceed applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards.
- Where applicable regulations are absent, the Corporation will apply cost effective best management practices to protect the environment.



(Source: Copper Project 2006)

Carmacks Copper Project

Project Components

- Waste Rock Storage**
- 3.5 million tonnes waste rock produced per year
 - Storage capacity of 60 million tonnes over 20 yrs

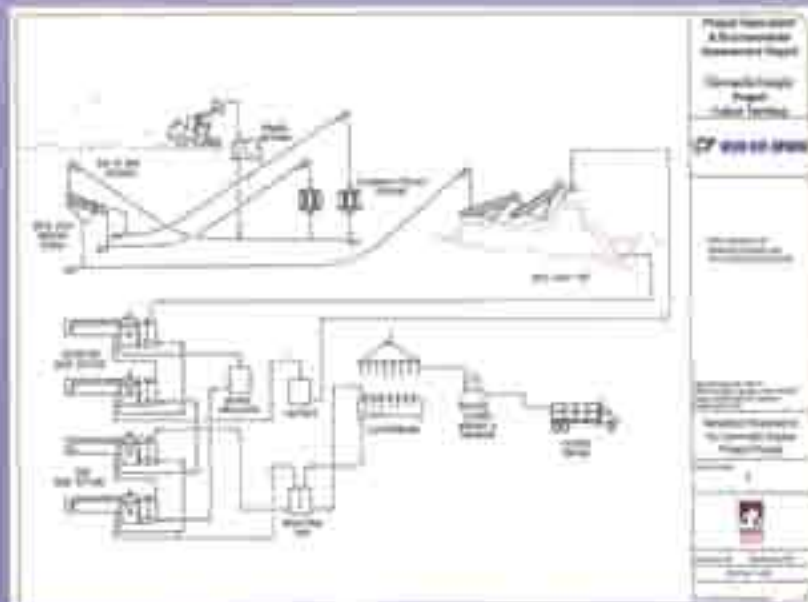
- Heap Leach**
- Provides access to the open pit, waste rock storage area, and heap leach facility

- Heap Leach Facility**
- Leaching will occur 365 days/year for 9 years
 - Solutions from the leaching of the ore is collected and conveyed to the events pond and/or process plant via gravity flow solution pipes

- Process Facility**
- Copper extracted from the ore using heap leach technology followed by solvent extraction and electrowinning (SX/EW) for the recovery of copper

- Copper Oxide Open Pit Mine**
- 12.2 million tonnes of immediate reserve
 - 8 year mine life

- Events Pond**
- Designed to provide additional storage for peak stormwater events or when the process plant can not accept solution
 - Connected to the heap leach pad via gravity flow solution pipes
 - Storage capacity of 110,000 m³

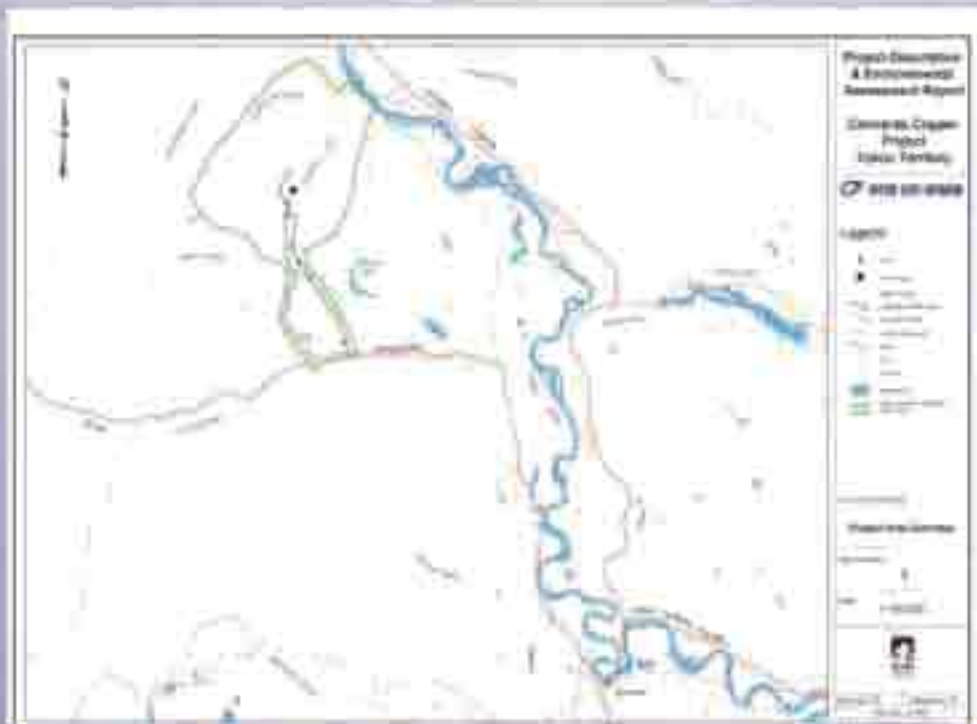


Carmacks Copper Project

Environmental Assessment Study Area



- The project area is located 35 km northwest of the town of Carmacks.
- Site is accessible by an existing 13 km exploration road that leads north from km 11 of the secondary, roadless (Hoopold Road) from Carmacks.
- Specific objectives proposed for the assessment of biological environment, physical environment, cultural land uses, and heritage resources are defined in the Environmental Assessment Study Area.
- Socioeconomic and economic effects is assessed in a regional context, including Carmacks and the Yukon Territory as a whole.
- Study area encompasses all new infrastructure including the access road and waterways in the downstream footprint from the mine.



- Study area is within the Yukon Plateau Central Ecoregion and characterized by subdued topography.
- Study area is located in the Williams Creek watershed.
- Williams Creek Valley and Nancy Lee Creek are the main features in the area.
- Traditional Territory of Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and the Selkirk First Nation.
- First report of copper made in 1847, claim first staked in 1870.



Williams Creek valley view



Williams Creek





Study Activities:

Activities undertaken to complete the environmental assessment for the Carmacks Copper Project are based on previous studies undertaken by Western Silver (Western Copper Holdings Ltd.) These studies are directly related to the proposed project.

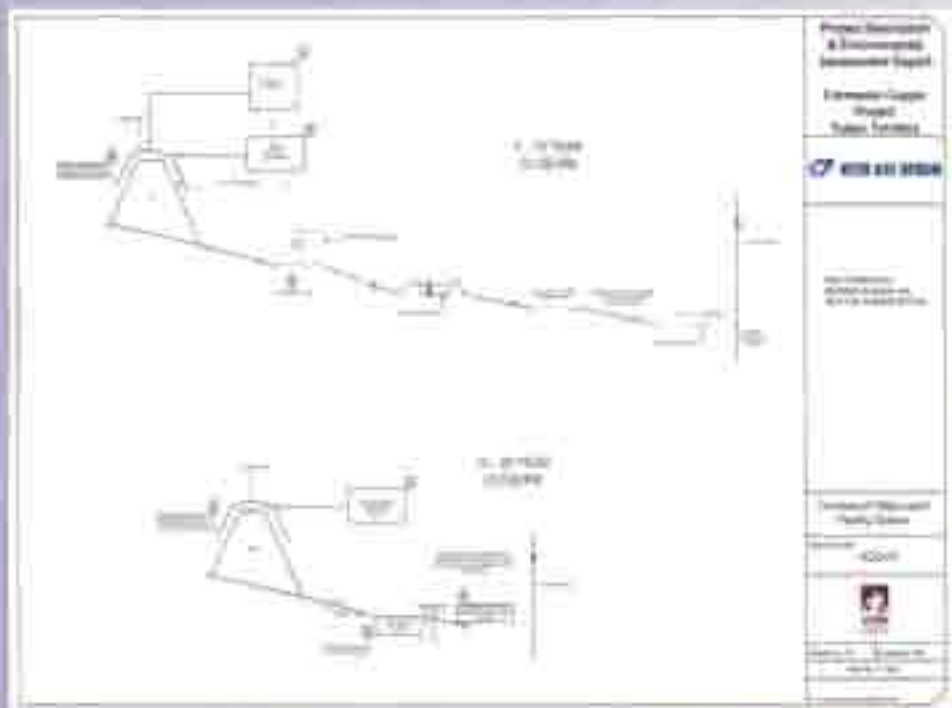
- ▶ climate
- ▶ terrain/soils/permafrost
- ▶ hydrology
- ▶ fisheries
- ▶ vegetation
- ▶ wildlife
- ▶ archaeology/traditional use
- ▶ current land use
- ▶ community consultation
- ▶ engineering designs
- ▶ metallurgical tests and pilot plant

Activities involved literature reviews, interviews, and field surveys as necessary. The results of the activities will be included in the environmental assessment and permitting documents to be submitted in support of the project. Anticipated environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures for the study area will be identified.



Carmacks Copper Project

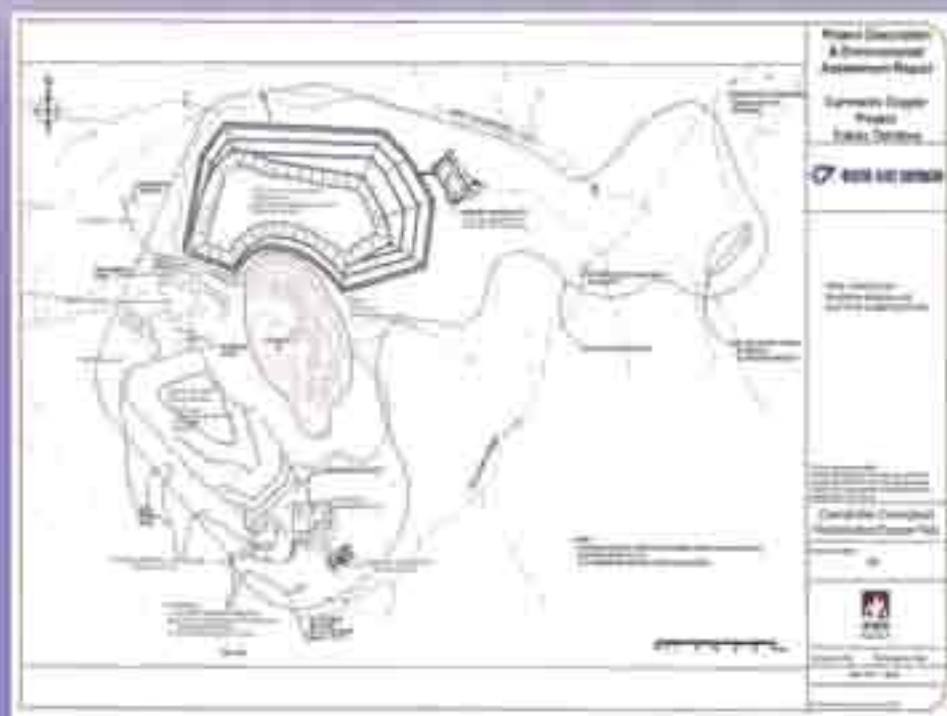
Conceptual Reclamation / Closure Plan



OVERBANKS (CLOSED)



OVERBANKS (CLOSED)



- Overbank/stockpile used for reclamation
- Slope will be graded and covered with overbank and revegetated
- Inorganic and hazardous materials removed from the site are reclaimed
- Effluent from the heap will be treated for reuse
- Monitoring and maintenance will continue to demonstrate decommissioning and closure success



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

#3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3

PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

February 16, 2005

OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY NOTES

Prepared by: Dan Cornett/Nichole Speiss, Access Consulting Group

Re: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Open House on February 16, 2005

Notes:

- Approximately 12 community members participated in the open house;
- Five large posters displayed present key project and environmental information;
- Key team members available to discuss posters and respond to questions;
- Project Newsletter distributed;
- Visitor Sign-In on hand to record public participation;
- Comment Sheets available to fill out or take away;
- Questions raised on economic and employment benefits and opportunities;
- Visitors advised of preparation of the assessment report, and the opportunities for public review and comments;
- Visitors interested in fisheries resources in Williams Creek and measures to protect them;
- Visitors advised that national environmental quality guidelines would be adhered to ensure protection of downstream resources;
- Many questions surrounded the EA review process and opportunities for community input;

Nichole Speiss

From: Nichole Speiss [nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 3:50 PM
To: Bob Jackman
Cc: 2Dan Cornett
Subject: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project - Newsletter and Posters



Western Silver Carmacks Copper... Western Silver Carmacks Copper...
Bob,

Please find attached the Western Silver Corporation proposed Carmacks Copper Project newsletter and posters that were distributed yesterday during public consultations in Carmacks. I trust you found the file folder containing copies under your doormat this morning!

Thanks,

Nichole Speiss, BSc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
tel: (867) 668-6463
fax: (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

Nichole Speiss

From: Nichole Speiss [nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2005 10:57 AM
To: Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting
Cc: 2Dan Cornett
Subject: RE: Carmacks Copper Project Reactivation

Hello Tim,

Western Silver Corporation's "Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report for the Carmacks Copper Project, Yukon Territory" can be viewed at:
<http://www.accessconsulting.ca/projectscurrent.htm>

Regards,

Nichole Speiss, B.Sc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
tel: (867) 668-6463
fax: (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting [mailto:tim@yukonsheep.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2005 11:27 AM
To: 'Nichole Speiss'
Subject: RE: Carmacks Copper Project Reactivation

Hi Nichole

Thanks for the map. It helps. I don't currently see a problem but I appreciate you contacting me and I would like to be kept informed of what is going on in the future.

Tim

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: May 10, 2005 10:08 AM
To: Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting
Subject: RE: Carmacks Copper Project Reactivation

Hello Tim,

The Carmacks Copper Project is not accessed by the ferry at Minto, but via the Freegold Road in Carmacks (33 km) and an existing exploration road (13 km). Please see the attached figure showing the location of the project area in relation to the Village of Carmacks. Note that this figure is in draft format as the report and its figures have not been finalized and are subject to change.

The Carmacks Copper Project is being reactivated, however, the proposed mine was never operational. Extensive exploration and baseline data collection has occurred at the site and clearing began in 1997 before the project was shut down.

Regards,

Nichole

-----Original Message-----

From: Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting [mailto:tim@yukonsheep.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2005 9:28 AM
To: 'Nichole Speiss'
Subject: RE: Carmacks Copper Project Reactivation

Dear Nichole

Thanks you for the heads up on the project. I assume that this is reopening an existing mine. Not starting a new one. Is this the mine that is accessed by the ferry at Minto?

Tim

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: May 9, 2005 12:56 PM
To: tim@yukonsheep.com
Subject: Carmacks Copper Project Reactivation

Hi there,

My name is Nichole Speiss and I work for Access Consulting Group here in Whitehorse. I understand that your outfitting concession (#13) falls within the area Western Silver Corporation is proposing for the Carmacks Copper Project. The project site is located on Williams Creek, 8 km west of the Yukon River, and some 38 km northwest of the Village of Carmacks. I am contacting you to make sure you are aware that the project has been reactivated. A Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report, which will be submitted shortly, identifies Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting as holding the outfitting concession in the project area. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact myself or Dan Cornett here at Access Consulting Group.

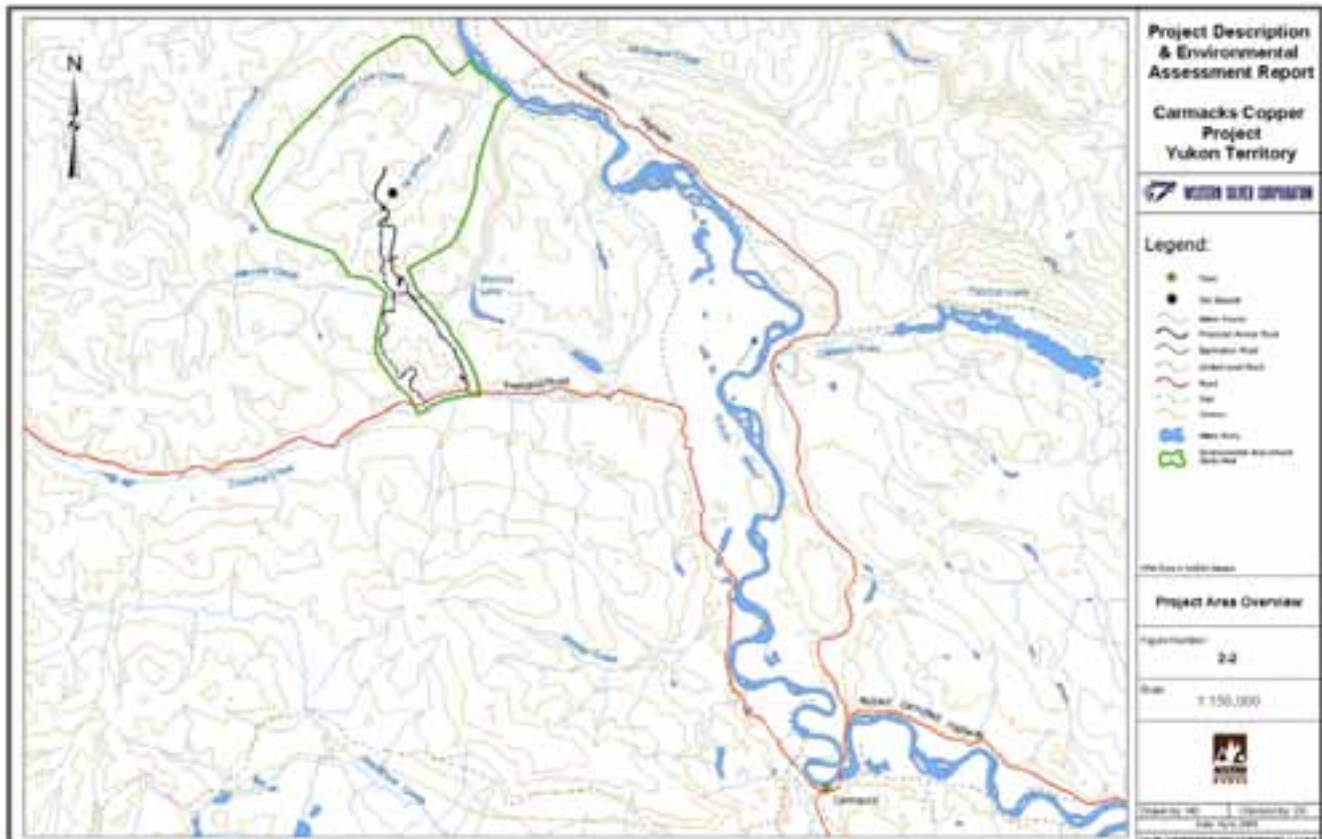
Regards,

Nichole Speiss, BSc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
tel: (867) 668-6463
fax: (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca



PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT – AUGUST 2005 UPDATE



Project Overview

- The Carmacks Copper Project is located 46 km by gravel road (Freegold Road and an exploration trail) northwest of Carmacks in Yukon.
- The project site is located within a group of mineral claims covering 1,000 ha.
- Deposit has 13.3 million tonnes of mineable reserves at an average grade of 0.97% total copper. Active mining is estimated to be for eight years.
- Long term copper demand appears favorable – provides an opportunity for Western Silver Corporation, their shareholders, local First Nations and communities, and the Yukon Territory to benefit from project development.

Project Status

Western Silver

- June 2005 – Western Silver submitted Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report to YG for review.
- Continue to work with YG, and the local First Nation and community on the project status.

Yukon Government

- YG to coordinate the Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Yukon Environmental Assessment Act (YEAA).
- Project will undergo a Comprehensive Study in accordance with the YEAA.
- Further public and LSCFN consultation planned to determine the review process and gather comments on the project.



PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT – AUGUST 2005 UPDATE

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and Village of Carmacks

- February 2005 – Project reintroduced to the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and Village of Carmacks; both expressed continued interest in the project and working with Western Silver to advance the project.
- February 2005 – Western Silver hosted an open house in Carmacks to allow for public input on the project; discussions mainly focused on economic and employment benefits and opportunities. Community members were encouraged to see Western Silver reactivating the project EA.
- Further meetings are planned to provide project updates to LSCFN and community members as well as allow the LSCFN to be an active participant in the EA process.



Copper Ore Collection for Pilot Plant



Open Pit Section



Open Pit Area

The Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report for the Carmacks Copper Project is available at:

<http://www.accessconsulting.ca/projectscurrent.htm>

Western Silver Corporation
2050 – 1111 West Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC V6E 4M3
Telephone: (604) 684-9497
Fax: (604) 669-2926
Website: www.westernsilvercorp.com

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO WESTERN SILVER'S
PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT WE INVITE YOU TO CONTACT:

Dan Cornett
Agent for Western Silver
Access Consulting Group
Tel: (867) 668-6463
Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca

Jonathan Clegg
Project Manager
Western Silver Corporation
Tel: (604) 684-9497
Email: jclegg@westernsilvercorp.com

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 4:13 PM
To: Nichole Speiss
Subject: RE: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Newsletter - August 2005 Update

Hi Michole,
No problem, I'll send it out to the YERC distribution list along with my Carmacks Copper Stakeholders list.

Cheers,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: August 17, 2005 3:23 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Subject: FW: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Newsletter - August 2005 Update

Hi Shane,

I sent out the email below earlier this afternoon - would you be so kind as to forward the attached Newsletter to your distribution list?

Thanks much,

Nichole

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 2:26 PM
To: Bob Jackman; Susan Davis; William W. Dunn; Willard Phelps; Clynton R. Nauman; Brad Thrall
Cc: Jonathan E. Clegg; 2Dan Cornett
Subject: Western Silver Carmacks Copper Newsletter - August 2005 Update

Hello there,

Please find attached for your viewing pleasure an updated installment of Western Silver Corporation's Proposed Carmacks Copper Project Newsletter.
This document is also available on ACG's website:
<http://www.accessconsulting.ca/projectscurrent.htm>

Best Regards,

Nichole Speiss, B.Sc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre

Carmacks Copper Project Yukon Territory



Legend:

- Yukon Quest Trail
- Town
- Ore Deposit
- Water Course
- Proposed Access Road
- Exploration Road
- Limited-used Road
- Road
- Trail
- Contour
- Water Body
- Environmental Assessment Study Area

UTM Zone 8 NAD83 Meters

Location of Yukon Quest Trail

Figure Number:

1

Scale:

1:150,000

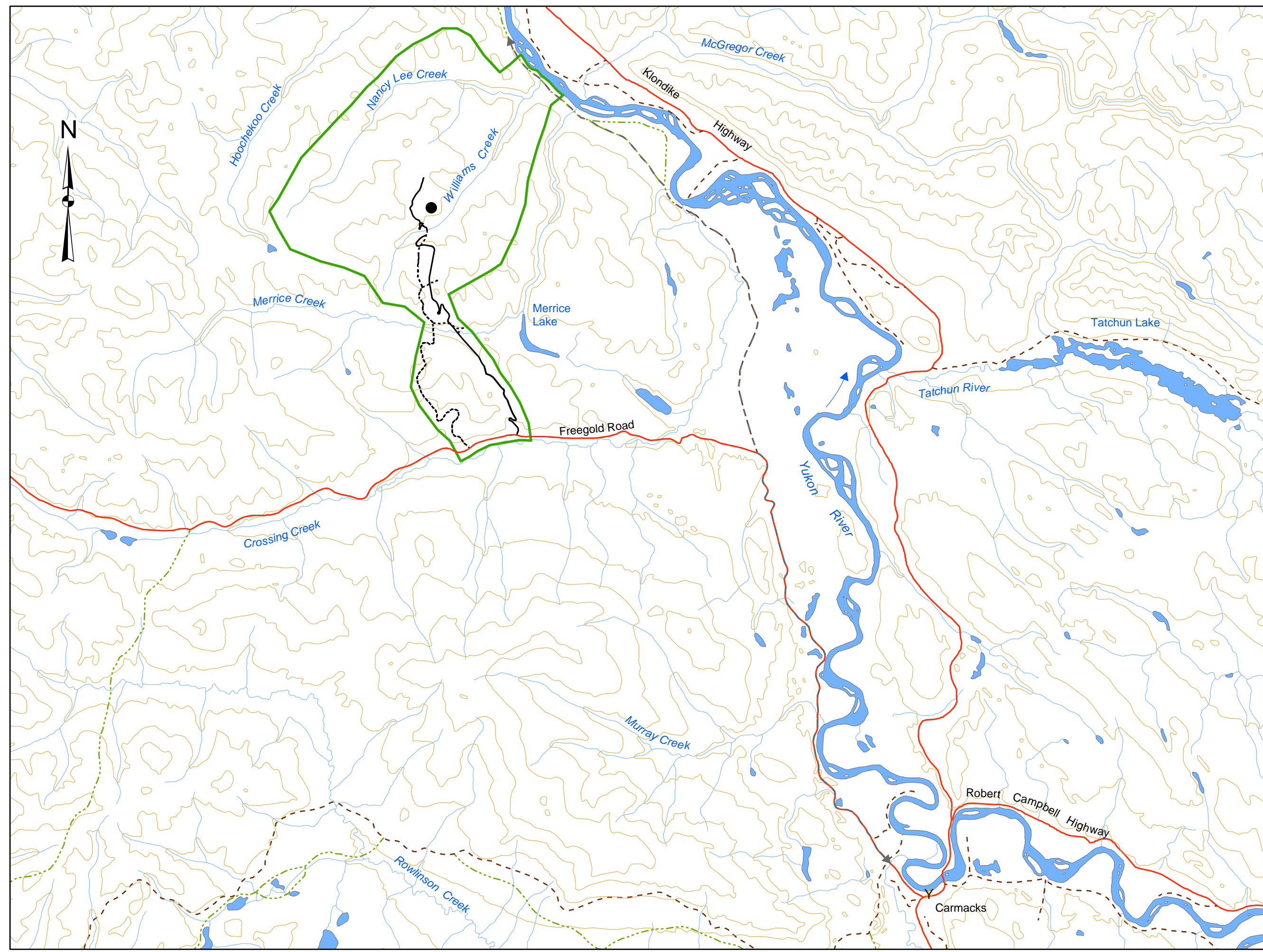


Drawn by: HD

Checked by: DC

Date: November 2005

Our File: D:\Project\AllProjects\WCH-01\gis\mxd\Fig2_2_OV_QUEST.mxd





WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION

**CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT
CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT**

**APPENDIX D
YERC Meetings**

February 2006



YERC MEETING AGENDA

9:00 am

**Wednesday, February 16, 2005
Elijah Smith Building – Room 3A**

Approval of Minutes – Rob Walker

New YERC Chair – shared between Rob Walker and Derek Fraser

Project Updates

- **Wolverine** – Derek Fraser
- **Minto** – Derek Fraser
- **Icy Waters** – Shane Andre
- **Yukon River - Dawson City Bridge** – Rob Walker
- **Tulsequah Chief** – Rob Walker
- **Western Sliver** – Rob Walker

- **Other** – Anyone?

- **Potential Future Projects** – Anyone?

Emerging Projects/Issues/Updates

- **YESAA Update** – Diane Gunter
- *Open floor*

Y.E.R.C.

FINAL MINUTES

**FEBRUARY 16, 2005
Elijah Smith Building
300 Main Street, Room 3A
Whitehorse, Yukon**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Boyd	LABERGE RRC
Diane Brent	EMR-CORPORATE POLICY
Jonathan Clegg	WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION
Dan Cornett	ACCESS CONSULTING GROUP
Derek Fraser	ALTERNATE CHAIR / YTG / DAP
Dean Gill	SELKIRK FIRST NATION
Darin Isaac	LAND MANAGER SELKIRK FIRST NATION
Sue Kemmet	YUKON CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Randy Lamb	YTG ENVIRONMENT
Jeff O'Farrell	DAP BRANCH
Sandra Orban	DFO
Todd Pinkess	YTG EHS
Rachel Pugh	DAP BRANCH
Rob Walker	CHAIR / EA PROJECT MANAGER
Patricia St. Jean	SECRETARIAT

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:05 A.M.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: January 19th, 2005 was the last meeting for former YERC Chair Ian Church. Rob Walker and Derek Fraser will alternate as Chair every three months. Round table introductions. Review of Agenda. Chair Rob Walker noted that the agenda was adjusted so Jonathan Clegg, Western Silver Corporation and Dan Cornett, Access Consulting Group could speak to YERC this morning. There are community meetings with the First Nation and an open house at Carmacks on the Western Silver project.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES & REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Reviewed the minutes and action items from the last YERC meeting January 19th, 2005. No revisions to the minutes. Approval of the minutes with no revisions.

3.0 CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

#01-01-05 Randy Lamb will send Rob Walker an email, Re: Yukon Government's submission on Tulsequah Chief, e.g. in relation to caribou - had a couple of sit-down meetings and discussions.

MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT REVISION

4.0 PROJECTS UPDATES

4.1 WESTERN SILVER

JONATHAN CLEGG PROVIDED AN UPDATE:

- Western Silver is a relatively new name. It was changed from Western Copper in 2003, primarily to reflect the new corporate direction in the exploration of silver properties, rather than copper properties.
- That reflects the two other projects we have in house at the moments besides Carmacks. One is the Peñasquito Silver Property in Mexico, which has been the main focus of the company for the last five years or so. Second, they have a portion of the San Nicholas Project in Mexico, which is a joint venture with TECK.
- In addition, they have a couple of exploration properties, also in Mexico, which are silver targets, haven't done much exploration yet but will be targeting those after Peñasquito.
- A relatively small company, publicly traded on Toronto, and AMEX in the USA.
- Have a staff of about 10 people in Vancouver and about 20 people in Mexico helping with the exploration work at Peñasquito.
- Given the way things are at in the Yukon at the moment, they felt it would be an appropriate time to get back into the reassessment work on Carmacks. They spent quite a bit of energy and money trying to develop it in the mid-to-late '90's. With the precipitous drop in copper prices around 1998, they decided there were better things to do and let the project slide a little bit.
- Now, the copper price is back up and the atmosphere seems to be right to take another run at this. So, for the last little while, Western has been working with Access Consulting and a couple of other consultants to pull together a project description, which they hope to be in a position to submit within the next few weeks.
- Based on that, they hope to reinitiate the Environmental Review Process.

DAN CORNETT ADDED:

- Bill Dunn has probably already briefed YERC on this file.
- A project agreement that Western and the Yukon Government are developing for the project. Follows what's in the guidelines for major mining projects, a template for that.
- Trying to complete the project agreement, which is basically providing a framework and guidance for the assessment; hope to have that signed off in the next little bit with the Yukon Government.
- As a component of that project agreement, they've also been working with the Yukon Government to develop performance standards and criteria for the project. They relate to such things as water quality standards, standards for the heap leach pad and waste rock storage.
- That performance standard document would form part of the project agreement and used to assess the project against. Want a common understanding between the company and government as to the performance criteria that companies that have to meet. Those would be the minimum criteria that we would be looking at.
- Background to project description: this project has had a fair history in relation to it. It came in under EARP, went through CEAA, and then the company, as Jonathan indicated, parked the project in 2000.
- Intending to come back in with a project description and environmental assessment report (a combination of the two) to meet the requirements of the new assessment legislation.
- A lot of the information is out there now; are intending to submit a project description that is not going to represent all the information but basically summarize it.
- For example, there are detailed geo-technical reports that the company is not going to spend a lot of time recasting old information because that information is still there.
- Will spend a bit more time and more effort on the EA side of things. There are a few design changes in relation to the heap and some rethinking on closure and reclamation.
- The Project Description will focus on things that are new and bring the project forward in a complete package, project description and the assessment. There is a wealth of information in existence on the project already.
- In terms of public consultation, there has been a fair amount of background work with Yukon Government in relation to developing the Project Agreement and Performance Standards. The company's intent is to try and meet the spirit of upcoming and pending YESAA legislation; want to ensure they have gone out into the community and talked to the community before they submit a project description. Actually heading up to Carmacks today to meet with Chief and Council from Little Salmon Carmacks and the Village Council and holding a public open house tonight to let people know what is going on. It's the first opportunity let people know that the

company is back in the assessment process and reactivating the project.

- Emailed Chair Rob Walker a project summary that they will be handing out at the open house. Contains a picture, map, and highlights information that will be handed out at the meetings so people know what the project is.
- **[APPENDIX A: Western Silver Corporation Proposed Carmacks Copper Project – Overview]**
- Company is in early days in relation to getting the project reactivated, getting the project description prepared so that it can be submitted to trigger the assessment; will be communicating about the project again in more detail.

4.1.1 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - WESTERN SILVER

Q DEREK FRASER: In relation to, like you suggested, the wealth of information that exists on this file, that won't all be included in the project description and the EA report, but will it be easily accessible to people?

A DAN CORNETT: The intent is to actually go back. We've already gone through your public registry to make sure this information is actually there. Looking to have a number of the documents copied and made into PDF files so that we can have them all digitalized electronically. The intent is to have the material available on CD so that people can have access to it.

Q DEREK FRASER: That's actually really important, nothing will slow things down more than people saying, "Well, we don't have the information."

A DAN CORNETT: Exactly! No, we understand that, but there are box loads of reports. There is some information that is relevant, and we will reference that. Some of that report may not be, because we've updated it but there is a component that is relevant. The intent is to guide people through the Project Description and say, "If you want to see this information, look at this particular report. It's all there." We've tried to refresh the information so that people don't have to dig too deep unless you really want to get into something specific. Say it's an archaeological report or something, we'll summarize what's there but go to the report for all the details of the information. So, that's really how we're trying to handle it.

C RANDY LAMB: I just want to say, too, that I think it's a good move, a good gesture, to do that in the spirit of YESAA or as Yukon Zinc called it yesterday: "EAA-plus". That was their term for it.

C DAN CORNETT: No, we are very sensitized to that. Granted it, a lot of the framework for how they'll do their assessment is not well known. We all know, as an example, you look at the socio-economic side of things and try and take a stab at it as best we can in relation to it, but the intent there is to at least look at it in that light.

C JONATHAN CLEGG: Given that we had progressed so far with the project previously, we had quite a bit of contact with First Nations around Carmacks. We felt it was important to let them know that we were back in town, not just have them read about it in the newspapers.

Q TODD PINKESS: Is there a camp established now, a site?

A JONATHAN CLEGG: No.

Q TODD PINKESS: Do you have a target date for construction?

A JONATHAN CLEGG: Right now, no, we don't have a target date. We have to take into account this review process, which we're still just beginning to enter. We really don't have a firm timeframe in mind for the review process; and what follows on from that will determine the target date to be established for production. There are a lot of things that will go into that besides just the review report. Obviously we'll be looking at capital expenditure, and, given the fact that we're developing another project at the same time, that will play into it, hopefully the markets are supportive as they are at the moment to develop the mines. But we will be looking at those closer to the end of the review process.

C DAN CORNETT: My target is we are looking to try and have some types of authorizations late 2005-to-early 2006 - water licensing. By 2006, the company expects to be in a position to make further decisions regarding how they want to move the project forward and what sort of timeframe can be arranged.

Q CHAIR ROB WALKER: I'm a bit curious about the general opportunities of the company overall. You were mentioning Peñasquito.

A DAN CORNETT: Yes.

Q CHAIR ROB WALKER: Is that in the development phase, or how would you characterize that?

C JONATHAN CLEGG: We're studying it at the moment, and we're aiming to complete a feasibility study by about the middle of the year. There is detailed information available on our **Website:** westernsilvercorp.com. It's a large silver-zinc-gold and lead deposit. Actually there are two deposits close by in a region in the northeastern corner of the state of Zacatecas, which is north and central Mexico. It's in a study phase at the moment. The economics look very good. The permitting process looks very good. Our target for that is fairly clearly established once we have the permits and we have the feasibility study in hand, then we intend to move forward with development of that property.

The San Nicholas one is a little more difficult. We are a minority partner in a joint venture with a large company like TECK. Their priorities drive that project, not ours. At the moment, it's parked.

Q CHAIR ROB WALKER: And do you have any other interests in the Yukon?

A JONATHAN CLEGG: Well, we don't at the moment in terms of hard targets but the company has taken a look at the information that has been presented on United Keno, and we've been mulling that over. I can't sit here and tell you that we like it or we don't like it, but we're certainly giving it some serious consideration in house. It would certainly fall into the silver company category. We wouldn't have to change our name again.

If anyone is interested, they can get in touch with me through Access's office, by phone or email. If Rob wants to pass on my email address, phone number, I'll be happy to chat.

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: Well, I'd like to thank you very much for coming and speaking with us.

C JONATHAN CLEGG: Thank you for the opportunity.

4.2 MINTO EXPLORATIONS

DEREK FRASER UPDATED:

- In October 2004, Minto applied for some amendments to their quartz mining and water licenses. The amendments were a 10-year extension of both of them, because they expire on December 31st 2006. Another one was a change of corporate address. In the context of the water licence amendment application, a closure plan has been submitted for the site in its current state; and there was a monitoring program attached to that plan, submitted in November of 2003 as a condition of the water licence.
- The amendments are quite small. The amendment request with a cover letter was circulated to YERC at the end of November with a December 22nd or 23rd deadline for comments. There was very little interest in the file. Got some comments from Environment Canada in the context of the Metal Mine Effluent Regulations and how they believe they should be reflected in the amended water licence, which is more of a licensing issue than an environmental assessment issue.
- There was a fairly comprehensive screening done of this project under EARP-GO, which was the predecessor to CEAA, in 1997. Dusted off that old screening and went through the mitigation measures one-by-one and updated them to reflect the current state of government in the Yukon. Some departments have changed names since then. DIAND's role is no longer due to devolution.
- A few issues fell short in the licensing context, not in the environmental assessment context. There were a few mitigations in the screening report that never really found their way into any licenses, namely around heritage resources and wildlife issues. That's not really an environmental assessment issue. That's up to the regulators to address when they look at their respective licenses.

- Will have a draft screening out very soon, certainly encourage anyone who is interested in looking at it or meet to talk.
- Last time it was sent around, the level of interest was quite minimal.
- Has yet to sit down with Selkirk First Nation on the file and definitely will do that before anything is finalized.
- No environmental issues have been identified.
- There is a road to the property, which is being properly monitored and maintained. The mine has never been built.
- The level of interest is quite minimal.

4.2.1 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - MINTO EXPLORATIONS

Q DAN CORNETT: Derek, were you actually looking for a response from Minto on some of the comments that you've received to date? Do you want a formal response from Minto?

A DEREK FRASER: That's left to Minto's discretion. They can comment on anything they choose to. About the only comments we received in writing were from Environment Canada. Once again, it was a discussion of how the amended Metal Mine Effluent Regulations will apply to this site. Now, the Metal Mine Effluent Regulations, under the *Fisheries Act*, are laws of general application. In fact, there is even a clause within the *Yukon Waters Act*, which says that when any regulation under the *Fisheries Act* is amended, the water licence is thereby amended to incorporate them. It's peripheral to environmental assessment. It's a licensing issue. That's been my view on it, because MMER only applies to mines in production. There is a definition of what they consider "production" right in the regulation. It will apply to the site, and that's a given, and that was a given whether Environment Canada had sent me that letter or not. So, if they want to respond, I will leave it up to them, or you might choose to wait until there is a draft screening to look at.

4.3 WOLVERINE

DEREK FRASER UPDATED:

- Draft information guidelines are circulating to YERC for comment, with February 25th, 2005, as a deadline by which point will be finalized and issued them to the company. The guidelines are based on the generic EA guidelines for major mining projects, which are now readily available on EMR's website, with some additional site-specific issues.
- Are not asking for more detail, just emphasized a few issues on the site that may be of concern. It's a sulphide deposit so there are geo-chemical issues and tailings management issues.
- In the spirit of DAP Interim Measures, with the agreement of Yukon Zinc Corporation, we have scoped social and economic considerations into the review. That was done with the agreement

of the company. Definitely think it is the way to go in the current context.

- Interested in any and all comments or concerns that people may have with these draft guidelines. Careful to make sure that everybody got them; if there are some people who did not receive them, please let Derek know.

4.3.1 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - WOLVERINE

Q RANDY LAMB: We've got them. I had a question. After that meeting yesterday with Pamela, her e-mail bounced back to us perhaps because she's a new staff person for Yukon Zinc.

A DEREK FRASER: I haven't tried to e-mail her yet. They've changed their e-mails from, it was their first initial, their last name at, it used to be Expatriate, now it's Yukon Zinc. Wait a couple of days and then just follow it up with a phone call. That would probably be the best thing. She just started officially yesterday. Thanks for raising that Randy. Yukon Zinc has hired an environmental point person. He name is Pamela Ladyman, a lot of experience with mining projects. She worked on Voisey's Bay. I'm quite happy that we have a contact at the company exclusively for environmental assessment and licensing issues.

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes, I would comment to those departments that are exploring more fully how they are going to be responding to issues like socio-economic effects under YESAA and so on, that there's an opportunity with these guidelines to be circulating them within your department to see what kind of response you might get. It's sort of a way of helping you guys explore, within your own departments, how you will be looking at socio-economic effects down the road to practice.

C DEREK FRASER: It's a new way of thinking for all of us. I did a fair bit of research on information guidelines from other jurisdictions that do scope socio-economic issues into their assessments. We'll try to take the best from each, and we'll use them as examples. Like I said, don't hold back. I don't take criticism personally as long as it's constructive.

Q TODD PINKESS: Can you send some of that information on my way, the other jurisdictions?

C DEREK FRASER: They're mostly hard copies. I can do that.

C TONY PINKESS: Because we're in a bit of a quandary at Health and Social Services with the role that they play in those assessments. They haven't staffed those positions yet. She's putting it back to the Government that we need staff and resources to do that because I'm just a Health Inspector. So, it's beyond my scope, a lot of this stuff. It's just the public health aspect of these camps for the most part.

C DEREK FRASER: What I have is basically similar to what is circulating. There are other information guidelines from other jurisdictions. How

their respective government departments have responded to them, I really can't tell you. Probably a good starting point would be to talk to your counterparts in the NWT, possibly who have been working, looking at socio-economic issues for quite a while now under their respective legislation, and see how their departments at Health and Social Services are involved in the process. That part I can't help you with. It's something we're hearing quite a bit in the YESAA context, that departments are not resourced for these additional responsibilities.

Q DIANE BRENT: Derek, actually I was going to call you later on this; but it might be of benefit to the group to ask you now and get the answer. In the guidelines for the Wolverine Project, the socio-economic guidelines, I recognize some of it potentially coming from the Blue Book and some of it having been CEAA wording. I'm just wondering if you could provide us with some of the context around how you arrived at those specific guidelines for that project?

A DEREK FRASER: Basically what CEAA and by extension EAA have always required is that we look at socio-economic issues as a result of environmental changes. We're taking that one step further, and we're looking at them regardless of the direct result of environmental changes. So, a lot of the CEAA guidelines that we had in the Blue Book and whatnot were relevant and you'd say, "Okay, they don't only apply to results of environmental changes. They just apply to the project in general;" and then, particularly on the economic front, we were a little bit short there, and based on my research, I've come up with some additional criteria on the economic front to look at.

Yes, like I said, it's new for all of us. It's taking what we have, tweaking it to this new context, doing some research, finding out what other people are doing, talking to them. We got a lot of useful information at our workshop two weeks ago, although these were largely done before that. So, there may be some further changes yet. But the reason they get sent around for people to look at is that a whole group of people looking at these things will have suggestions to improve them over basically what I can do sitting at my desk.

Q DIANE BRENT: Has the YESAA Board provided any input on that? Probably not, eh?

A DEREK FRASER: No, I've sent them a copy of the draft. They are very much focused on their own process and getting the rules developed, their offices staffed and that kind of thing.

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: Just for context and just to be clear, this project was submitted in early November before the transition date for YESAA, November 13th, so the assessment is being done under the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* wherever it's triggered.

C DEREK FRASER: Yes, we don't have a CEAA trigger anymore. We thought we did but we don't, so it's exclusively under EAA. As we discussed at great length last fall, I hate to use the word "grand fathering" but the grand fathering provision to get a project locked into EAA was to make application for the

licenses before November 13th and that was done for this project. There was a Water Licence and a Quartz Mining Licence application submitted.

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, what it means here is the company and the Yukon government, at the company's request, I understand, have agreed to go beyond what is the strict smallest sense of the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act* and to include the socio-economic issues; but this isn't a case where this project is then going to transfer under the auspices of the YESAA Board. So, even if we're doing a good job on socio-economic effects and it's different than what the YESAA Board is going to do in the future, it won't in theory be an issue. This one would complete under EAA.

4.4 ICY WATERS

DISCUSSION:

Q CHAIR ROB WALKER: Were you at those Water Board Hearings Randy?

A RANDY LAMB: I made it the first morning, and that part went fairly well, and then I heard the afternoon of the next day, it got a little more intense. The only thing I can add to that is I understand there was a letter from our department that went over to Icy Waters, just saying that we are going to try to work with them on a common goal. I'm not sure if I've seen that letter or not, but it was a positive letter, because Icy Waters was concerned they weren't getting any support, and the Water Board also viewed that. That was brought up at the meeting.

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: Any questions?

C DEREK FRASER: Hopefully they won't reconvene.

(No audible response)

4.5 DAWSON CITY – YUKON RIVER BRIDGE

CHAIR ROB WALKER UPDATED:

- Progress is continuing on the development of the Dawson City bridge project. There has been more design work done.
- The location, the basic design of the bridge, and the height of the bridge are pretty well known. There has been some concession regarding the height of the bridge by Transport Canada in recognition of the heritage values, in addition, recognizing that boats would be able to pass under the bridge when one would not be able to dock anywhere along the river because of flooding.
- There has been additional work with the community now looking at the architectural things that can be done to minimize the profile and vision of the bridge.

- Various groups are looking at sending letters about ancillary things such as the road that goes up to the Top of the World Highway is shared by skiers, skidoos, dog walkers, commuters, trucks and cars in winter and summer, so they want a path beside it so people don't get run over by the traffic.
- Now that the location and main concepts of the bridge are in place, there is work being done on how to actually build the bridge and keep Dawson functioning, keep the ferry functioning, stage materials and access quarry materials all at the same time. There's a lot of work being done developing those. That's one area where there is potential for environmental effects so that's one of the pieces required before the assessment can be completed.
- There are further Open Houses planned and further discussions with the community later in February.

4.6 TULSEQUAH CHIEF

CHAIR ROB WALKER UPDATED:

- Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada have circulated a Supplemental Draft Screening for public review. Comments are due on Friday.
- Yukon Government has been working to coordinate some response to this.
- Although the project is predominantly in B.C., some of the ore haul is through the Yukon, and there would be some road reconstruction required in the Yukon.
- More of our focus has been on how the Yukon Government is going to deal with the work in the Yukon and what will the Government be doing to mitigate impacts of the project in the Yukon.
- It is still very high profile project on the national scene, in that there is a lot of interaction between First Nations and ministers of Canada

4.3.1 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - TULSEQUAH CHIEF

C DEREK FRASER: There is a fair amount of interest in this project.

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: Mostly from First Nations and B.C. and transboundary organizations, some Alaskan groups.

5.0 OPEN FLOOR - FUTURE PROJECTS

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Are there any other projects that people are aware of that they would like to update the committee on?

(No audible response)

6.0 POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

CHAIR ROB WALKER: At this point we have a discussion of any heads up of projects that some of you might have heard are coming down the road that will have resource requirements to assist people in scheduling their work loads over the next period. I'm personally not aware of any new projects coming in the near future.

6.1 DUBLIN GULCH PROPERTY

DEREK FRASER UPDATED:

- There is some renewed interest in the Dublin Gultch Property, I don't know where that will ultimately go.
- There have been discussions between Strata Gold, which is an offshoot of Yukon Zinc Corporation. There have been discussions with senior level people in EMR, but nothing has trickled down, but there is a renewed interest.
- Dublin Gulch was a project that was under assessment prior to devolution. The project was submitted in 1996 or 1997. It was in the system for quite a while. In 2000 there was a draft comprehensive study under CEAA put out for review, and there was some issues raised with that draft comprehensive study that the company, at the time, was unwilling or unable to respond to. They verbally asked the Yukon Government to put that EA on hold. They never backed it up in writing.
- A lot has happened since then with devolution and changes to CEAA so it will be interesting.
- No idea what the legal status of that previous assessment is currently.

6.1.1 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - DUBLIN GULCH PROPERTY

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: So it got a good way through the assessment to a point where there was a report written, but the assessment wasn't completed and no licenses or permits were issued.

6.2 UNITED KENO HILL MINES

CHAIR ROB WALKER UPDATED:

- There is work going on regarding the sale of UKHM. Should there be some transfer of ownership of UKHM that would inevitably probably trigger some kind of assessment work, depending on what the plans were in relation to that.

6.2.1 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - UNITED KENO HILL MINES

Q DEREK FRASER: Are there any timeframes around that, any deadlines?

A CHAIR ROB WALKER: No, but the sale is on now. I'm not sure that's the right terms for it, but notification has been put out by the receiver, and people have been visiting their offices in Vancouver, going through the data and making inquiries regarding the project. I'm not sure when that closes or what would happen after that.

6.3 WATERFRONT – CARCROSS AREA & FOUR MOUNTAINS RESORT

CHAIR ROB WALKER UPDATE:

- There are things like the waterfront work that we are anticipating coming in somewhere in the future.
- Four Mountains Resort is still awaiting other developments in the Carcross area.

7.0 EMERGING PROJECTS, ISSUES, AND UPDATES

7.1 YESAA UPDATE

RACHEL PUGH UPDATE:

- I've got an update from Diane Gunter where YESAA is at right now.
- **[APPENDIX B: YERC YESAA UPDATE FROM DIANE GUNTER – FEBRUARY 16, 2005]**
- **Regulations:** Fall 2005 Target Date for the regulations to be enacted.
- The tripartite work is being completed, and the timing for the regulations to be “blue stamped” into the federal review process is by April 1, 2005.
- **Training:** Two workshops recently, both very well attended with good feedback. A CD will be developed for both of those workshops and distributed, with the presentations and a highlight of the outcomes of each. Both of those areas felt there was a need for future potential workshops to further define and refine their relevant issues.
- **YESAB:** The Board is currently working to prepare and get set up for when YESAA comes into full effect. The Board is working on a second draft of the Designated Office Rules, which will go through a public review sometime this spring.
- A multi party committee has been formed, consisting of representatives of the Board, YG, DIAND and CYFN to review transitional project issues and to begin to work through some of the more general and technical process issues with technical staff from all four organizations. That has high-level, bi-weekly themes, and they will start meeting March 3, 2005.

- There is a call out for interest in the seventh federally-appointed Board member now in the paper.

7.1.1 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS - YESAA UPDATE

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: If anyone is interested, apparently that YESAA Board position will be about a week a month of work if anybody is interested give me a call.

Are there any questions on YESAA?

(No audible response)

8.0 OPEN FLOOR

C CHAIR ROB WALKER: It's nice to see folks from Selkirk First Nation come in. I don't know if there is anything particular that brought you here today, but it's good to see you. It's an opportunity to help us to build our communications that are going to be really important as we get into the YESAA world.

Thank you very much.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



YERC MEETING AGENDA

**9:00 am
Wednesday, June 15th, 2005
Elijah Smith Building – Room 3A**

Approval of Minutes – Rob Walker

Project Updates

- **Carmacks Water Supply & Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Facility – Dan Cornett & Greg Bull**
- **Western Silver/Carmacks Copper – Bill Dunn**
- **Yukon River Dawson City Bridge – Rob Walker**

Potential Future Projects

- **Any?**

Other

- **IAIA update – Rob Walker**

Emerging Projects/Issues/Updates

- **YESAA Update – Diane Gunter via Christine**
- **Permit Guide Update - Christine Smith**
- **YERC *The Next Generation* – Rob Walker**
- *Open floor*

YERC MEETING
9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 15, 2005
Elijah Smith Building - Room 3A

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rob Walker, Chair	DAP Branch
Bill Dunn	EMR – Mineral Development
Nina Lindley	Environment
Christine Smith	DAP Branch
Shane Andre	DAP Branch
Patricia Randell	DAP Branch
Sandra Orban	DFO
Scott Herron	Environment Canada
Mike Kenny	CS/PS
Fred Jennex	CS/PS
Jeff Boehmer	Community Services, Community Development Branch
Diane Brent	EMR - Energy & Corp Policy

OTHERS:

Greg Bull	G.J. Bull & Associates Inc.
Dan Cornett	Access Consulting Group
Joyce Bachli, Secretariat	Mega Reporting Inc.

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:03 a.m.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: It's nice to see everyone here. First why don't we just go around the table, there are some faces that we haven't seen lately, and introduce ourselves.

(ROUNDTABLE)

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 18, 2005

CHAIR ROB WALKER: The first thing are the minutes from the last meeting. Does anybody have any comments or changes they would like to those; or can we go ahead and approve these minutes?

CHRISTINE SMITH: I think I've already made minor changes, just based on what Diane Gunter had said. Under where I'm speaking, it says "205", and really we just wanted to make it clear that it is "2005".

(Representatives from Environment and CS/PS arrive; roundtable)

CHAIR ROB WALKER: We were just going through the minutes from the last meeting and wondered whether there were any changes or whether they were fine as they are.

NINA LINDLEY: No problems.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: We don't often get a lot of changes to them. Usually we know by now.

Today we're going to go through the meeting. I see on the agenda there is a review of several projects that are underway. Then we'll have an open door about future projects that might be coming up that would help people plan ahead a little bit; a little review of a conference on impact assessment, and then, looking at emerging issues, looking to the future, I guess, towards where we are with YESAA. There is a product here that we hope will be helpful actually in this current environmental assessment world and the next. Then we talk about what should be the future of this committee. It was designed and developed, actually modelled under the *Environmental Assessment Review Process* and has been adapted to work under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act*. We can see over time that it seems to be that our meetings are getting shorter and fewer people are coming. As we are going into a new world, we would like to talk about that a little bit at the end and see what people think is needed to make a better process. So, our guests, Dan and Greg, are welcome to stay and throw their ideas into the hat, too.

DAN CORNETT: Thank you.

3.0 PROJECT UPDATES

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, maybe we'll start with Dan and Greg. They're here to mention about the first two projects.

3.1 Carmacks Water Supply & Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Facility - Dan Cornett & Greg Bull

DAN CORNETT: Okay, thanks, Rob. I've got some handouts here that we can pass around.

(Tabled: *Village of Carmacks Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facility Integrated Environmental Assessment Report*)

DAN CORNETT: This is on the Village of Carmacks and the EA Report that was submitted on that. What I have done here is basically extracted

some materials from the Environmental Assessment Report. We're just going to use these as speaking points to lay out an overview of the whole project, and people can follow along with that.

Just by way of background, both Greg and myself have been working directly with the Village of Carmacks on looking at their water and wastewater and coming up with an updated design for their treatment plant. Greg was leading that file, working directly for the Village of Carmacks.

This spring shall we say there was a "changing of the guard"; and the Village, in discussion with Yukon Government Community Services, Jeff Boehmer, agreed to take on the formal design and building of the new wastewater treatment plant for the Village of Carmacks.

On that front, Yukon Government issued a Request for Qualifications, looking to find companies that could actually do a design-build and operate for the Village of Carmacks. They had two proposals come in from that request. I can just go through the companies here. There was a consortium of Ketz Construction, Skookum, Earth Tech Engineering, Quest Engineering and Sani-Firm. Both of these contractors can build SBR plants and MBR plants. The second group was by the name of "Nanson Construction". This is Associated Engineering, Zenon Environmental, Yukon Engineering Services; and they were focused more on the MBR. But fundamentally, you've got two different design-build operators that could meet the qualifications for that.

BILL DUNN: Excuse me, what's the "MBR" and "SBR"?

DAN CORNETT: Oh, sorry, my acronyms, Bill; "Sequential Batch Reactor", it's a water treatment plant, basically a package-type of a plant and the Membrane Bioreactor. So, basically they are stand-alone sort of treatment plants that would treat the effluent and discharge.

To step back a little bit, the Yukon Government's approach on this is to have the companies submit a proposal, and it would be for the design of the facility, the construction of that facility and operation of it; and the intent here is that the design-build contractor would operate it for a one-year period, and then, that would be transferred over to the Village of Carmacks for their operation. So, that's the approach on that.

The other two components that Yukon Government has supporting them on this file would be what's called a "technical advisory team", a "TAT"; and this technical advisory team is intended to provide support to Yukon Government in assisting them, reviewing the design-build proposals, providing detailed comments in relation to how it's working and providing that feedback. Right now there is a Request for Proposals out for that, and the closing date on that is June

29th. So, Yukon Government is expecting to have these proposals in by June 29th for their review.

The last component would be their environmental assessment team, and that would be myself and Greg, working with Community Services to assist them in taking the rest of this Environmental Assessment Report through the EA review and the permitting side of things. So, those are the three components to the project.

We can talk a little bit about the next steps. I have a schedule that talks a little bit about how all these pieces fit together. We'll cover that at the end.

I think it is also worthwhile to note that both Yukon Government and the Village of Carmacks are working very closely on all these contracts and the selection and so on and so forth, with YTG basically providing the technical support and ultimately funding for the construction of the facility.

So, that's a little background as to where we're at. This Environmental Assessment Report here was submitted in mid-April for environmental review. The companion documents that go with it are Greg's predesign report. Both complement the EA Report. This is all the engineering detail that supports that. Both of these reports are available on our website if people are looking for it. There is a tab, "Regulatory Submissions", and we post all our reports on our website. They're available that way, and they're also on Yukon Government DAP website, I believe it's just for the EA Report that is there.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Could you read your web address into the minutes for the website?

DAN CORNETT: Oh, the website is www.accessconsulting.ca. "Regulatory Submissions" is one of the tabs.

That sort of leads us into the project here. The applications that were submitted, along with the Assessment Report, included a Type A water use licence application, a land use permit. We included both the DFO authorization and Nav Waters application, allowing those departments to do their own determination as to whether or not they feel that there are particular authorizations required for it. Those were filed with it, as well.

Fundamentally, the report is looking at a wastewater treatment plant and a disposal system and a water pump test to look at the feasibility for community supply, and I'll draw your attention to this first map here. It's got a project overview. A couple of things worth pointing out on that: the Village of Carmacks -- and I know this is a bit small to look at, but again it's Figure 2 out of the report; we've got the existing sewage treatment plant located along the Yukon River. The proposed wastewater treatment plant disposal system is located to the west

of that. You can see a little red box around these lots that would be consolidated into one lot for the facility. You can also look at the proposed community supply well. This is a location where you would be doing a pump test. And the small red lines that you can't really see are both the water supply proposed for the village, and it goes up to a water reservoir which is sort of on the top of the hill, south of the community. I think it's to assist the gravity-fed or storage to the community.

GREG BULL: Yes, it's there to provide pressure and fire-flow; but again, this is conceptual only. We don't know whether we're going to build this or build something on a lower scale than this.

DAN CORNETT: So, fundamentally, that's sort of the project overview in relation to it. On the wastewater side, we are looking at replacing the existing wastewater treatment plant. It's an extended aeration package plant that has basically exceeded its service life; and the design that was done in the pre-design is based on a 20-year design for a 40-year horizon for that. That's a bit of an overview on that.

Your next figure here goes through some of the details on the treatment plant, and Greg is going to speak to a bit of an overview on the systems that they've looked at and what is being proposed.

GREG BULL: Yes, in this document here, through this study, we looked at just about any potential feasible process that would meet the discharge objectives here; and from that, we did a costing on the core plant, as it were. And through this, if you get through it, you will see that the SBR was favoured, based on capital and annual costs and life-cycle costs. So, in addition, there was the SBR, which is a Sequential Batch Reactor and an MBR, which is a Membrane Bioreactor, extended aeration. There's moving bed bioreaction. There's a whole bunch of processes there.

So, we took the SBR forward on this because of the cost ranking and developed that a little further; and this is what this next one, this process flow diagram represents is the SBR. Now, once the draft was out, the Village wanted to consider the Membrane Bioreactor further. For one thing, the costs were relatively close, and what has happened since then is the industry has got very competitive cost-wise. So, they wanted to consider the MBR, as well; hence the reason for their decision to go to the design-build process, rather than conventionally design and tender, and keep both options open and throw it back to the vendors of the equipment and come forward with a contracting team to design and build the plant.

So, both plants are activated sludge treatment plants. In the case of the SBR, they clarify the water through a decanter. They turn the air off, basically, let

everything settle, and the effluent goes out. It is proposed that UV disinfection for this plant will be installed, and then, it will go out to the river.

In the case of the MBR, the only difference there is that they use a membrane as a clarifier, as it were; and these are used for the water treatment processes, as well as wastewater. Again, the question is whether they need UV disinfection or not, because going through that membrane, they can reduce the fecal coliforms and viruses down to low levels. There is some contention on that, and that will be worked out in the final throes in the detailed design phase.

Both processes will exceed the Village's present Water Quality Guidelines, and if you turn the page over, there's a table there listing the present licence limits; and both processes will exceed those. In other words, it will be better quality than that.

With respect to the detailed design or the engineering design of these processes, you always design so that the plant will produce a better effluent than what is required by standard anyway just as a safety factor; and these plants will have no problem meeting the Yukon Territory Water Board Guidelines, which is basically reflected in the existing Carmacks Licence here.

We undertook modelling of mixing the dispersion in the Yukon River, and this is outlined in this report here, Trillium Engineering undertook that. And the effluent quality that was used in that were these numbers in this table shown here, which would be the worst case situation. That's the existing standards outlined in the Carmacks Water Licence.

The other thing I guess that made the analysis and assessment conservative was that they used the SBR batch discharge, because it will be batched out at a higher rate than, say, the MBR, which is more equalized.

The modelling concluded that the water quality in the river would meet the CCME Water Quality Objectives; and that was, of course, due to the effluent quality and the mass flow of the contaminants and, of course, the high dilution that the Yukon River provides.

On the next page here there are figures showing the outfall, the effluent outfall from the proposed treatment plant through to the terminus in the river. A point to note is that to construct this outfall, there will be a working platform constructed in the dry along the shoreline there at low water. So, to install the outfall pipe up to the wet area, and then, in the wet area, there will be a barge that will do the construction then within the river portion.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Does that get buried in the river by the barge?

GREG BULL: Yes.

DAN CORNETT: Yes, there will be a trench, and then, buried; and the timing for it would be early spring so between I think March-to-April sort of window and/or late fall. When the river is low, you can actually build this working platform sort of in the dry, and then, have a barge or ice, either way, depending on the season, to complete the rest of the construction out into the wet portion of the river; dig the trench, lay the pipe and cover it over. So, it's a timing window in relation to that to mitigate effects on fisheries and that sort of thing.

SANDRA ORBAN: Can you explain "ductile iron pipe"?

GREG BULL: It's a steel type of pipe. It's a type of iron that's very robust, very strong.

SANDRA ORBAN: It's just when I think of "ductile", I think of certain properties.

JEFF BOEHMER: It's an industry name, just like "polyethelene", high-density polyethelene pipe, ductile pipe, PVC pipe. They're all industry standard.

GREG BULL: Yes, it's very robust.

On this drawing, you will see Option 1 and Option 2 for the terminus. Option 1 is at the thalway, in other words, the deepest part of the river. And Option 2 is the centre of the flow, so the middle of the river. And the analysis indicated that going with the shorter pipe to the deeper water; in other words, Option 1, would satisfy and provide just as effective mixing dilution as going to the middle of the river. So, that's what is proposed: Option 1, the shorter length, is being proposed.

FRED JENNEX: Any significant differences in the two options?

GREG BULL: No. You mean, as far as water quality?

FRED JENNEX: Yes.

GREG BULL: No, there are no significant differences.

DAN CORNETT: It's easier to construct.

Thanks, Greg. The next map I've got here, I'm just using it to give an overview of some of the environmental work that was done to support the project. In essence, I'll just highlight some of the things that were done for the project. There was some geotechnical and geophysical work that was done. The

geotechnical work looked at the actual site itself. Boreholes were drilled at the plant site, and we also did borehole investigation along the outfall alignment in the river. No bedrock -- I'm sorry, there was a geophysical survey, as well, in the river. So, this is dragging electromagnetic equipment over the river profile, looking to see if there was any bedrock or types of soils. Both studies confirmed in the river portion and at the treatment plant site no bedrock. It's fundamentally sands and gravels. I think more silts associated with the plant site.

There was a hydrogeological investigation in association with the geotechnical program. Some wells were installed along the plant site. We did hydrology. Northwest Hydraulics did a hydrogeotechnical report, looked at flood protection, flood levels, river scour, ice scour, riverbank erosion. That was also considered and assessed as part of the design. We looked at the climate and summarized what we knew about climatic conditions and ice conditions along the river.

Water quality, which this map shows, the green triangles show the water quality monitoring stations that were utilized for the program. We reviewed all the background, historic water quality data that was available. For example, what we call "Carmacks upstream Yukon River at the bridge" was a Yukon River Basin water quality site that's had water quality monitoring for a significant period of years. That was an upstream station. We summarized that data, brought it into the report and used the existing licence monitoring sites, reviewed that; and then, undertook three separate water quality surveys to document river seasonality quality and along some key points down-gradient established a series of cross-sections across the river and did water quality monitoring at those locations specifically for coliforms, nitrates, chlorides to help Trillium have background information for their modelling; to look at the effects on the river, as well as looking at the Nordenskiold River and the inputs from that and the downstream stations. So, a lot of the information that was collected there was used to support Trillium Engineering's detailed monitoring of the effluent to do the effects assessment in relation to that. Again, the details are in the pre-design report of Trillium's work.

We also did some desktop work in relation to Fisheries, some benthics, mainly on the Nordenskiold and Yukon Rivers. No specific studies were undertaken, however, we did document fish camp locations and other use in relation to our land use exercise, as well.

We documented local vegetation around the area and wildlife. There was a heritage assessment of the treatment plant site. We looked at that to make sure we didn't have any conflicts there. Then we covered off some of the socioeconomic side to a descriptor of Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and the village facilities that are there.

That, in essence, was covering off the environmental conditions for the environmental assessment.

Next is a table that's out of the Environmental Assessment Report, Table 26. This is what I used as a summary of what we consider to be the biophysical or valued ecosystem cultural components for the project; and I'm not going to try and run everyone through this, but fundamentally the things that have come out of this that we're concerned about and came out of the assessment would be groundwater quality and groundwater hydrology in relation to the project; surface water quality and the effects to surface water quality; surface water hydrology from the project, things in relation to alteration of flows and those sort of things; effects on fisheries resources. Probably the last two worth noting are the public health and safety and the effects of the environment on the project, which we looked at.

The components that I just spoke to had an overall significance ranking, using what I would call the five *CEAA* criteria for duration; the extent of the project, the magnitude of the effect, whether the effect is reversible, and the ecological context. We have also added the economic and social context to try and be forward-looking in relation to what we expect under *YESAA*, and then, come up with an overall ranking as to what those effects may be in determining whether or not they were significant.

So, with identification of the effects to those VECs, the mitigation that was proposed, and then, ranking the significant assessment, we're not predicting to have significant effects from the project. Of course, this is just a summary table. All the details are in the report that carry through in relation to that.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: May I ask: In the larger report, then, you have some description or categorization of these different low, medium, high models?

DAN CORNETT: Yes, there is a separate table that describes how we've used that and how we've come up with that ranking. So, that's fully described.

The other components that were done, just to touch on them, for the environmental review: We looked at accidents and malfunctions in relation to the treatment plant and its operations. There was a risk characterization that was completed, as well, to highlight things that may be potential effects on the VECs. There was a cumulative effects assessment that fundamentally was focused pretty much on the VECs that I spoke to earlier: groundwater/surface water quality, air quality and the aesthetics side of the plant operations and human health and safety.

There was an environmental management system, an overview or concept proposed in relation to that, which also included such things as water

quality monitoring as part of a licence for the plant operation and receiving environment and those sorts of things.

The last component that's described in the report is the consultation that took place in relation to this file; and without going into a whole bunch of history on it, there's been extensive work in the Village and Little Salmon Carmacks. Fundamentally, the treatment plant site has bounced around a number of locations. It is described in Greg's report. There were some real initial concerns with some of the sites from the First Nation. They were moved and relocated to basically address their concerns; but suffice to say that the community and First Nation have been involved in this project from the get-go and are supportive of where we're at today.

That's an overview of three inches of paper for you, highlighted down. The last item that I have attached here is a draft schedule. Some of this sort of follows in relation to meetings I had with Shane and Patricia in relation to process, where we are. By hopefully the end of next week, we're going to know who our responsible authorities are in relation to this project and where they stand. Comments that have been received to date, if there are things that we need to respond to or get back to people's questions on, we're prepared to do that. We have made invites to both Water Resources, Environment Canada, DFO. If they want to sit down and have a separate meeting to talk about particular items, we're open to do that, as well, all with the aim of trying to move this project forward.

In terms of the Yukon Government's steps, I've also included this into the schedule, which I spoke to earlier, Jeff, to let people know about the design-build and the TAT, where we are with that. As we said here, the Technical Advisory Team, the RFP is due on the 29th of June. Then YTG and the Village of Carmacks will make a selection on that support team. There would then be a call for a request for the design-build proposal, which is expected to be due by September 1st and selection of a design-build team by September 15th.

The last couple of items I had on the schedule looked at completion of a draft screening report and a review of that, and then, Water Board process. I haven't pencilled in any timing in relation to that. I'd probably pose the question here if we have a sense for it now, and that will certainly give ourselves and Jeff an understanding of timing for this. The timing is fairly critical to Yukon Government and the Village in relation to moving the assessment forward and the licensing process forward so there is a possibility of trying to do some activity here as soon as we can. So, there is a desire to do that as quickly as possible.

I will open the floor up if there are any particular questions on it. Certainly we would be interested in the timing and the schedule side to get a sense of that.

I don't know if Jeff has anything else to add. Jeff is the lead dog on this.

JEFF BOEHMER: Sorry I'm late. For some reason, I had this as 10:00. Certainly, yes, it would be nice to know where we're at in getting through the whole process, getting the water licence and all the other approvals so we can get a sense of that. I was talking to Shane and Patricia.

DIANE BRENT: I guess this would probably be a transition project?

SHANE ANDRE: That's a good question. It depends on when the regs come in. So, I think we are proceeding as normal.

DAN CORNETT: If we have a screening report done by fall, then I'm out of the transition game. And I'll take that as a good thing. There's a whole host of uncertainty that we're not sure about.

SHANE ANDRE: You have to remember now we have to have the authorization issued before the regs come in. So, it's not just the screening report. We actually need a water licence.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: And a Fisheries authorization or whatever else.

SHANE ANDRE: And a Fisheries authorization, as well.

SANDRA ORBAN: I'm not totally sure where that is now, because I wasn't involved in it, but I'll find out.

JEFF BOEHMER: They won't do that, it's my understanding, until you guys complete the screening report.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: That's right, but in terms of --

JEFF BOEHMER: Isn't that kind of a Catch 22?

CHAIR ROB WALKER: No, you complete the screening report, and then, there's a regulatory process; but this transition to YESAA means that it could be caught in YESAA at any date until the final regulatory permit is issued. So, whether you are completed in EAA depends on whether the water licence is issued and the land use permits and so on, not when the environmental assessment is completed; because you can't have those permits until the assessment is completed.

DAN CORNETT: That sounds like another hurdle and a roadblock.

DIANE BRENT: But having the screening report completed prior to the date for YESAA implementation will help.

DAN CORNETT: Oh, for sure, that would be my sense.

DIANE BRENT: Then you just have to worry about the water licensing process.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: But the water licence, at that point, the Yukon Government will have to draft a decision document, --

DIANE BRENT: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: -- based on recommendations from YESAA. So, that would make it a transition project. It's just a case of trying to do a job that's adequate for both. Just do a good assessment, and I can see you've already stepped into looking at social and economic issues and things like that. That's clearly the right way to go.

DAN CORNETT: I think there is a desire from Yukon Government's side to get this thing through before that happens.

SHANE ANDRE: We agree with you on that one.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: That's everybody's desire.

DAN CORNETT: And the reason I bring that up is there are things we've talked about with Jeff and Shane and Patricia in relation to trying to move some of these things along here and streamline it. The board is prepared to play a little bit of ball here in relation to the file, you know. If they can get early notification that they can start their gazetting process, they're prepared to do that. There was some question about whether or not they'll dance with both an MBR and an SBR. I can't have discussions with the board in relation to -- it doesn't really matter, MBR or SBR; when you do the assessment side, here are the numbers you have to meet, the effects and assess them all. It's an inside-the-box sort of thing. Don't get too worried about it. So, we may have to do some more work with the board to let them know that. The timing is a bit complicated in relation to the design-build, because that's actually where the real what I would call "detailed engineering" is going to occur for this. Typically, we're not trying to bring detailed engineering into the board's regulatory process. We have a conceptual design report here or a pre-design, and there is a lot of engineering detail that has gone in here, and that's with the board. Fundamentally it's there.

So again it's a matter of hopefully trying to pull in the same direction on the file.

SANDRA ORBAN: So, remind me, when it's a wastewater treatment plant, it's automatically a hearing on a Type A licence, is that it?

SHANE ANDRE: Yes, it's Type A with a hearing.

DAN CORNETT: Here's the difference: When you're dealing with effluent quality, the board automatically has to hold a water licence **hearing**, but "automatic" doesn't mean "automatic". If everyone sits around the table and says "Yes, here are my comments and recommendations, but I don't want a public hearing," the board can rule, "Okay, we don't need a public hearing," and they won't hold one.

So, if people want to say, "We need to sit here and go through the nuts and bolts of this," then the board will hold a hearing. Typically our strategy on the other side of the table is to make sure that everyone is pretty comfortable with what is going on, the recommendations are there, we know what's happening, we're all supportive of it; and we don't need to go in and spend another six-to-eight months waiting for the board to deliberate after a public hearing. It just takes a lot of time. So, whatever work we can do upfront on the file to minimize the likelihood of that and make sure people are comfortable with it, we're prepared to do that. That's typically the strategy. Not to say we're circumventing the board's process; but if you can save yourself from going into a public hearing, you'll eliminate at least six-to-eight months up to a year off your schedule. And that's pretty critical on these projects, especially this project here.

GREG BULL: In essence, there are two tracks going on here, as this schedule demonstrates; and that is, the screening track that will get to a point that there's a decision. There's the design-build track that's going along here to a point where it's going to be decided which it's going to be, an MBR or an SBR, and that is as early as September when that will be known, which then that would fill that data gap as far as the board is concerned; but in essence, it doesn't matter which it is, it is going to exceed the limits that are necessary anyway. So, that's when both these things will come together and be in the board's pocket as it were or court.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Don't use that word!

DAN CORNETT: I have had some initial discussion with board staff. I mean, they are a little bit nervous, and maybe they don't completely understand the nuances here. "Is it an MBR or an SBR? Which is it they're trying to licence?" Fundamentally, we've got the SBR. Let's go with it. The assessment doesn't matter. We've looked at both of them in relation to it, and it's not going to change that a whole lot.

So, like I say, there is probably some more background work with the board to try and help explain that for them, to say, "Heh, let's get the process

moving. Get your gazetting and make that happen, and here are some options as to how to deal with them.”

So, that’s another detail that we’ll be following up with here.

JEFF BOEHMER: I know I was late, and I apologize for that, but did you go over the fact that we’re replacing an old plant.

DAN CORNETT: Yes.

JEFF BOEHMER: And if anybody here has seen that plant, I mean, this is a huge leap forward. For me, that component of it, the design-build stuff is strictly smoke. I mean, the idea is we’re getting a newer plant, a better plant. The new components to this application are the water system, the water supply, the distribution, the reservoir. The components out in the river, I think, are the new components to this application. The plant, I’m hearing, is gobbling up a lot of time; and that’s not really anything new. We’ve got something that’s really old and worn out. We know it’s going to break at any point. We’re trying to get a brand new one in here, one that is going to last. So, I guess my concern is that we’re focusing on something that maybe we don’t need to put that much effort into, or is there a concern at this table?

DAN CORNETT: No, I don't think -- not speaking for people at the table; but from the assessment standpoint, I don't think that’s really an issue. It’s how we’re bridging that with the board, Jeff.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Well, it could be an issue for both. I would just comment “design-build”, we’ve been grappling with that one in terms of assessment for a while; because the environmental assessment is supposed to be done on the project that’s going to be built. So, we have been dealing with projects that come in with the concept of building a project here. There are six or seven different ways the project could occur. The function, what it’s going to do, all that kind of stuff, everybody understands that, and the need and objectives of the project; but how it’s actually done, it could be done in different ways. So, we’re getting projects put in front of us that have a number of options; and at the end of the day, if we do an assessment that says the concept is fine, then we could end up in court, because the courts have said you can’t just assess a concept. You must assess the project. So, design-builds are becoming challenging, because we’re trying to do the assessments before the bid for the design-build is done. So, there is the potential for the actual project that is being built to be a bit mysterious.

Now, Jeff’s pointed out in this case, 90 percent of the project isn’t mysterious. I think that’s what I heard in terms of the water distribution system --

DAN CORNETT: Footprints.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: -- and the outfall. It's only the plant that's maybe in question.

GREG BULL: I think it's even less than 90 percent, --

DAN CORNETT: Oh, yes.

GREG BULL: -- because if we put those two plants side-by-side and I took everyone through those two plants, I'll bet none of you could recognize the difference. There would be one question about "Well, why is that bar across there and that activated sludge tank, and I don't see one in the MBR." Well, it's because that's the decanter and the membrane filter for the MBR is sitting below liquid level, so you can't see it; and that's the only thing you're going to identify.

The other thing might be, on this issue of UV disinfection, whether you disinfect the system or the MBR. But the buildings will look the same. There will be odour control.

DAN CORNETT: The footprint is the same.

GREG BULL: The primary treatment, everything is going to be looking the same. There isn't that significant of a difference.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

DAN CORNETT: And I would even go further with it; because in my view, a project can be a concept. What you're talking about is an extension of engineering detail in relation to it, what's inside that box. The footprint or the outfall are the same, and "Here's the criteria you have to meet." What's inside that box there is engineering detail, and you have a preliminary level of engineering. There's a lot of engineering detail in relation to it. You may not have the exact same level of detail for an MBR; but fundamentally the footprint is the same, the criteria you have to meet, the outfall. All the details are pretty much there.

SHANE ANDRE: I think in this case it's not an issue, because we know about the technologies; but a lot of times, that idea doesn't work, because we have to assess the technical feasibility of a project.

DAN CORNETT: Fair enough.

SHANE ANDRE: So, the idea of a black box just doesn't work for us. You can tell me what's going to come out of it, but I have to check and make sure that what you're proposing is technically and economically feasible.

DAN CORNETT: Sure, and the way I'd be looking at it on the other side is: You guys put the goalposts up. Here's what we designed to; and the board has effluent discharge standards. They have guidelines, what's in the licence now; and we're saying, "We can design to that standard in any particular way." That's why the assessment basically is there. So, from my standpoint, I agree with Jeff, I'm not going to get hung up on one or the other. The board is thinking about how to deal with it. So, we'll try to work within that to make it work.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes, how we've been trying to approach the design-build stuff on other projects is to conduct an assessment of everything that might happen. The case I'm referring to is the Yukon River bridge. There is a design that's been put forward. It's going for design-build.

DAN CORNETT: Right.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: There are a number of things. Let's say that the team that takes it is going to build that exact bridge. So, that's assessed; no problem; but how are they going to build it? There are different techniques they can use to build it, and that's one of the advantages of the design-build on this is if they come up with creative ways themselves, that's how they can make money off the project out of building the project, and we get a better project for less money. So, the assessment actually has an outline of a whole bunch of different construction methods for actually building the bridge, putting footings down on the bottom of the river and so on. If the team that gets the design-build comes forward and says they're going to use a different method that wasn't included in that package, well they'll have to have an assessment and licensing for that; because they won't have a licence or an assessment that covers that. So, it can be done, but that's how we're doing it.

So, I hear in this case you're proposing two different ways of doing it, and I guess the question in my mind is: Okay, that said; the other part of the design-build thing is if the bidder comes in, and then, says, "Well, actually, we're going to design it somewhat differently," then they need to be responsible in that contract or tender or agreement, whatever -- they need to be responsible for the EA that's required for the changes that have been made. Does that make sense to you, Dan?

DAN CORNETT: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, we're kind of caught here a little bit. We have to be careful to make sure that the project that is actually going to be built is assessed; and in terms of the Yukon River bridge, when the assessment started, there were six location options and several different designs for the bridge. That went to assessment, and basically "Here is the concept of putting a bridge over the river, and here are a bunch of different ways it could occur." You know,

we've been through an environmental assessment. It has come down to the design. Now the Water Board has received that as a package, and that's what has gone out for the current consultation, and that's what the review will be written on, not on all the other stuff, but on the design that's going to be bid on.

DAN CORNETT: Yes, I could see that being important for the board because they're going to issue the permit for it; but from the assessment side, you come in with all manner of options. You assess them all. You have to. That's good EA, assessing the project.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Sure.

DAN CORNETT: But at the end of the day, you're right, what goes into the board -- they want to licence what you're going to build.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: And we want to assess what's going to be built.

DAN CORNETT: Well, I can assess a whole number of things. You don't have to get bogged down on it.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: If you give us adequate descriptions for a whole number of things, we can assess a whole number of things.

DAN CORNETT: That's correct.

JEFF BOEHMER: That's right.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: It's more efficient for everybody to get some focus as much as possible on what's the most likely design.

DAN CORNETT: It's the board who licenses the file.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes, but there are many other players involved in the environmental assessment and licensing than just the board.

DAN CORNETT: Or whoever, whatever regulatory -- those are the guys who do it. You're just assessing a number of things, and you should be looking at all of them.

JEFF BOEHMER: I'm still worried that we're kind of spinning out of control here.

CHRISTINE SMITH: We're saying the same thing.

JEFF BOEHMER: It's not a bridge. It's a small building in a small town, and it's like buying a car. The exterior of the car is going to look the same.

The building is going to look the same. It's just a question of whether we put in a certain order of components that go this way or a certain order of components that go this way. It's the same process.

SHANE ANDRE: We're not having any problem assessing the project, so we should move on.

JEFF BOEHMER: I mean, we can provide pictures. It's standard stuff that's been used for the last 30 years. You know, we've come down to two options that we're working with the Village of Carmacks, and they're saying, "Heh, what's it really going to cost? Which is the best option for us?" I don't see it as being that complex. It's really a small building in a small town with some piping and some pumps and some valves and whatnot. Maybe I'm missing it. Yes, it's going to be a little sleeker, and it's going to be a little cleaner-looking for a while; but ultimately in the end, it's still the same people operating it. It's sewage effluent treatment. There isn't very much room for options. The pipe that goes into the river is going to go to the same spot. All the internal piping coming to it, it's the same place. The building is going to be in the same place.

The only options are really more on the water distribution side, as to whether that well will work or whether it will go here or there or wherever and whether the reservoir goes at the top. There are more options that way than there is really for this building. The building is still going in the same spot. Am I wrong, guys?

DAN CORNETT: No.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: No, and I did say that it sounds like most of the stuff is really well defined; but I'm just trying to be clear about what the EA process needs to do and how these are challenging, because there are other projects that we're all involved in that are going to get caught up in the same process.

JEFF BOEHMER: Well, I appreciate there's due diligence and you want to do the best job you can, but we're not really trying to provide you with a whole cast of options. We really only have one option. It's just there are two components inside it, whether it's SBR or MBR.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes, and I guess I'm pointing out that we have to do a full assessment of both those options unless we can get an indication of which option is the one to go forward with or unless the environmental assessment process helps you select which of those two options.

JEFF BOEHMER: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: But maybe the choice is just based on cost if you believe that both of them can equally meet the requirements, and it's quite likely, as you say.

JEFF BOEHMER: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: This isn't rocket science technology.

DIANE BRENT: And Jeff makes a good point about projects, if they're to replace infrastructure that has poor design and that's ailing, it needs to be treated differently than putting something in where there was nothing before. It's not like you're putting in a new bridge where there was none. In this case, it's the replacing of existing infrastructure, and the existing infrastructure needs to be treated as part of your baseline; and as such, when you're bringing in new, better-designed infrastructure, which has less impact on the environment, that's an improvement. So, that needs to be considered I think when we're doing the EA. You can't treat it as something brand new where there was just pristine wilderness, for instance.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

SCOTT HERRON: I've got a couple of questions I'd just like to get some clarifications on. One is that the project description contains allowances for bypass discharge of effluent in emergency situations, and I'm wondering what the definition of the "emergency situations" includes and if that would also relate to any scheduled maintenance processes that would result in bypass situations, as well.

GREG BULL: Yes, I can address that. I mean, it's always prudent to put in an emergency overflow in case a significant event happens; but there will be training for the operators, the certified operator there right now. There will be training for whatever process goes in. Part of that training would be done in the first year with the design-build team. It will be their responsibility for operating and training.

There will be spare parts to address any mechanical breakdown. There is standby power for emergency generation. So, again, everything is looked after as far as what could go wrong while something there is provided to do that, both for power supply and mechanical breakdown, with operator training by certified operators. So, it's there in case something happens in the middle of the night and the operator is sick and he couldn't get out of bed fast enough to get down to answer the perimetry alarm that goes off. So, that's really what it's there for.

SCOTT HERRON: So, there wouldn't be any scheduled maintenance events that you could foresee that would result in bypass of the effluent?

GREG BULL: No.

SCOTT HERRON: So, it's strictly an emergency, unforeseen event.

GREG BULL: Unforeseen, probably a number of things being compounded, you know, the worst case, like both operators get sick and can't get down to the plant fast enough.

DAN CORNETT: The power goes out.

GREG BULL: Well, even if the power goes out, there's standby emergency power that kicks in.

DAN CORNETT: So, a combination of events.

JEFF BOEHMER: Even in the past -- Greg has alluded to the operators getting sick, but even in the past, we surcharged the existing sewage collection system to give us some breathing room. There are lots of things we can do.

GREG BULL: Yes, even with the plant that's there that's had significant trouble through the collection system and surcharging, there was an overflow on the sewer system at one point that was removed back in '98 or '99 when we were doing renewal stuff. It never operated anyway in recent years. It was a decade or so ago, but that was because they couldn't handle the plant at that point.

So, anyway, even with that plant that we have right now, which takes a lot of operator attention, they don't even have any emergency overflow on it.

SCOTT HERRON: Yes, it's mainly just with the scheduled stuff. I was in Whitehorse when we had a couple of scheduled things where we needed to bypass to connect systems.

GREG BULL: Yes, right.

SCOTT HERRON: So, as far as developing this plant, and then, the continued operation of this plant, there's no sort of five-year thing where they're going to need foreseeable bypasses is what I'm hearing.

GREG BULL: That's right.

DAN CORNETT: You know, you'll have two plants basically at once if you have to turn one off.

GREG BULL: Yes, there are two tanks, two flow streams there --

SCOTT HERRON: Yes, that was the question.

GREG BULL: -- in part for that reason. There's another -- they can bring down one tank to service a tank, clean it out, service the piping or whatever is in it, they have two parallel trains there.

SCOTT HERRON: Another question, and you sort of touched on this earlier regarding the Territorial Water Board effluent standards, specific to fecal coliforms and the standard of 100,000 per 100 mills. You had also mentioned that you anticipate that either of the systems will be able to exceed what is required by the standards. With the SBR and the inclusion of the UV on it, what sort of levels of fecal coliforms do you anticipate getting? Having gone through a UV system, it seems like we'll probably be able to get substantially better than 100,000?

GREG BULL: Well, actually, it was designed to meet that requirement of 100,000, the UV system; but in the report, you will see that we said, "Okay, what if we want to bring it down to bailing water quality, 200 counts per 100 mills, then there was an add-on cost there"; and basically, it means adding on more maps, cassettes, in the system. So, there is a cost in there to do that, and that would bring it down to 200, much less than, what is it, the 20,000.

SCOTT HERRON: So, the design, as proposed is for 100,000?

GREG BULL: That's right.

SCOTT HERRON: So, you haven't accepted the additional cost to bring it further down to a level of 20 or 50?

GREG BULL: That's right, if it's in there, it's in there.

SCOTT HERRON: So, 100 is the target, 100,000 is what you're shooting for?

GREG BULL: Yes.

SCOTT HERRON: There's a question with the water quality monitoring. Now, Dan had touched on the number of stations, and I'm just wanting to clarify the monitoring post dilution in the river. Now, the understanding was that that was one downstream station.

DAN CORNETT: For the modelling?

SCOTT HERRON: For the monitoring, for ongoing monitoring of post-dilution effluent quality.

DAN CORNETT: Post-operations?

SCOTT HERRON: Yes.

DAN CORNETT: We have a map for that.

That's correct, CM-2B, and that's consistent with what is in the present licence.

SCOTT HERRON: And this probably relates to the modelling exercise, and I'm just kind of wanting a clarification on that. As far as the certainty that that station is actually adequately sort of reflecting the cross-section of the rivers, knowing where you're sampling is a good presentation of the post-dilution --

DAN CORNETT: Right.

SCOTT HERRON: -- water quality.

DAN CORNETT: Right.

SCOTT HERRON: I assume that's come out of the modelling, is that right?

DAN CORNETT: Yes, we've got a pretty good sense for where the plume is, and it's described by Trillium. I mean, it does come down and sort of hugs the west bank of the river. That was picked up in some of the monitoring. To say that it was real significant kind of numbers, that's not ... I mean, it was actually tough for the guys to do the modelling, because you couldn't really pick up a whole lot of influence from the plume. And the station at CM-2, which has been the historic one that we've used, has been pretty representative of what's gone on. We didn't see a whole lot of change in that. The new site that's proposed is located downgrade, and it's where we monitored before, and we'd probably move that down just slightly; and that would probably be pretty representative of what's going on. But again, that to me is what I would see as some fine-tuning in relation to it.

SCOTT HERRON: So, you're saying there's high certainty that you've got it through the modelling exercise. Is there a way sort of post-operation of checking up on that and ensuring that that certainty was warranted?

GREG BULL: I might add as far as the improvements on this plant, we talked about the plant itself. The other improvement here on this is that outfall is going to extend out further than the existing.

DAN CORNETT: Right.

GREG BULL: The existing one back in '97 was sitting on the shoreline. That was the extent of the minimum distance just to get it out for minimum dilution. This one is going out a lot further than the existing to achieve even greater initial dilution.

With the level of quality that's going to be coming out of this plant and where the outfall is going to be located, I doubt very much you would even be able to detect that plume. With significant monitoring across there, you might do that; but as it was --

DAN CORNETT: It's hard to find it now.

SCOTT HERRON: But as far as post-operation, will you be able to determine if that is actual reality. You're saying "It will probably be impossible to detect the plume or difficult," and --

DAN CORNETT: You could drop a dye test in there after it's all said and done and say --

SCOTT HERRON: Right, I was just wondering if there was any.

DAN CORNETT: There are ways to do that. We've done that before. You can verify, "Okay, that site should be here." But again, depending on the time of the year and the flow and everything else, it's kind of a relative sort of place, and you know how it is when you're trying to get out in the middle of the river. "Okay, we're here. Sample."

GREG BULL: DIAND has done dye testing on existing outfall. They have shots from helicopters on that test. We've seen that.

SCOTT HERRON: Yes.

GREG BULL: The same thing could be done here if you want to see pictorially what's going on.

SCOTT HERRON: Yes, I was just wondering what you can consider doing for that.

DAN CORNETT: You can do that to reaffirm the location.

SCOTT HERRON: And one other question was: Sort of considerations of cumulative effects from Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and country residential lots that aren't connected to this system, if that's being incorporated into the EA or the project itself.

DAN CORNETT: Well, anything on the other side of the river -- we weren't aware of anything, when this was done, that they were looking at another treatment plant on the side of the river and discharging wastewater. There was nothing on the books that we were aware of was part of it.

There has been talk about bringing in plumbing water, more on the freshwater side.

GREG BULL: Are you talking about this main village here?

SCOTT HERRON: Well, just for any sort of residences that aren't connected to the system that might be discharging to the river, as well, just as cumulative effects.

GREG BULL: So, you mean coming, say, from ground disposal systems, septic systems --

DAN CORNETT: You would allow that to happen, Scott?

SCOTT HERRON: I'm just wondering if that's how that's been looked at.

GREG BULL: No, I would say we haven't looked at that, because --

DAN CORNETT: We've considered the possibility of collecting wastewater from the opposite end for capacity-wise, to pipe it in, but effects --

GREG BULL: But he's talking about the cumulative effects. so, it would be groundwater discharge from the plumes coming from the individual household septic tanks into the river, that kind of --

SCOTT HERRON: Yes, I was wondering if that was --

GREG BULL: No. The only thing I could say is what is going to be coming from those in there, given the soils in some of those areas, you might see some phosphorous and some nitrates; as you will in the treatment plant. It's just that that river is nutrient-deficient; and if anything, it will have a positive impact.

SANDRA ORBAN: I have a question about funding, and I'm sure it won't be a long discussion. Just not understanding the funding source, is DIAND triggered as a funder?

SHANE ANDRE: I don't believe there is any Federal funding. This isn't an MRIF? Project or anything, is it? This is all Yukon Government funding?

JEFF BOEHMER: No, it's going to be partially funding through the Infrastructure Canada, through CSIF?

SANDRA ORBAN: Is that Transport Canada?

SHANE ANDRE: CSIF, no, that's an assistant infrastructure fund. Okay, the Feds might be an RA on this, then. The RAs haven't identified themselves yet. We're still in the process of identifying RAs.

JEFF BOEHMER: Yes, we're looking to get 45 percent of the funding from the Feds.

SANDRA ORBAN: And who would that be, then, is it INAC?

SHANE ANDRE: I believe it is INAC, yes.

JEFF BOEHMER: Yes, it is.

SHANE ANDRE: Whoever Infrastructure Canada sits under, I don't know.

DAN CORNETT: Yes, I think it is INAC. I guess we'll know next week, right, if everyone meets their deadlines.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I wanted to ask a couple of questions. The technical advisory team, who is on that? Is that established?

JEFF BOEHMER: I've got to RFP it right now. Up until about a year ago, the Village was the main proponent and asking us for funding and technical assistance. We met with them, and they decided that they really didn't want to be out-front. They'd much rather have YTG out-front. So, we said, "Okay, we'll take it on, and we'll project manage this." But when we get the design-build, my expertise is basically generally engineering. So, to provide technical expertise in that area, process, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, structural and architectural, for the design-build for a wastewater treatment plant would be foolish. So, basically, I've put in an RFP, requesting those services. So, both myself and the Village are writing a detailed request.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I'm just curious, the mixing zone mentioned here, how that relates to achieving various effluent standards, compared to how important is the mixing zone. I mean, there is talk about lots of flow in the river and dilution and so on.

GREG BULL: Well, when people talk about mixing zones, they often talk about toxicology. Is that what you're referring to, toxicology?

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I'm just curious, some standards seem to apply at end of pipe.

GREG BULL: Yes, that's largely the toxicology addressed under the *Fisheries Act*, deleterious material. So, this effluent at the end of the pipe coming out of the plant will be non-toxic. It's going to be fully mentrified, meaning it's going to take ammonia to nitrate; and the other culprit with this type of wastewater surfactants, and any kind of secondary treatment will nail those right away even without worrying about the process of nitrification. So, there's no problem end of the pipe of satisfying Fisheries here. The existing plant does, as well, actually.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, in terms of the other standards that were identified in here, they were developed, was this partly in talking with the community and so on in terms of --

DAN CORNETT: That's in their existing licence.

GREG BULL: That's their existing licence, yes.

DAN CORNETT: And we also used the Board's Guidelines, which exceed that.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I guess I'm thinking in terms of was this recreational water quality guidelines we're shooting for.

DAN CORNETT: Those are at end-of-pipe. We haven't got any guidelines proposed for --

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I'm thinking of fecal coliforms here as the example.

GREG BULL: That's right. So, what your concern there is contact. So, the Trillium assessment has looked at coming out with 100,000 fecal coliforms/100 mill at the batch flow rate, what would be the fecal coliform at shoreline, --

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

GREG BULL: -- and it's well below the 200.

DAN CORNETT: The recreational levels.

GREG BULL: The recreational levels.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: And is that based on a specific location here?
I'm not very familiar with the area.

GREG BULL: Well, it's just actually where it hits the shoreline.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Oh, where the plume is at?

GREG BULL: Yes, if someone was down there, walking along the river and decided they wanted to go for a swim, regardless of if there's a beach there or not.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Also, I'm curious about what thought has gone into the stuff going to the landfill, or is that outside the box of this project?

GREG BULL: No. what's going to the landfill from the plant would be the screenings.

DAN CORNETT: Sorry, wrong, nothing goes to the landfill. It goes out to the septic pit.

GREG BULL: Well, we're talking two different streams here. one is there are screenings coming off a screen, which they don't have right now; but there will be a screen ahead to screen out the garbage, the plastics, cigarette butts, et cetera. That's proposed to be bagged, it goes in a bagger, a plastic bag or garbage bag, and that is toted off to the landfill and is buried.

There would be sludge waste, deactivated sludge, that would be growing bacteria in these tanks; and every once in a while, you grow so many of them, and they have to be wasted. They will be trucked to an infiltration basin, a sewage infiltration basin, which is just north of the town, which is under licence right now, under their existing licence to operate that. That facility also handles presently a holding tank and septic tank sludge that's discharged up there from eductor trucks.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, that's downstream, north.

GREG BULL: Yes, downstream, yes. It's way up the hill there in an adjacent land and gravel pit.

JEFF BOEHMER: Have you got your map there? It is downstream.

GREG BULL: It's not on there.

JEFF BOEHMER: No, that's too far north.

GREG BULL: I thought you had that on one of your drawings.

JEFF BOEHMER: That's the next one around. It comes around here.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: The exact location isn't critical. The other thing, I'm curious, looking at this proposed supply well seems really close to the treatment facility and looks to be downstream. I'm sure it's not, but can you just speak to that?

GREG BULL: Sure. In fact, the groundwater flow there, the work that's been done to date on the hydrogeology is that the groundwater flow is from the Nordenskiold River to the Yukon River. It goes right across there, and there's a massive flow there. So, it is actually up-gradient from the treatment plant; and that location was selected because up-slope of the well is deemed to be a protected watershed. There's not much can go in there. But anywhere up that valley, like if you come down south along the highway from Carmacks, the regional flow is right through there. In other words, it's going directly north here, in the direction of my finger.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

GREG BULL: And it's a very fast aquifer; and as such, when you look at the activity south of town in the industrial area and whatnot, there's quite a fan there. Even though the flow is fast and narrow actually, the point source would keep a very narrow plume. But nevertheless, if you took it and looked at the worst case, you'd come out with a fan of water flowing and spreading out of a potential contaminant. So, that assessment has been done and this location for the well, this proposed location here, is outside that fan, that potential contaminant fan.

SCOTT HERRON: Is there any additional treatment required for the drinking water?

GREG BULL: Well, it will depend on the quality of that water. There are different natural chemicals there, sulphur, manganese, iron, depending on where you're at. There are other wells that have beautiful drinking water. In

fact, I think they just drilled one for the school there, and that's apparently great water.

DAN CORNETT: Is it deep?

GREG BULL: Yes, it is deep actually. It's deep; and normally deeper wells have more of the iron and sulphur and those sort of things that are objectionable. But nonetheless, all these households are on individual wells in Carmacks. That's one of the issues here within the sewer area. It is the sewage system and the Village wells that are the big concern here.

SCOTT HERRON: So, if treatment was required, would there be any waste associated with the treatment that would need disposal?

GREG BULL: Well, if you're going to soften, you're going to have back-flushing. So, that might be an issue. Of course, they're hoping there isn't going to be any of that.

SCOTT HERRON: What sort of options would be available for disposal of any by-products?

GREG BULL: I mean, you can back-wash to the sewer system.

DAN CORNETT: The sewer.

GREG BULL: That's one of the things you might do.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Can you picture any upset conditions with the low flows in the Nordenskiöld and the very high flows in the Yukon River. We're thinking sort of down the road what might happen to the flows in those two rivers that could change that ground flow.

GREG BULL: That could change the direction of the flow? Well, yes, the Nordenskiöld is not driving that regional water flow, groundwater flow. It's a regional one. In fact, the Nordenskiöld, at this point here, is really the groundwater surface at that point in the sense that it's not driving it. So, the hydrogeologists haven't brought that up. They haven't raised any red flags on that as an issue.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Anyone else?

(No audible response)

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Thank you very much. That was a very full presentation. We got a lot of information. May I suggest we take a quick break.

DAN CORNETT: Before we launch off here and we move to another file, I hate pinning people to the floor, but I'll always ask anyway: Draft screening report, the timing?

SHANE ANDRE: I think as far as these timelines are concerned, we've talked about this a few times, until we get comments back from expert authorities and RAs are identified, I'd have to guess, and I don't want to guess. so, I'm not going to.

DAN CORNETT: I always know the answer, too, but that doesn't satisfy Jeff.

JEFF BOEHMER: That's okay.

SHANE ANDRE: Sorry about that.

DAN CORNETT: We'll revisit it within the next week.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Regularly, I'm sure.

Let's take a 10-minute break.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:40 a.m.

3.2 Western Silver/Carmacks Copper – Dan Cornett

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, we'll move on to an update on the next project, which is the Carmacks Copper project for the company Western Silver. Dan, once again has been working on this project. He has more stacks of reports.

DAN CORNETT: Yes, always.

I'm not intending to make a detailed presentation here. The project description was just filed not quite two weeks ago. So, it's just in the hopper. Certainly we're prepared to come back with the company and do a bit more formal presentation, but my sense is let people start chewing on it, get a sense for it, and then, we get a lot more feedback with questions, and it becomes more useful for people, similar to what we did with Carmacks. People can have some discussion on it.

I will give an overview of what we've done and how we've approached it and where we are for next steps. This report is what I call a "Project Description

and Environmental Assessment Report”; and the reason for that is because of the long history on this file. What we’ve done is basically presented an updated project description, based on the company’s feasibility study in relation to what we’ve done, a complete environmental assessment for the project. All of the supporting information has, where appropriate, been referred to. So, this document walks people through “Here is the project, what’s involved. Here are all the previous environmental studies and the work that has been done in the past. If you want to look at geotechnical logs or detailed Fisheries studies or work that was done in the past, please go and see that report”, and we’ve summarized what the findings are, and then, focused on the environmental assessment side of the equation and re-looked at that in relation to the project, complete with a risk assessment and basically brought the project forward.

Anything that has been new or pertinent information has been brought forward in these supporting technical appendices. As an example, we had EBA Engineering review the whole heap leach liner pad system. They went through the previous designs, looked at them all on the basis of the project performance standards that were set for the file, looked at that, and then, came up with another detailed engineering design for that. So, that is presented in its entirety.

There was some additional work on the detoxification, test work for the spent ore from the heap leach and how to detoxify that. That information was presented. It was never filed before. So, that’s new information that’s here. On the basis of some of that test work, how to deal with the closure issue, which was a bit of an outstanding issue the last time this project was in the environmental review, we’ve updated the closure plan and brought that forward.

So, the intent here is to make this a complete stand-alone project. It’s got all the details on the project, the alternatives that were considered for it and a summary of all the environmental conditions and supporting information, engineering work that was done. That’s all been referred to; and then, refreshing the environmental assessment and bringing the consultation up-to-date. Like I say, it’s a standalone report in that regard.

Accompanying this is also an application for a Type A water licence and a mine production licence, which fundamentally those are the triggers for the assessment to sort of kick this off. We have identified other possible authorizations that may be required, but the responsible authorities, they can determine whether they are an RA or not. As an example, from Environment Canada’s side or DFO’s side, this project, if it does have a discharge at some point in time, would have to be meeting the requirements of the Metal Mining Effluent Regs. It is a law of general application. There is no formal trigger for it. So, we’ve touched on that. On the Fisheries side, we are not looking at an ongoing deposit of a waste. If it was, it would be on the Metal Mining Effluent Regs, but we’re not looking at disturbing watercourses. There is one stream crossing over Maurice Creek on the access road. However, that’s being looked

at as a bridge, and you're not trying to disturb a watercourse. So, fundamentally, we're trying to stay out of the Fisheries side of things that way.

So, that's sort of a bit of an overview on the information that's before you. Again, I'm not going to get into details on that. There are differences in relation to what was previously submitted on this report. Fundamentally, some things don't change. You have an open pit, and that doesn't move. It's pretty much where it was before. It's a heap leach pad, and that's pretty much what it was before, and there will be waste rock piles, and there are facilities. So, a lot of the things in relation to what was submitted historically on this file haven't changed a whole lot in relation to it. However, I have touched on the things that have been refreshed and brought forward, and they fundamentally deal with some of the previous concerns of the project. Anyhow, we're not trying to go into history, but we're trying to move forward on a new project that's been submitted under EAA.

In terms of process and some of the consultation that we've done, I will touch on it. We have worked with Little Salmon Carmacks. We've been in the community once prior to this documentation being submitted. There has been a public open house. We've met with Chief and Council. We're getting some initial assessment done on where they're at. They are aware of the project historically; and as recently as last week, we were up meeting with Little Salmon Carmacks again to talk about the EA process and how that will work and the next steps in relation to that.

Suffice to say that we expect to be doing more community work with Little Salmon Carmacks and the Village of Carmacks on the file to make sure the community is aware of the project and what it entails and get an idea of where people stand with it in that regard.

On the process side with the Yukon Government, we've mentioned it before at the last YERC meeting, there is a project agreement that was signed off with Yukon Government, which basically provides the company with an understanding of what the process entails and who the players are and how it's intended to work and the performance standards and criteria that were put up as "Here are the goalposts that we expect you to meet at the very minimum for this project." They are basically identified here, as well. Certainly in some instances, we know we can meet and/or exceed a lot of these requirements. As an example, the liner system that is proposed far exceeds what's there as a requirement for that.

Our understanding of the EA process on this is there has to be a determination of who the responsible authorities are in relation to the file. Rob's shop is looking to get that going and find out who people are and who will be the players in the assessment. There is also another step here, which is sort of new to the process. We recognize this project is a comprehensive study under EAA. Revisions to CEAA and subsequently EAA require that there is some

consultation that has to be done upfront to make a determination; but it is a comprehensive study, and there are other ways in the process that it could be done: a panel remediation or whatever. Those sorts of things have to be done early on. So, I guess that's another process step that has to occur, as well, here.

So, from our standpoint, we're prepared to start working with the folks in relation to the review. If there are things that we can do to assist with that, we're prepared to do that. There are some planned activities directly in the community that will probably occur in relation to working with First Nations. We will probably get out on the site again, take a look at the location, where things are being planned and wave our arms so people have an understanding of what is going on, some community meetings within the community. The First Nations are interested in trying to follow that type of an approach so that their people are well aware of what's going on and what is happening in their traditional territory and the project and effects and things that will be affecting their community. Those will be subsequently planned. We're probably looking at trying to do something maybe late July or early August between fish camps and hunting season. It really depends on what the community's aspirations are for when you can get in there and start working with them. So, we'll try and coordinate things around their time as to when best to do that.

BILL DUNN: There's no planned activity on the site, --

DAN CORNETT: No.

BILL DUNN: -- other than viewing and ...

DAN CORNETT: No, we've talked about this before, about looking at refreshing some of their baseline information. I mean there are requirements under the Metal Mining Effluent Regs to actually go out and do a whole number of these studies. These are new requirements. There is certainly some intent to do that and move forward on it; but suffice to say there is enough information to "Let's get the process rolling here and start dealing with it."

Maybe the only other comment and going back to the other file, as well, there is a transition here, and who knows how that will work in relation to it. So, we'll deal with that as it comes along.

Bill is the project coordinator for the Yukon Government --

BILL DUNN: Yes.

DAN CORNETT: -- in working with the company and other Yukon Government departments. Bill has been very helpful that way in moving things through the various agencies and providing one window of contact in relation to the file. I don't know if you had anything more to add to it, Bill.

BILL DUNN: No, I think you've covered it.

DAN CORNETT: Here is the 250,000 [foot](#) quick overview. I expect we'll come back and provide a few more details here so the high levels can get a good understanding of what is going on; correct the cover. If you have any questions, give us a buzz. Again, it is all posted on our website, all the information is there.

BILL DUNN: And if you are putting questions through them, if you would copy them to me, I would appreciate it. I just want to know what people's concerns are. That's how I see my role, just making sure that the questions and the appropriate people to answer them get in contact.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes, it is probably worth mentioning something about paper flow. Dan sent the project description and so on out to a fairly good distribution list, including us. Of course, our role is to make sure there is a comprehensive distribution list and that everybody on that list receives it and receives some sort of guidance as to what's expected of them. So, that's coming in the near future; and comments usually come back through the RA to coordinate and get packaged up and provided to the proponent. I would encourage that process be followed. We can work out whether it's Bill or myself that this flows through, as opposed to having a lot of individual direct contacts with Dan. We won't have a track of what is really going on with issues and so on. So, make sure if you want, send them to everybody is probably the safest way; but there will be a letter coming out that describes what the next steps in the process are.

There is an interesting next step, as Dan mentioned. The comprehensive study process changed since we have done a comprehensive study the last time in the Yukon. The previous process was that if a project was on the Comprehensive Study Regulation because it exceeded some threshold, which was usually the case, which this one does; then you would initiate the comprehensive study, and at the end of the comprehensive study, there were a number of choices: The project could be approved, the project could be not approved, the project could be referred to a panel, or it could be referred for mediation. That is not the case any longer. That was very uncomfortable to industry, and it was resulting in some projects going through a comprehensive study, and then, through a panel; and that was very discomfoting. So, a lot of work was done, I guess, in Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, and the process now is the first step is the responsible authorities get identified or identify themselves. They work together to develop a consultation package that goes out to the public. Based on the results of the consultation and the responsible authorities' thinking, a recommendation is made to the Minister of the Environment for Canada or the Minister of ECO for the Yukon Government as to whether the project will be a comprehensive study, a panel or mediation. The

Minister then makes that decision and refers it back to the RAs to proceed. Assuming this is referred to a comprehensive study, then the comprehensive study is basically initiated. Basically you start the environmental assessment then, and that involves consultation and so on. You want to manage it appropriately. Then at the end of the comprehensive study, there is no longer an option to go to a panel or mediation. You end up with proceed, proceed with the mitigation or do not proceed.

So, this first step will be a little bit interesting. We're looking for examples of how it's been done elsewhere, and we're going to have to work out how to do that with other responsible authorities and preferably with some input from everybody who is involved as to what is a reasonable process.

DAN CORNETT: Are you looking to the company to assist with that or help prepare this consultation package? I'm not sure what that entails or if that's strictly a Government thing or a joint package or what.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: A good question; I mean, my guess is --

DAN CORNETT: Then I know what my answer is: I guess I'll develop one for you so we can get it done!

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Dan, not having an opportunity to look through those documents fully, --

DAN CORNETT: Oh, that's fine.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: -- I'm pretty comfortable that you have the information that RAs are going to need to look at to develop --

DAN CORNETT: Sure.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: -- that package. Certainly we would be more than comfortable to work and to pass that back and forth with you. We don't want to send something out that the company hasn't seen and is not comfortable with; --

DAN CORNETT: Sure.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: -- because it has to accurately capture what's proposed and what might be going on.

DAN CORNETT: And we can help with that, whether it's information or material.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Okay.

DAN CORNETT: The words are all there. We can cut and paste and shorten them up, the Executive Summary. I think it's only eight pages, so it's not too bad.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I like the way you've done the overview here. A project like this, it makes more sense, once people are engaged by having a look at the documents, that we have a meeting. Maybe it could be project-specific. I think we need to figure out how this committee should work most effectively, because it's not necessarily effective to have people who are not going to be engaged in the project or in any way involved.

DAN CORNETT: Fair enough.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: This was a nice level of overview, thank you.

I would comment I have already received a couple of phone calls of organizations who would like some hard copies. So, that was one of the things I guess we'll get back to you is to line up a few more hard copies that we can add to the distribution.

DAN CORNETT: Benoit was looking for another copy if you've got one. When you make these things, it's a bit of an effort to do them.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Absolutely.

DAN CORNETT: It costs, as well.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Absolutely.

DAN CORNETT: So, we try and hit the main players but come back if there are some things. You can hit "print" on your machine if you want.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: No, we can ask you for copies; because as you say, there are tables and all kinds of stuff in there.

DIANE BRENT: There are CDs.

BILL DUNN: The CDs have everything.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: But specifically our office, we need to have a paper copy on the public registry, and two of us need copies to work with.

There are a lot of sides to this very interesting project, the issues with a comprehensive study, the potential for transition to YESAA, working with the First Nation are all ingredients which will make this a very educational and I think a

very interesting project to work through; and it's a good opportunity for everyone involved to get an efficient and effective review done.

Does anyone have any questions on this?

(No audible response)

3.3 Yukon River - Dawson City Bridge -- Chair Rob Walker

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I can keep this quite short. I already talked about the process earlier. So, the Yukon River Bridge has been sent out by the Water Board, and this was in the last YERC minutes, as well, in May, for a public comment period, which ends shortly. The package that was sent out is of the bridge that is proposed to be built, and it is being sent out as a design-build. Should the design-build team choose another design, they will have a significant amount of environmental assessment work to do to cover a new design. There has been a public meeting in Dawson recently, which had a pretty good turnout. Really, we're kind of just waiting for comments on the package that has been sent around. Still outstanding are prime issues related to heritage issues and the influence of the bridge on heritage values at Dawson.

DAN CORNETT: Is there a draft screening on it?

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Is there a draft screening on it? No. The process has been that Highways and Public Works submitted a package which had a number of options. It was put out for comment through the environmental assessment process. That information went back to Highways and Public Works. Highways and Public Works has used a -- there are many different names for the process. The most recent one, I believe, is "contact-sensitive design process". What it is is they established a group of stakeholders in Dawson, have worked with that stakeholder group extensively in using sort of a multi-criteria approach to selecting the bridge design and the bridge location; and then, there has been further work with an architect actually on the bridge, refining the look of the bridge and a number of mitigations, since the visual impacts are important. There has been a lot of extra work put on that. That has resulted in the bridge design. There's not a concept. This is a bridge, which has been filed with the Water Board. The Water Board has sent that out. So, that's often where an assessment can start. So, really what's happened now is it has gone out for comments to the Water Board. It has gone out for people to provide comments in the environmental assessment context. The comments will be returned. The Water Board will get the comments. They'll come to the environmental assessment. They'll be used to draft the environmental assessment, the screening report; and then, the Water Board would proceed with either a Type B licence with or without a hearing, depending on what it's receiving now and how it decides to act on that.

So, that's how that is refined down in the process.

DIANE BRENT: So, this one might be another transition project possibly?

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Actually, all applications, permits and everything else were filed before November 13th, so this project will start and finish under EAA and CEAA.

Anything else?

(No audible response)

4.0 POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, just to go around, then, future projects; I think last time we heard a few on the table. There has been a lining up of the workforce in the Yukon Government to address these projects, specifically the Division Mountain Coal, Red Mountain. There was another one, right?

BILL DUNN: Sorry, you've got me.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, does anybody else see any projects on the horizon? Fred, do you guys have any? Are you going to fire-proof the Yukon?

MIKE KENNY: There is one project on the ground pretty soon.

FRED JENNEX: Yes, there's going to be one firebreak that will require an assessment.

5.0 OTHER

5.1 IAIA Update - Chair Rob Walker

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I'll just quickly mention, this says "IAIA Update". This is the International Association of Impact Assessment. Last year the conference was held in Vancouver, and quite a few people from the Yukon Government and Federal Government in Yukon went down to that conference. This year it was hosted in Boston.

NINA LINDLEY: Randy was telling me about that.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I'm aware of four staff that went down, three from our DAP Branch and one from Environment. A very good conference; there are presentations on pretty much anything that you want to learn about there. A lot of jurisdictions are really tackling the same questions we're tackling here:

How do we assess projects for their effect on the environment and for their effect on people, and this is where we're going with YESAA. So, there is a wealth of information. I would encourage you to go to the IAIA website. There's a lot of information accessible there, and if you want any more details, I have abstracts of all the presentations; and as members of the International Association, we can access list servers and other information on the web, and I would be happy to provide that information to anybody who wants to go there.

6.0 EMERGING PROJECTS/ISSUES/UPDATES

6.1 YESAA Update - Christine Smith

CHAIR ROB WALKER: YESAA, Christine.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes, continuing on with the YESAA update, I'm going to read what Diane Gunter sent me:

With respect to the Regulations, the fall of 2005 continues to be the target for when the YESAA Regulations are to be enacted. Triparty work is concluding and the timing for the regulations are to be blue-stamped into the Federal review process soon.

Training on YESAA - the decision-body networking session is to be held on June 22nd at the High Country Inn. The agenda for the meeting so far is to have the Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board present their online public registry concept and to have an update/overview of assessment transition. This meeting is also set at this time to allow decision bodies to continue the momentum of working together.

With respect to communication, we are currently working on public communication materials for projects that will be assessed under both EAA and YESAA regimes. These are the transition projects. So, these materials should be ready soon.

There is also a question and answer document that has been developed to inform Yukon Government line staff and proponents on the new YESAA timelines. It is going through communications and internal review right now before it is distributed.

Lastly there is a handout being developed that permitting offices can use and distribute that has YESAA information and contact information for Yukon Government, Canada and Yukon First Nation offices. It is being reviewed by Communications and will be circulated once we know the official date for full implementation of YESAA. So, we'll insert the date into the document, and then, it can be handed out to any proponents.

And with respect to the Board itself, the Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board, work is continuing on project transition, communications and multiparty tools for the transition into YESAA. The latest is that the gazetting process for the draft rules begins June 18th and ends September 30th, 2005. The public is invited to submit written representations on the rules until September 30th.

There is still no word on the seventh Federally-appointed board member.

And that's it from Diane Gunter. I probably couldn't answer questions, but you could ask if you have any. I'll take notes.

FRED JENNEX: Who is the seventh Federally-appointee?

CHRISTINE SMITH: We haven't heard.

FRED JENNEX: You haven't heard?

CHRISTINE SMITH: No.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: No, the Board can have seven members, but seven weren't appointed initially. So, people are every now and then saying, "Are you going to appoint someone else?" There is always concern with these boards, you know, as time goes on. They can lose quorum and things like that, and those create difficult situations.

FRED JENNEX: So, if there are seven, that means that the Feds get three, YTG gets two and First Nations get two?

DIANE BRENT: No.

CHRISTINE SMITH: It's the Federally-appointed member that's left to appoint.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: I don't remember the formula, but it's in the Umbrella Final Agreement.

DAN CORNETT: Is it a total of seven with the Ex-com or nine?

DIANE BRENT: There's seven total.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Thank you.

CHRISTINE SMITH: You're welcome.

6.2 Permit Guide Update - Christine Smith

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, now we'll call on Christine to tell us about the Permit Guide.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Most of you know about the Permit Guide, I hope you know about it; but if you don't, I'll give you a brief overview. The Permit Guide has been in the process of being developed for the past two years and fell into my hands, and it's done. We worked closely with EMR, Environment and Environment Canada to get this project finished. I had final comments as of even Monday, which was way beyond the deadline three weeks. It has been sent to the printer, and I have contacts from the development of this product that I will probably be sending out an e-mail to let you know when it's going to be officially published. We're expecting in the next couple of weeks there is a process of allowing the Minister to release this product. So, that has to go through all the proper channels.

DIANE BRENT: Is this just going to have the "Yukon Government" logo, or will it have some Federal stamp on it, as well?

CHRISTINE SMITH: No, there isn't a Federal stamp on it right now. That's something to consider. I could halt the printing. Right now it's just been prepared by the Yukon Government, and we have the "Yukon Government" logo and our published number.

The communications strategy is being developed right now, and I think we're projecting, once it's published, to send it out to organizations, as well as Government departments; because we know, even YESAA, the Board wants to have some copies to be able to distribute. If anyone has any comments or ideas that you want to put forward, we are more than open. If you have ideas of how to get this to the people who will use it in the most effective manner, we are very open to hear about that. We want to make sure people who are going to use it will be receiving it.

So, look forward to that in the next couple of weeks.

DIANE BRENT: I want to know how many copies are you guys planning on printing?

CHRISTINE SMITH: The initial print is 1,000.

DIANE BRENT: One thousand?

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes. And there will be a French version available after July 15th; and likely, it will be posted on the website. We don't know whose website. There will be a few websites that we're interested in. I know, is it the Integrated Resource Management?

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

CHRISTINE SMITH: The IRM website, is interested in it. Other people have mentioned that they're interested in having a link on their website for this. So, I think we're open so far.

DAN CORNETT: So, is this project sort of the Permitting Guide 2?

CHRISTINE SMITH: The "how-to".

DAN CORNETT: So, it's refreshing what was previously out there?

CHRISTINE SMITH: That's right.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes, an update.

CHRISTINE SMITH: It's an update.

DAN CORNETT: Yes, I would be interested in putting a link on our website, for sure. We use those lots.

CHRISTINE SMITH: I'll definitely give you some information.

DAN CORNETT: So, if you can let me know when you've got it out, that would be great.

CHRISTINE SMITH: All right.

DIANE BRENT: I'm thinking that the Lands Branch gets a lot of inquiries from the public. They're kind of seen as the all-encompassing regulatory body, although they're not technically. So, it might be a good idea for distribution to have a little pile there for members of the public when they go in.

CHRISTINE SMITH: We're thinking generally -- the initial thought was definitely 25 per branch or frontline area, --

DIANE BRENT: Yes.

CHRISTINE SMITH: -- authorization, permitting area, give them at least 25 copies each so they can hand it out.

DIANE BRENT: And also, the communities, the NROs --

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes.

DIANE BRENT: -- tend to be the frontline, a place where clients go to. So, that would be another outlet.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Right.

DIANE BRENT: Also, in communities there is probably less access to computers. So, hard copies are more important.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes, that's right.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Maybe you can help us with the distribution list on that to make sure that we have a good cross-section.

DIANE BRENT: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Also, you mentioned territorial agents and so on are another access place, as well as libraries. You're absolutely right, the purpose is it's there to provide information. So, it should be distributed as widely as possible. We're fully comfortable with the fact that we may need to print more as time goes on. Historically these have been a pretty popular item. Too bad we can't sell them!

DIANE BRENT: While recognizing that there are costs involved, we have to be mindful of that, as well. So, we can't have unlimited copies.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Exactly.

And that's all I have. Any other questions?

(No audible response)

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Thank you.

CHRISTINE SMITH: You're welcome.

6.3 YERC *The Next Generation*- Rob Walker

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Okay, Yukon Environmental Review Committee, the next generation. I think I'm going to exercise some flexibility here. Our last several meetings have been very short. This one has been quite a bit longer. We acknowledge the need to revisit our committees and how we're going to work with YESAA. Once we figure that out, there's also this business of how we're going to carry the projects which transition through.

There is extensive work going on with another committee, the internal working group. It's a Yukon Government committee that's looking at how do we organize internally within the Yukon Government to meet our obligations under YESAA. This committee has helped us meet our obligations under the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act* and hopefully under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* to some extent; and the precursor to this committee was quite effective at helping with fulfilling our obligations under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

I think, as we've seen over time, first of all, the composition of this committee has changed. The different groups who attend or don't attend seem to have shifted or have become variable, and I think that's a sign that the committee maybe isn't functioning to meet the needs that it used to. So, we're looking at revisiting this committee and maybe other committees.

Initially I was thinking today we could do sort of a brainstorming session more to explore "What's our need?" There are several ways of coming at this, and perhaps a combination would be effective. The one path is to take the current terms of reference for this committee and working with those, say "How do we evolve them to a committee that will work for us under YESAA?"

The second approach is to start from scratch and say, "What do we need to make YESAA work," and then, build down from those needs and set up some goals and objectives, and then, go down to terms of reference from that. I think there is value in pursuing both lines of thought in parallel and let them inform each other. There is quite a bit of experience conveyed in the terms of reference for this committee already, and we have to decide how best to work with you guys to do that.

One path, of course, is taking the current terms of reference and evolving them. I think we've already started that by setting up the terms of reference and asking people to think about it.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: The other part is: Why don't we just start from the top and say, "Well, what do we need?" Under YESAA, we know there are different circles. We know the Yukon Government has to figure out how it is going to come to a decision document, because there would only be one decision document for the Yukon Government for each assessment.

Similarly, when assessments involve First Nations or Federal departments, we have a need to conform decision documents; not necessarily make them the same, but as we have seen with environmental assessments under CEAA and EAA, we generally can come to one screening report in that case. So, I think we probably have a good chance of coming to one decision

document under YESAA in most cases; but it needs to be supported by some vehicle that allows everybody to communicate with each other clearly.

DIANE BRENT: My preference would be to go with the second approach, which is to figure out what we need to do, list our functions, get group input for what we require, and then, decide what sort of committee falls out of that if, indeed, it is a committee or a working group or whatever; and I'm coming at it from a DAP implementation and planning perspective. So, it's a bit narrower than how YERC is functioning right now.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Thank you very much, Diane.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes, thank you.

DAN CORNETT: I'll leave you to figure it out (leaves the meeting).

DIANE BRENT: So, I'm seeing it in terms of -- and this is not a slight on any of the members here. It's just a matter of we have legal obligations that we have to meet. The Federal Government has legal obligations that it has to meet, and we really need to sort of flesh that out, which we have been doing through implementation and planning.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

DIANE BRENT: Now, the next step is: What functions do we require, and who do we need to draw in to fulfill those functions? If that happens to be an ad hoc working group or a standing committee or whatever, then let that serve the need to fulfill the function, rather than taking a committee and trying to force-fit it into a new and very different structure.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

DIANE BRENT: That's my sense anyways, it's kind of a narrow and more practical functional approach. That might change over time as we're implementing YESAA, and we find that, "Well, maybe we need to expand or we need to trim down more."

MIKE KENNY: I think for us it's a matter of doing it within the department and figuring out how we can be most effective. That discussion has come up, whether we have one person in the department who ends up being ultimately responsible or whether there is a need for two, given that with the different types of projects, there can be quite a diversity. Even within that, when we start to work with other branches of the department, there starts to be quite a level of apprehensiveness about how we're going to manage to meet obligations when that's never been our role before.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

MIKE KENNY: I think the discussion has to really take place at the department level, how the departments can contribute, before we can figure out how we all plug into this on a Government-wide basis, and then, back into the communication with the Federal folks.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Excellent; so when I talked about the Yukon Government trying to get its act together, and then, everybody trying to get their act together, you're saying "Departments, as well". Very good!

MIKE KENNY: And it's got to start at the bottom.

FRED JENNEX: Just to add to that: Our department hasn't been attending a few meetings. We missed the last one. We had a presentation by DAP, as well.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Right.

FRED JENNEX: And the administrative resource and technical expertise is the biggest concern that the department has, and they know they're going to be drawn upon from an engineering point of view perhaps in any number of municipal --

MIKE KENNY: Today would be a good example.

FRED JENNEX: -- waterfront projects. We're going to end up being the decision body, our department, because the municipalities are not going to be considered an RA or a decision body. So, these are the concerns we have, and we're looking for resources.

Now, we understand that that is apparently taking the Option 2 road, which is they take all the major assessments, and the rest of them are done by the departments, First Nations, Federal Government, whoever the decision body may be.

I guess my question is: How many of those big ones out there would you be tied up in resource-wise, as in railways, the pipeline.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Yes.

FRED JENNEX: And could you, in fact, with the base of DAP, assist the departments in that resource area? That's what I'm looking at, mostly helping with the flow and who is the RA and coming with a common decision document. That's going to be the trick is getting all these parties to ... That's

where I see the role here is helping out with the decision document and making sure that it's representing all the different RAs or agents. I don't know what we call it any more.

CHRISTINE SMITH: The lead or the decision body comments, yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Thanks, those were excellent comments.

Have you anything to add?

NINA LINDLEY: Randy will be back at the next one. I'm just going to fill him in with this. I assume he's going to deal with it. I would agree with Fred. I think it's been talked about before. I think that is everyone's point of view, that they would like some kind of guideline or assistance initially when this is being set up. I think that's what Environment came up with, as well is just to have guidance initially as to who is responsible for what at the initial stages. That's what came about after our discussion.

I think those Permit Guidelines wouldn't be a bad idea to send to Environment, as well, because they issue permits, as well.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Right, definitely they're on the list.

NINA LINDLEY: Yes, I was just thinking, well, Lands isn't the only one that issues permits.

CHRISTINE SMITH: No.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: To find out who we need to send them to, we looked in the permit guide to see who issues permits.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes, you definitely will get some.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: We have a couple of other Government representatives here. Do you have any comments about how we might move forward with this committee's structure?

SANDRA ORBAN: I have a short-term comment, in that you were asking "What do we need". I think there was a bit of discussion today on the transition part. This could be a forum for that discussion on the transition. There seems to be some --

CHRISTINE SMITH: Confusion.

SANDRA ORBAN: -- confusion, --

CHRISTINE SMITH: So, like a presentation --

SANDRA ORBAN: -- differences of approach.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: You're hearing this reflected from the project updates?

SANDRA ORBAN: Yes, from what I heard at the table today.

CHRISTINE SMITH: I think that's very fair. I heard the same thing. I did inform them about the workshop on the 22nd. Is everyone invited to that?

CHAIR ROB WALKER: That's a decision body?

CHRISTINE SMITH: It's a networking, but they're also going to be talking about transition, as well. That's on the agenda.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: That's right, yes.

CHRISTINE SMITH: An update overview of assessment transition is happening at that workshop on the 22nd.

SANDRA ORBAN: Yes.

CHRISTINE SMITH: But you're saying that we should maybe have DAP come and do a presentation to YERC? Is that what you're saying?

SANDRA ORBAN: Or even that this forum could be that ... This group could be that forum for that probably continued discussion as your questions come up.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: For transition?

SANDRA ORBAN: Yes.

CHRISTINE SMITH: To deal with transition?

SANDRA ORBAN: Yes.

SHANE ANDRE: I think that's a good idea, but we would have to include the board. If we could get a board member to attend, that would be very useful.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Because of the tripartite -- it's interesting.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: It is. There are three levels going now, right?

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: There's this committee, which was intergovernmental, right, --

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes, and observer.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: -- and kind of departmental, right; because we could have a whole bunch of representatives from within the Yukon Government or from within a department of the Yukon Government or from Fisheries or whatever, right? And then, it has the Federal Government and First Nations. We don't get First Nations very often, and we don't have all the Federal departments, because actually, they're not all well represented in the Yukon to start with, as well. So, we have our internal working group, which is all Yukon Government; and then, there is this decision body group, which is more like what YERC was in a way, which has First Nations and each Federal department, and then, the Yukon Government in it, and it's talking about process, but not projects at this time. So, all three of these things are working on the same thing. So, how do we sit back now? I think we need to find a way to bring the different thinking together as opposed to all three. I'm thinking maybe we could do some kind of a facilitated ... I mean, you know me with Post-its on the wall and stuff, but my guess is that might be a way if we could do that with a group from YERC, the internal working group, get some people from the board involved. I don't know how we would draw in First Nations. Maybe it could be something on the agenda for the decision body workshop, because that group actually probably has a lot of potential to evolve into a committee, right, because if you have all the First Nations there, talking to each other and the Federal departments and the Yukon Government about what YESAA is and how we're going to do it and how we're going to make informed decisions, if a committee is needed, that one could just turn into it almost. So, it's pretty wide open thinking now.

Would you guys be comfortable with that sort of an approach? Maybe we could try some kind of a facilitated approach that goes through a needs assessment and identifies some goals and objectives, and then, we could meet and see if we could do it with one committee or do we need 12 or no committee, or do we do it on paper, whatever.

SCOTT HERRON: From Environment Canada's perspective, we've found RERC and YERC really valuable to us, not being a regulatory body in that we directly issue a permit. Fisheries issues permits but Environment Canada doesn't. Having a forum, sort of a multi-government, multi-stakeholder, forum to discuss technical issues has been very valuable, and we have been long-time participants in it.

Once YESAA comes, because we're not an actual decision body as far as technical committees and things go, those will be invited and set up by the board, they may or may not choose to invite Environment Canada --

CHRISTINE SMITH: That's right.

SCOTT HERRON: -- to those. We feel it's important to maintain some sort of committee. How that's structured, I mean, in RERC and YERC, it's been a forum that has ultimately presented technical information to either Environment Directorate or the DAP Branch. Now those roles will change with YESAA, as well. So, who the appropriate body to present that information to will be after November, I'm not sure; but yes, we feel it's pretty important, from our perspective, at least, to maintain some sort of body where Federal authorities or other scientific authorities have a forum to share advice, because ultimately the decision bodies do have to move towards consensus, as well. So, I think it's still valuable to have a forum of some sort.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Diane, do you have something to add?

DIANE BRENT: Well, ultimately it is your committee. So, you guys are the ones to make the final decision, but I think there seems to be a desire to maintain some sort of forum for this information exchange and potentially deal with certain policy issues that come out of assessment that intergovernmentally we may want to pursue. But maybe one way to approach this is to list the "to-dos", things that each government entity has to do to meet its legal requirements. Like for simpler projects, there's probably a lot less that we need. It looks like we're going to go more through a distribution list approach internally within the Yukon Government in terms of getting the input. For the larger projects, we're probably going to need some means, some face-to-face interaction within the Yukon Government. So, to me those are "to-dos", things that we must allow for in terms of meeting our obligations.

Then there are the nice things to have, the sort of desirables, things like maintaining good communication links with other Governments in terms of sharing technical and scientific matters, sharing information and maybe establishing a needs assessment to decide what forums that you need to create, to bring the people in you need to talk to to achieve those objectives, rather than trying to maintain a bureaucratic entity like YERC for the sake of maintaining it.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes.

DIANE BRENT: Because DAP is going to be so different, in that we're no longer doing assessment; and it's totally different now in terms of our needs, what our needs will be under DAP.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes.

DIANE BRENT: So, maybe approaching it from that perspective might lead you to a more pragmatic solution.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Excellent!

CHRISTINE SMITH: It also seems like a facilitated approach to finding out from every group what our needs are. I think that sounds like a good idea, to have it organized, and then, we could set it up sometime to have it facilitated so that we can begin identifying our needs, and then, seeing where they connect. "Oh, this fits in and that could be done at a committee level."

DIANE BRENT: This is the approach we have sort of taken with our Level 1 advisory groups, like LARC and ALARC. We've said, "Okay, well, what will our needs be post-DAP."

CHRISTINE SMITH: Right.

DIANE BRENT: And then, see whether -- who we need to draw in and what forum makes the most sense; and in some cases, it doesn't make sense to maintain some of these committees, because all of those people who are on those committees will be feeding directly into the assessment process.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Right.

DIANE BRENT: So, then, why have a duplicate forum.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: That's very good. I've been thinking as we were talking here. In the Yukon Government, we kind of realized that when an assessment starts on a project, especially a major project, that the Yukon Government needs to keep paying attention and being involved through the course of the assessment by YESAA so that we are in a position to make a decision within the legislative timelines. Maybe there is a vehicle there for some kind of project-specific, technical committee that would meet. The project comes in. We're sending in comments to the board. We get together, we talk about what we think the issues are, and that kind of discussion continues on a project-by-project basis so that stuff isn't coming out -- we all know what has been going on. If it turned out that after you do five of those, it's always the same people at the table, then maybe you say, "This could be a standing committee with some fluctuation in membership." But it has pretty much always got the same people on it. There are a lot of options, I guess.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes.

CHAIR ROB WALKER: Any other comments?

(No audible response)

CHAIR ROB WALKER: So, we'll come up with some kind of strategy for this and get back to you on how we'd like to move forward.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Thanks for the initial discussion.

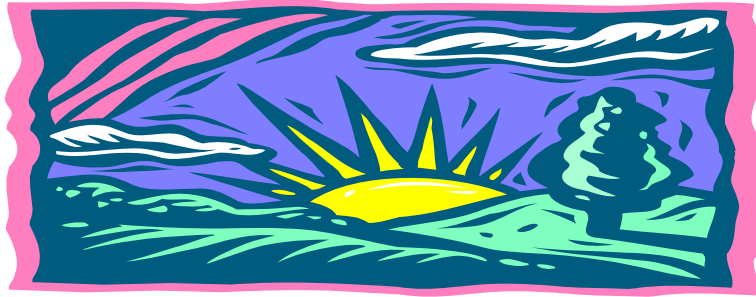
CHAIR ROB WALKER: Thanks, great comments, you guys!

DIANE BRENT: A catchy title - "*The Next Generation*".

6.4 Open Floor

Nothing!

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



YERC MEETING AGENDA

**9:00 am
Wednesday, August 17th, 2005
Elijah Smith Building – Room 3A**

Approval of Minutes – Heidi Rumscheidt

Project Updates

- **Carmacks Copper/Western Silver** – Intro: Shane Andre, Presentation: Dan Cornett
- **Wolverine/Yukon Zinc Expatriate** – Heidi Rumscheidt for Derek Fraser

Potential Future Projects

- **Se Dena Hess** – Heidi Rumscheidt for Derek Fraser
- **Other projects?**

Other

- **Yukon River Bridge Draft Screening Report available for pick up**

Emerging Projects/Issues/Updates

- **YESAA Update** – Diane Gunter via Christine
- **YERC *The Next Generation*** – YERC needs assessment discussion – Christine and Heidi
- *Open floor*

YERC MEETING
9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 17, 2005
Elijah Smith Building - Room 3A

IN ATTENDANCE:

Heidi Rumscheidt, Chair	DAP Branch
Christine Smith	DAP Branch
Shane Andre	DAP Branch
Patricia Randell	DAP Branch
Morris George	Environment
Catherine Paish	Tourism

OTHERS:

Dan Cornett	Access Consulting Group
Nichole Speiss	Access Consulting Group
Joyce Bachli, Secretariat	Mega Reporting Inc.

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:07 a.m.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: I'm playing "Derek Fraser" today. Some of you may know me, some of you may not. My name is Heidi Rumscheidt. I was in the DAP Branch before, almost a year ago. I'm back now as one of the DAP managers. I started about a month ago. Maybe we'll just do a quick roundtable to make sure everyone knows everyone.

(ROUNDTABLE)

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 15, 2005

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: We will start with approval of the minutes from the June 15 meeting.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Dan made some changes, and I made those changes. They were just minor explanations.

JOYCE BACHLI: Thanks, Dan.

DAN CORNETT: No, problem!

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Good, so, no other changes. So, the minutes are approved.

3.0 PROJECT UPDATES

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: So, we'll start with project updates, and we will begin with Carmacks Copper/Western Silver, and that will be Shane Andre and Dan Cornett.

3.1 Carmacks Copper/Western Silver - Shane Andre & Dan Cornett

SHANE ANDRE: Yes, I guess I'll just give a quick update as to where we are with this project. I think most of you are probably up-to-date on this; but if you weren't here -- I know Morris wasn't here, and I don't think Catherine was here either. So, this project, this Carmacks Copper project description and Environmental Assessment Report came in June. It's triggered a comprehensive study. So, there are two RAs, we've identified the two, ECO and EMR, RAs for this project; and so far, those are the only RAs. I think Transport Canada hasn't quite decided yet, but it looks like they won't be an RA.

MORRIS GEORGE: Sorry, Shane, ECO and who?

SHANE ANDRE: EMR. It's likely that this project will be a transition project, meaning that it will likely require an assessment under YESAA. In order to facilitate a smooth transition, the YESAA Board has appointed a YESAA observer in Travis Ritchie, who will be observing the assessment; not necessarily participating but taking part in meetings and technical meetings, and they will be on our distribution list until YESAA comes into full effect.

DAN CORNETT: Was Travis invited to this meeting?

SHANE ANDRE: He wasn't, and I threw around the office the idea of whether the YESAA Board would be invited to YERC. So far they haven't been, but I think maybe that's something we'll look at in the future.

DAN CORNETT: Yes, I was just thinking in relation to this project, since Travis missed out on the last technical meeting, this was an opportunity to hear an overview.

SHANE ANDRE: Yes, he wasn't there; and I think we should maybe think about that. We are discussing what the role of YERC will be in the future, and maybe that's something that we should discuss sooner, rather than later, whether the YESAA Board would be --

CHRISTINE SMITH: I think we have the option at YERC to have observers come; I'm not sure.

DAN CORNETT: Yes, I wasn't getting bogged down about whether it was YERC or not. I was just saying that this was the project,

and he's shadowing it, and if he got the invite, he would have went ahead; because this is the second time I'm doing an overview here, and I haven't seen him yet.

PATRICIA RANDELL: I do believe he's in the Regulator Interface meeting at this point anyway.

SHANE ANDRE: Yes, I know they're quite busy.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: We could certainly look at it as an item for follow-up generally during the transition period when projects are discussed in this forum, whether it's useful and appropriate for the observer from the Board to attend.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes, you're right.

SHANE ANDRE: I think we definitely have to start inviting him to these meetings. That's a point well taken.

CHRISTINE SMITH: It's a good point.

SHANE ANDRE: Right, the RAs have scoped this project, and we have put together a public consultation package that we did distribute yesterday. So, what that means is that we are asking for comments on this project. If anyone here hasn't received that package, let me know, and I'll make sure that you get it. It is posted on the DAP website. The deadline for comments is September 13th.

I guess that's about it for updates. Dan is here from Access to give us a briefing on the technical aspects of this project. So, I will let him have the floor.

DAN CORNETT: Great, thanks, Shane. What I was planning on doing was kind of walking through a bit of an overview on the basis of the report. We've got this stack of papers here. I don't think everyone that was at the technical meeting last -- they're all new faces.

SHANE ANDRE: Yes, they are pretty much.

[WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION - PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT - AUGUST 2005 UPDATE - TABLED]

DAN CORNETT: This is called the "Poorman's Power Point Presentation"! It's all in the report. So, this is just a real easy way to walk people through the project.

By way of background, Western Silver is a publicly traded company. They've got the Carmacks Copper project here in the Yukon, but they also have land holdings down in Mexico. They have the Peñasquito property and are a 25 percent joint venture partner on the San Nicolas project. Jonathan Clegg is the project manager for Western Silver on this; and what he wishes to convey to YERC is if there are any requirements for him to participate in technical meetings or some of these other meetings, he is prepared to do that, whether by phone or in person. However, at this point, since we are providing just an overview of the project, I decided I would handle that for today.

MORRIS GEORGE: Jonathan is with you guys?

DAN CORNETT: Jonathan Clegg is with Western Silver Corporation. He is the project manager on that.

What I would like to do is walk people through the Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report. As Shane said, this was filed back in June, early June. It is a two-volume report. Volume I is the main report; Volume II is all the supporting appendices. Typically, these are new information that has been provided on the project. With the accompanying CD, there was all the detailed supporting documentation, specific reports on geotechnical or environmental studies. It is very extensive. We have made reference to it and brought the information forward, but that is all available on that CD with all the information from the previous work.

Figure 2-2 lays out the area for the project. We're about 46 kilometers from Carmacks. It's about 33 kilometers up the Free Gold Road, the existing road, and then, 13 kilometers into the minesite. There is an exploration trail that you can get into the site now, although not directly in. The Williams Creek stream crossing is a bit of a problem, but you can actually get pretty close to the site now. The property is about nine kilometers from the Yukon River. Just to point out on this figure, what we've done for environmental assessment purposes, in the green boundary, is what we've called the "Environmental Assessment Study Area Boundary" for the project, which we've described and outlined in the report. It fundamentally follows or incorporates the drainage for Williams Creek, and it also takes into consideration the access road location. There are, however, regional considerations or boundaries, which we haven't put on a map base. These would be things in relation to wildlife, as wildlife doesn't particularly follow those boundaries. So, we have looked at wildlife in a regional context. Socioeconomic effects in relation to Carmacks or Whitehorse, those are sort of outside of the boundary; but for mapping purposes, this shows what we have focused on for that. In terms of a temporal boundary for the scope of the project that encompasses all the construction, operation and closure up to 15 years, which it may be a little bit more than that; but we are certainly looking at the construction, operation and decommissioning of the property that's been described in the report.

Figure 3.1, this is an air photo image, basically with the infrastructure placed overtop, and what we are looking at here now is the Williams Creek and North Williams Creek drainage. The property is kind of encompassed by that. You can see the open pit in the centre left. That's just the starter pit for that. To the north of that would be the waste rock storage area and attendant sediment control pond. Coming back down towards the pit would be the service complex and crushing area. We've got a camp that's located to the far west on the right-hand side of this figure, and then, the heap leach pad to the south bottom, with the plant site, the solvent extraction acid plant; events ponds and sediment control pond. So, that's sort of a bit of an overview in relation to it. I'll go through a few other figures that basically walk through some of the more specific details of each one of those components.

Figure 3-3 is just a schematic flow sheet of the operation. It's a conventional truck-and-shovel operation where material would be blasted from the open pit and hauled either to waste rock or up to crushing. We're looking at a combined approximately 28,000 tonnes per day of ore and waste rock with about 5,000 tonnes per day being ore, the remainder being waste rock. So, that's about a 4.1:1.0 stripping ratio, waste-to-ore. Roughly we are looking at 98-to-100 thousand tonnes per day; about 230 days for loading up onto the leach pad. So, from the open pit the material is crushed through primary/secondary crushers, and then, through conveyor belts, it is placed onto the heap leach pad; and the heap leach pad is a lined containment system. Leached solution is taken directly from the leach pad into the solvent extraction plant. We are leaching yearround with these drip-ammeters, basically irrigation tubing put through the rock, similar to what was done up at Brewery Creek and material collected in the plant. We've got a schematic of the plant, but we're basically extracting copper by mixing an organic solution, pulling off the copper in an electrowinning process where we produce 98 percent pure copper cathodes. They are sort of in big sheets, about a metre square, maybe a couple millimeters thick. From there, that would be put onto regular transport trucks and trucked out. You'd probably backhaul them underneath -- if you had fuel going in, you'd probably have trucks specialized to have the cathodes backhauled on them. You're producing 30-to-32 million pounds/year of copper; and over the life, that's 115,000 tonnes of copper, and it's basically in a pure format. From there it could be readily manufactured into wires or roofing or whatever type of material.

Figure 3-5 here is basically a schematic of the ultimate open pit. There is an eight-year mine life on this open pit. Roughly the dimensions are 780 meters long by 450 meters wide and 240 meters deep. As I said, it's a drill blast operation, a conventional truck-and-shovel.

Figure 3-6 is a design drawing of the waste rock storage area. In the report, we discussed how we reviewed eight different location options for selecting the site for the waste rock storage area. We are roughly looking at 60

million tonnes of waste rock being placed here, an area of about 70 hectares; 7.5 million tonnes/year being placed, and this would be done yearround. The plan here is to basically strip organics off the area and stockpile them for future reclamation. There is some permafrost in the area. That would be allowed to thaw. There would be ditching placed below and water containment sediment control below that, and the area would be stripped far enough to be able to place a contingency toe berm, if so required, to deal with the waste rock stability. I would note it is out of the North Williams Creek watercourse, and this watercourse -- we were there last Thursday -- it's probably 20/30 centimeters wide, a very small watercourse in the upper reaches. There's not a whole lot of water there.

The next drawing I have here is a drawing of the heap leach pad, and this was a design recently done by EBA Engineering. It is a leach pad on a double liner system. We're looking at holding a 13.3 million-tonne capacity, roughly 32 hectares in size with perimeter ditches around for runoff water control. Ore would be stacked by conveyor in eight-metre lifts, roughly at a slope of 2.5:1.0, and there is a confining embankment, which is to the right of your drawing here. That confining embankment provides stability to the pile, to the heap, and it's roughly 22 meters wide-by-350 meters long. As I said, there is a double liner system, complete with leak detection; and below that, there are foundation drains, which would drain into the events pond. Now, this heap has been designed for out of solution storage. There is no in-heap storage of solutions. Basically, it's gravity draining, free-draining into the process plant and/or the events pond.

Your next drawing is sort of a cross-section through the liner system. There are basically two liner systems here, what we're calling the "upper works" and the "lower works". The lower works, basically you go back to the previous figure. It sort of encompasses the confining embankment up to I believe it's the first LDRS collection divide, and the reason we've got two different types of liner system is that this solution will be ponding down at the confining embankment. It is at the down-gradient, so it has a more robust liner system there; and I will just walk people through that. The remaining portion is called the "upper works", but if you look at this drawing here, in cross-section you're starting with top-to-bottom, the leached ore, there would be a metre of over-liner, which is crushed material placed over the liner systems. There would be a 60-mill textured HDPE, which is designed to be resistant to acids; a leak-detection and recovery system, which is a triplaner geocomposite or a geonet, followed by another 60-mill textured HDPE. So, you have two layers of plastic, and then, the bottom of that would be the compacted clay liner here with a permeability of 10^{-6} centimeters/second here. So, that is the upper works; and you can see, in cross-section, there are a series of these leak detection collection ditches that run through the pad system. The upper works is fundamentally the same type of system, except that the subgrade below, the lower-most plastic liner is just a prepared subgrade. It's not actually a compacted clay liner. It's basically a

native material with all the rocks and twigs and those sort of things picked out of it. It's cleaned off, and then, you would lay your liner directly on that. That's fundamentally the difference between the upper and the lower liner systems.

Figure 3-8 is a planned drawing of the events pond. The events pond is located directly below the heap leach pad, and it's designed to take up excess solution storage in the event of excess meteorological events, so on and so forth. So, this events pond is designed for 160,000 m³ of storage, which would take up the operating volume of the leach pad, 100 year snow melt event during the most critical time, typically around April/May. So, if you had all this snow pack sitting on there, and then, it rained, that extra moisture has got to go somewhere. So, you have the events pond for that, and all of the heap drain-down. So, during the first year of operations, it would be 100 percent of all the heap solutions; and during the life of the mine, it would be 100 percent of all winter solutions; and during operations from year two-out, it would continue 48 hours of drain-down, so fundamentally a big portion of the water. In association with all of this, there are redundant systems in relation to the water management in terms of piping and power and pumps, et cetera, as well as a contingency wastewater treatment plant. To put this all into perspective, the 160,000 m³ of storage is the same amount of solution storage that was used up at Brewery Creek. Brewery Creek has three ponds. Two of them were for operating, and one was for event pond storage. So, you had two ponds at 30,000 m³, and then, one pond at 100,000. That 100,000 storage pond was their events pond, and it was never, ever used during the life of the mine. So, the way we are looking at it here, there is a significant volume of storage in the events pond that we need that for emergency events. The system liner on the events pond is similar to the upper works liner system. So, basically it is two plastics with a geonet in between the two for a leak detection and recovery system for that.

Table 4-2 is just an example of some of the alternatives that were looked at for the mining project. This project is a comprehensive study. We had to document the alternatives that were looked at for the project. This is just an example table of what was done for the mining method alternatives. There are a number of other tables in there that looked at the processing of ore, the waste rock storage area, heap leach pad sites, the type of heap leaching, infrastructure requirements, mine power requirements, camps, those sorts of things. Those were all covered off. This is just an example of how these alternatives were selected for the site on the basis of economic engineering considerations, environmental considerations, socioeconomic, and then, the preferred alternative.

Figure 5-4 is an overview drawing of the site. You can see where the open pit is, the waste rock storage area and the leach pad and other facilities. This is a summary of the bore holes and test pit locations that were undertaken for the project. I wouldn't say it is all-encompassing. There are other reports with other detailed information, but suffice it to say, there has been a significant

amount of environmental work done on the property here from geotechnical, with the test pitting and the drill program, hydrogeological work in association with that, a number of groundwater wells that were monitored and sampled for level and for water quality. Looking at the whole geology and the mineralization of the deposit and characterizing waste rock ore and spent ore, metallurgical characteristics and metal leachate characteristics. There is also a climate station that was set up by DIAND, which is now Yukon Government; but there is a met. station that exists up at the property and data is occasionally pulled off of that, which we had access to, looking at updating water balances and meteorological information for this site. There have been terrain and seismic studies done on the property, surface water quality, groundwater, hydrology, stream sediment, benthos, fisheries, wildlife, vegetation, archaeological and socioeconomic. So, again, this figure is pointing out the geotechnical work, but there have been a whole host of other studies done on the site over the past 12 years.

The next figure here, Figure 5-3, is basically locating the water quality monitoring stations that have been set up for the site. They are in the green triangles. There are also groundwater monitoring wells that have been set up on the site. We have presented all the historic data in relation to that. Some of the latest sampling was done up until 2000. At a recent technical meeting, there had been some concern raised about whether additional sampling would be undertaken to refresh the data. We were actually out to the property last week and revisited five of the water quality stations out there and took water quality and stream sediments, et cetera. The company is certainly aware that as part of the Metal Mining Effluent Regs, there has to be baseline environmental work initiated in advance of mine construction, and that would be another opportunity to go back and revisit and reestablish some of the monitoring here. But we have taken the opportunity when we were out there last week to update some of the stations right around the site, which would include North Williams Creek and the upper drainage.

MORRIS GEORGE: What would be the access to these sites, is it by air, or is there a trail?

DAN CORNETT: No, they're basically by trail. You can get in with a quad if the road is half decent. Some of them have washed out, so you can't really drive in with a truck. You could before. It would be very easy to upgrade the road. Some of the roads would have to be upgraded for site development. We didn't get down to the lower station, W10, 12, 13, 11. That has been done with a helicopter before, although there is a new firebreak that was put in a few years ago in relation to the fire in the area. So, one may actually be able to ATV down to those sites, as well; but we didn't have time to go down and cover that off. Most of the other sites on the property are pretty easy to get to.

MORRIS GEORGE: It wouldn't be a burden to the company to create trail access if it wasn't there from top-to-bottom to the sites?

DAN CORNETT: Yes, if you were going to establish these things ... A number of the sites, if you look at W1, it was completely dry. There was nothing there. Similarly with W5, I don't think it had a whole lot of flow there, and the station down at W7, like I say, it may have been a quarter of a litre/second; down to at W3, probably two or three liters/second. So, they're pretty small flows and drainages; but once a project gets established, it's pretty common for companies to go in and reestablish all these things and make it a lot easier for people to get into. My rule of thumb is if it's hard for people to get into, then they don't typically get sampled. So, if you make it easy, then people will sample them.

MORRIS GEORGE: Yes.

DAN CORNETT: Figure 5-6 is just an overview drawing of some of the heritage resources and current land use in the area. We have the claim package in relation to the site and the exploration road. There was another proposed access road, which was actually cleared; similarly with the heap leach pad back in '97. The leach pad now is poplar all throughout up to an inch, inch-and-a-half in diameter sort of thing. So, it's revegetating there again after the work that was done to clear it.

CATHERINE PAISH: Did you look into any tourism activity that's going on in this area?

DAN CORNETT: We did redocument, in the socioeconomic side of things, looking at the tourism. There is not a lot of access to the site. There is a trapper who is out there, Johnny Sam. They have indicated that they continue to trap in that area, and I expect that probably in the fall there are hunters and those type of things. Most of the activity surrounds access on the Yukon River. So, it's fundamentally people canoeing and travelling down the Yukon River. There aren't a whole lot of major campsites that were documented at the bottom end of the creek. There is the Yukon Quest Trail which runs near the mouth of Williams Creek and the Yukon River, but most of that was documented in the socioeconomic section of the report.

CATHERINE PAISH: How old is that report?

DAN CORNETT: It was done eight years ago, and it was refreshed -- that's the term that I'm using here, we're "refreshing" our information -- going back to look at the community information and information from YTG in relation to the Village of Carmacks, Little Salmon FN. Some of the tourism information may be a bit dated, but we've gone back and talked with some of the First Nations in relation to things, the outfitter, et cetera.

CATHERINE PAISH: I will go back and check our database, because we now do have a fairly comprehensive database on the operators and what they're doing.

DAN CORNETT: And what they're doing, right; but like I say, most of the tourism/recreational sort of falls within that Yukon River area.

CATHERINE PAISH: Is any development or activity going to be visible from the Yukon River?

DAN CORNETT: No. When you're at the top of the minesite, you can actually look across the valley and see kind of the ridge or sand bluff on the Yukon River, but that is not visible from the highway. You can't actually see the river from the highway at that location. It's all kind of tree-shrouded there.

MORRIS GEORGE: Dan, on that 5-6, what's the planned use for the claims that is going down to the Klondike Highway? Is it a right-of-way for power or a road?

DAN CORNETT: Possibly as a right-of-way for power; right now the project has been assessed on the basis of stand-alone power generation. The company has had discussions with Yukon Energy Corp surrounding a possible transmission line into there. Historically, Yukon Electrical did do an environmental assessment on two routes into the property. That all exists on file, but right now, like I say, the company is going as stand-alone power. If there is a decision made by Yukon Energy to bring the transmission line up to the Pelly or Stewart and reconnect it, yes, there is an opportunity to look at another transmission line being brought into that; but for the purposes of the assessment, we're just looking at it as stand-alone power. Now, these claims were staked I think in March of this year.

The next table here, and I'm not going to get into all the details on it, Table 7-1, these are the types of descriptors that we use to run through our significant assessment determination for the project. What I wanted to point out here is that there are five criteria that are pretty typical in relation to CEAA: duration, geographic extent, magnitude, reversibility and ecological context; right out of the *CEAA Responsible Authorities Guide*. We have added two other criteria here to basically try and cover off the socioeconomic side of things in relation to what YESAA may be looking for. So, this economic and social context is a way of trying to quantify effects on the economy or the social fabric of the community. Similarly, we have added in our risk characterization. There was a whole risk assessment done for the project, and we've factored that into the significance determination, as well. So, these run through the criteria, and then, we've ranked

them from the basis of very low to very high, put a numerical value to them, and then, used that as a basis of trying to come up with a significance determination.

So, if we look at the next table, Table 7-2, the large one, this is basically your summary of the assessment. This was reviewed and revisited. We have used these as a basic summary of what are the valued ecosystems for the project, what type of development component is going to affect it, whether it's an open pit or the heap leach pad, when would that occur during the life of the operation -- this is under "occurrence" -- and what the consequence would be and the effect. So, if we're looking at atmospheric, yes, there's going to be fugitive dust from the open pit; and how do you mitigate that? Road watering, and then, we've actually taken those criteria: the duration, geographic extent, magnitude, et cetera, put a numerical ranking on the basis of that, and then, come up with an overall ranking. Where there's a low effect, "Here's the numerical ranking on that," and then, whether or not that's significant with the mitigation measures identified. So, what you're going to see, as an example, topography, the open pit; well, an open pit, that effect is going to be permanent. It's very high in relation to it. So, it just runs people through trying to make this transparent as to how the significant assessment was done for the property.

CATHERINE PAISH: In the last column, the significant, it's I assume "yes" or "no"; --

DAN CORNETT: "Yes" or "no".

CATHERINE PAISH: -- and they are all "no's"?

DAN CORNETT: That's correct, with mitigation.

CATHERINE PAISH: With mitigation?

DAN CORNETT: That's correct, and/or follow-up programs or however else you're going to look at that.

Again, when you try to oversimplify something, people are going, "Well, how did you come up with that?" It's all basically described in the report in relation to what was going on. Some things like the socioeconomic and social context, in essence you're pulling things out of the air. For atmospheric or topography, what's the social context or effects on that? Well, you could say there's nothing, but that doesn't stop someone from walking out there and saying, "Well, that affects me." So, you've taken a moderate line to the assessment on some of these things and said, "Well, there's a moderate effect in relation to it." Some of the things are a lot more obvious, whether it's trapping or boom-and-bust or accidents, those are more tangible. There are other things that are just harder to grab in relation to the social and economic context. Without real guidance coming out of YESAA or other places, we're in new

territory here as to how to deal with it. The approach we had taken was to try and cover it off, try and present the socioeconomic effects related to the project and try and assess those effects in anticipation of what was coming out of YESAA. So, that's been done here in relation to this project.

CATHERINE PAISH: And is it in the report or on the CD?

DAN CORNETT: It's all in the report, and I think there is some supporting information on the CD, as well, of some of the studies.

CATHERINE PAISH: Thank you.

MORRIS GEORGE: Is it a known or expected that the pit would fill with water?

DAN CORNETT: Yes, we're anticipating -- I think in the report we have up to 300 years it would take to actually fill that pit.

MORRIS GEORGE: So, you plan to put the tailings back into the pit?

DAN CORNETT: No.

MORRIS GEORGE: Just cover them.

DAN CORNETT: I'll get into that, but you're doing a similar arrangement that would be done at Brewery Creek, basically flush and rinse the heap to bring the pH back up to neutral, look at the insitu binding off of metals, covering the heap with a low or evapo-transpirative cover, revegetating it, minimizing water going into it, and then, a number of other contingencies to deal with effluent that comes off of it, whether or not it's an infiltration gallery or a biological treatment cell. You do the insitu --

MORRIS GEORGE: Sorry, I meant the waste rock.

DAN CORNETT: The waste rock would be contoured and overburden placed over it, and then, revegetated; and on the basis of all of the waste rock characterization test work, we're not talking about an acid-generating issue here or a metal leachate. This is an oxide deposit. Everything has been oxidized out of there. There are no sulphides basically in the rock. That's why we can heap leach it. It's basically all oxide. We can run it that way. So, we don't see that as a particular long-term problem there. We basically minimize the amount of water running through the waste rock pile it and revegetate it and deal with some of the aesthetics stuff.

CATHERINE PAISH: How many trucks a day are you anticipating on the Alaska Highway, and is there going to be any impact on the highway itself?

DAN CORNETT: I think we had a truck count in the report in relation to that. The bulk of the transport would be acid and fuel for that. Fuel can be stockpiled and similarly with acid. I think it is somewhere in the range of a truck a day sort of thing. That's what I was saying, we're looking to try and backhaul product out on that same truck to minimize transportation costs. You can build these little undercarriages and place the material on that.

The other thing that is being looked at in relation to the project is actually a bioleach where you use elemental sulphur and basically what is called "bug juice", a bacteriological sort of solution that, where you crush the ore and put it onto a conveyor, you actually mix the ore with elemental sulphur, just raw sulphur, add the solutions to it, and the material gets placed on the leach pad and the thio-bacillus bacteria basically generate their own acid, and you create your own acid solution that way and leach the ore. So, it's a biological leach. We've done some test work on that. The reason I'm mentioning it is it has a significant benefit to the company if it can be done economically, because you reduce the need for an acid plant, which is a significant cost. You bring in elemental sulphur or molten sulphur. To have an acid plant to produce sulphuric acid, there is a fair amount of infrastructure required for that. If you can do a bioleach, then you minimize the need for that whole acid plant, et cetera. That's something else that the company is looking at now in relation to that.

CATHERINE PAISH: How many people will there be in the campsite?

DAN CORNETT: There would be a construction camp put up on site. I think the number in the report, and Nichole can correct me if I'm wrong, I think it's 120 during construction.

CATHERINE PAISH: I will read it. I've just been on holidays for a month.

DAN CORNETT: It's all there. The intent is to actually leave a portion of the camp there. Most of the people would be living in Carmacks or Whitehorse. They would be on shift work, two-week-in/two-week-out sort of thing; and using the camp for those people on site for that. Then there are requirements for key people to be on the property at all times. Basically we want to make sure that the pumps and the power and all those sorts of things are always attended to. So, there is a requirement to have people at the site yearround full time. So, the camp would be used for that, very similar to what was done up at Brewery Creek. They had a large construction camp, and then,

basically that crew size dwindled down as you rotated people in and out of the minesite.

Table 7-3 is just a listing of the valued ecosystem and cultural components and how we selected them in relation to that. I'm not going to get into that too much more, but fundamentally, they do follow the components that were listed in the previous table, and we talked about how we looked at them.

CATHERINE PAISH: Just a quick question: At your open house in Carmacks, were any concerns raised with respect to the economic impact?

DAN CORNETT: What we did was we went and met with the Village Council, Carmacks Village Council, we met with them for about an hour; and then, we met Chief and Council, and then, had the public open house. Fundamentally, the Village Council was very supportive of it, just keep people informed as to what is going on in relation to it. What we detected is there is some tension, shall we say, between the First Nations and the Village in relation to decision-making. As an example, they were asking whether the company is going to be having an office over with the First Nation for hiring, because I guess that's the way it's being done at Mount Nanson. So, there is not an opportunity for the other side of the Village to have jobs, et cetera. So, I guess there is some tension between the various parties there. We're not trying to walk in the centre of that. We're trying to structure it so that we're working with all parties here, but suffice to say that's been brought to our attention.

First Nations, yes, they're concerned with the trapping, the effects on the local trapper and impacts on the land in relation to the operation. The heap leach pad and its stability and the effects to water and those sorts of things are very much in the forefront with them; and they are also very keen on the socioeconomic side of things, on the benefits side. We haven't initiated any formal discussion with them on the socioeconomic side. When we met with Chief and Council, it was basically to say, "Yes, we're not prepared to talk about it today, but yes, we're prepared to talk about the socioeconomic side of things as this project progresses." It was important for the company to get a number of other things going in relation to the file, which have been done. Our next step with First Nations, we're looking at the week of September the 12th to actually have a workshop within the community. It's something that the community and First Nations will be organizing. Probably day one is an overview of the project and getting people familiar with what is going on there, probably some type of a dinner. We will take the opportunity to sit down with leadership and talk about some of the socioeconomic issues and try and revisit some of those things, a "heads of agreement" type of participation agreement for the project, and then, the following day, try and get out to the minesite to take a look around and wave arms and do those sorts of things. So, that is being scheduled here now with First Nations to try and get a little more specific to try and do things at their level,

at their request, in relation to that. Probably we will also take the opportunity to meet with the Village Council again and the community. So, that's up and coming with the First Nations, working with them on that.

This next table, Table 8-1, is just a summary of the performance standards and objectives for the project, a little bit of background or context for that. Prior to the company initiating and reactivating their project in the Yukon, there was a project agreement that was structured and signed off between the Yukon Government and the company. It basically followed the major mining in the Yukon, the old Blue Book template for the project agreement. Within that project agreement, the company wanted to have some firm understanding of the Yukon Government's expectations for performance standards and criteria, things that they had to meet; and this table here summarized some of the requirements for that, but suffice to say as a minimum, the company had to look at the Metal Mining Effluent Discharge Regulations as a requirement for effluent standards; in the receiving environment, we're looking at CCME criteria. So, there are a host of those things that were put together as part of that agreement. This table is intended to provide a summary of what types of performance standards and criteria each mining component would be meeting, from water to chemical stability, the physical stability aspects in relation to revegetation and monitoring. So, that's a quick and dirty summary table in relation to that. There are, again, more details in one of the appendices that lay out all those criteria.

Table 8-2 is just a summary of an operational monitoring program plan for that, from meteorology to hydrology, water quality, the biological component, some of the mineralogical, the waste rock, waste characterization, continuing with the physical geotechnical inspections and reclamation research. There is further work being undertaken by the company, and we have initiated some of the water quality and stream assessment work again. There would be a requirement under the Metal Mining Effluent Regs to do this environmental effects monitoring program in advance of the project. There is continuing work on some detoxification and other test work, as well.

The last two figures here speak to the reclamation side of the project. Fundamentally, all of the infrastructure that would be on the site would be removed and taken down; the roads decompacted, scarified, revegetated; the waste rock ore would be contoured and capped with overburden soil and revegetated. The open pit, it's fenced-off, it's probably inaccurate to call it a "fence", because that requires long-term maintenance; but any high walls or access to that would probably be blocked off with large boulders or double trenches that would prohibit people from driving into those sorts of things. Then probably the biggest component here in people's minds is in relation to the heap leach pad and how that would be detoxified.

The next figure here, the last one, has a bit of a schematic or cartoon to show what would be done further. What we looked at here is a 2-to-10-year; and

then, from 10 years out for closure timeframe. In 2001, there was test work undertaken by the company to look at how to detoxify the heap, and that data is reported as an appendix in Volume II here, the Beattie Report. Basically it had washing the pile with water and lime, trying to neutralize it, and that was a problem to be able to do that. You couldn't get the pH up to a near-neutral, 6 1/2 pH. There was subsequent test work that was done to look at rinsing the pile with just water to try and reduce the acidity in the pile, and then, adding a soda ash to the water, and then, flushing that through the pile. That test work demonstrated that we could actually raise the pH back up to near 7, neutral. That was probably a key decision point for the company, to indicate that we could actually start to detoxify and neutralize this pile. It was a problem during the last environmental review. No one was too keen on looking at an active treatment-type of situation and how to actually get around that. So, on the basis of that, there has been some additional work that is ongoing now; and we're actually trying to present that information to the technical committee in relation to it; but the approach to closure, basically, and I'll just walk you through the schematic here on the top, the 2-to-10 year, it's a water and an alkali rinse. You basically continue to operate the process solution, you add water to it and you start reducing the acidity of the pile. Once you have that acidity out of the pile, you can bring up the pH with a soda ash alkali rinse and looking at starting to cover the pile. So, you basically build an evapo-transpirative cover, overburden, put it overtop of the pile, reslope it, recontour it, get some vegetation growing on it; and the idea here is to try and reduce the amount of infiltration water going through it. At that point, we would be looking at doing an insitu carbohydrate nutrient addition. This is a similar situation that was done up in Brewery Creek. Basically it's molasses and phosphoric acid, a bacteriological solution that's injected back into the pile, and it creates these metalo-organic metal complexes that stabilize the metals insitu within the heap. Like I said, the solvent extraction plant and events pond, that would all be up and running during that period; and at the same time we are treating water, we're also trying to bleed it off and get it out of the system, because there is excess water within the heap. There is the contingency, the water treatment plant that would be there. It's a standard lime type of treatment plant, which is used up at Elsa or Faro or Mount Nanson, these other places. We're basically adding lime to bring the pH up, drop your metals out, get the metals out of the system, and then, discharge. So, you're basically reducing, you're bleeding off the excess water out of the system.

In the long term, the approach here is you would use other insitu carbohydrate addition if you needed to. That would be available. We've got three different contingencies that are built into the approach here: a limestone drain basically where effluent from the events pond would run directly through a limestone drain; a biological treatment cell [this actually is constructed up at Brewery Creek now. It is a contingency to basically pull out any other metals and polish things off]; and the last item here is an infiltration gallery, which is basically like a biological treatment cell, intended to purify any metals out of the heap

effluent. Again, these are long-term processes here, intended to demonstrate that you don't need an active care type of treatment scenario in relation to that.

PATRICIA RANDELL: Sorry, you said the tests show that you can get it up to a pH of 7?

DAN CORNETT: Right now I've got it up to 10, too high in some of the test work; but anyhow that's not a problem. It was a problem trying to get it up to the 7 before. We've actually been able to do that now, bring the pH up to neutral; and once you have it in a neutral state ...

We're using the criteria of the Metal Mining Effluent Regs, so a pH of 6 1/2-to-9 is your window, which is pretty typical in other water licenses where you actually have to meet that particular criteria. Then there are levels for copper and those sorts of things, but typically the metal that you would be concerned about here is copper.

So, some of that test work, as I said, is in the report here, the Beattie Report from 2001. That indicated that we can use the soda ash to bring it up. There is some additional test work that we're actually going to get technical people here, as well. This work is ongoing. We're trying to have columns that will run for a couple of years to demonstrate how well these things are going to work. So, we'll get that before the technical committee. That's being worked on right now.

So, that's it in a nutshell in relation to the project. So, any other questions?

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Thanks.

DAN CORNETT: The last note here is another project update. It's on the back of your sheet, and it's sort of like a little newsletter. It was posted on our website. It will be sent around to people again. It's a bit of an update as to what is going on with the project and what's happening there, where to find information.

CATHERINE PAISH: Will it be on Access' website, too?

DAN CORNETT: It will be sent to Shane. We haven't actually circulated it here yet, but it will be on our website, as well. All the reports and information is there, and you can access it.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Were there any other questions or comments?

(No audible response)

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Thank you very much, Dan. It was extremely informative. Thank you for your time and for coming.

CHRISTINE SMITH: I wanted to mention that the minutes of the meetings are recorded, and the minutes are public, so Travis could potentially --

DAN CORNETT: Pull them down?

CHRISTINE SMITH: -- be involved in a secondary way.

DAN CORNETT: Sure.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Maybe we'll take a quick break before the next item.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:25 a.m.

SHANE ANDRE: Dan, you said you guys were out on site this week?

DAN CORNETT: Yes, Thursday.

SHANE ANDRE: You guys could get around okay by vehicle, or did you take quads?

DAN CORNETT: There's a story there. we drove out and had a quad in the back, Nicole and I went out; and there are portions of the access road in there that have some real wash-out sections you kind of have to drive around, but it's not too bad to get there. Once you hit Williams Creek proper, you can't go over the culverts there. It's pretty well impassable. Of course, I tried to go around, which I figured someone else had done, and I got stuck up to the axle. Bring your quads if you want to try and get into the site.

[Discussion, re: accessing the site & workshop mid-September]

3.2 Wolverine/Yukon Zinc Expatriate - Chair Heidi Rumscheidt

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: The next project update, which will be very short, is on the Wolverine/Yukon Zinc Expatriate project. Derek Fraser has nothing new to report on this. Where the project is right now is the company is currently working on their Environmental Assessment Report, and that is still on target for the end of September. So, that's the status of that project right now.

CATHERINE PAISH: Heidi, who's doing that work?

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: In the DAP Branch?

CATHERINE PAISH: No, it's just that in discussions I had with Derek, I told him that should the proponents need more detailed information on tourism activities in the area, we would be happy to provide it directly to them. I haven't had any request yet.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Okay, I'm afraid I don't know the answer as to who, but I can certainly get Derek to follow up with you.

CATHERINE PAISH: I'm just wondering which company is doing the EAR, do you know?

SHANE ANDRE: Yukon Zinc is preparing the Environmental Assessment Report.

4.0 POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

4.1 Se Dena Hess - Chair Heidi Rumscheidt

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Just so you're aware, there isn't going to be much to report on that item. Derek didn't give me too many notes, and he said there wasn't much there to report. He's working on the screening right now. The screening report is still on target to be done by the end of August. So, they're building on the quite detailed screening report that was prepared in 2001.

In terms of potential future projects, I already mentioned to Dan, the Se Dena Hess project is a lead-zinc mine, currently in temporary closure. It's applying for an amendment to a Type A water licence. It is near Watson Lake. A detailed screening was done on this in 2001, and another screening report is being prepared, and that is on target for the end of August and will be available obviously.

4.2 Other Projects - Cash Minerals, Division Mountain - Chair Heidi Rumscheidt

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Another project -- because we were talking about it before the meeting started -- Cash Minerals, Division Mountain, is a proposed project, an open pit coalmine near Braeburn. The environmental assessment has not begun. There has been no project proposal submitted to date. It is, in essence, still in exploration and feasibility phase. So, nothing officially has started under EAA yet.

CATHERINE PAISH: But local companies are working with a developer on preliminary work?

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Yes, there is preliminary work being done and a feasibility study, and I've been assigned the EA coordinator for that project.

SHANE ANDRE: You have been assigned the EA coordinator through DAP or through this new process, where we assign a project coordinator and a project champion.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: I guess it's under this new process, because Jessie Duke is the project coordinator for Yukon Government, working with Access Consulting; because Access is working with Cash Minerals on the project.

CATHERINE PAISH: So, Jessie is no longer with EBA?

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: No, he's with Gartner Lee now. Energy, Mines and Resources has hired him to be the project coordinator.

CATHERINE PAISH: When you say "new process", are you talking about IRM?

SHANE ANDRE: Sorry, I didn't know how else to refer to it.

CHRISTINE SMITH: It's an internal way of organizing things. It's not a big change in policy.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: No.

5.0 OTHER

5.1 Yukon River - Dawson City Bridge

DAN CORNETT: Is the draft screening report on the Yukon River bridge being circulated?

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Yes, it went out at the end of the day yesterday. So, it is now available, and the comments are due by September 16th.

DAN CORNETT: So, we can get a copy somewhere or on the web?

SHANE ANDRE: Yes, it should be on the web, but you can take a CD now if you want.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: In terms of other projects, we've just mentioned this; but the Yukon River Bridge draft screening report is now available. It's gone out for public comment. The deadline is September 16th. Rob Walker is away now until August 29th. If people have immediate technical questions, we're recommending that people contact Allan Nixon in Highways and Public Works or Jeff O'Farrell in the DAP Branch until Rob returns.

CATHERINE PAISH: And when is he back?

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: August 29th.

CHRISTINE SMITH: And we have CDs here if you want a copy.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: There are CDs available here, yes, and it will be on the website if it isn't already, the public website.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Yes, it is.

CATHERINE PAISH: So, we're going ahead to finish this even though it's been shelved.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Yes, that's a very important point actually that we are strongly encouraging that people review their screening report and provide their comments, even though the project has officially been delayed; because at a future date if it goes ahead, those comments will stand.

CHRISTINE SMITH: They will still be valid, yes.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: So, please encourage people to review and provide their comments.

5.2 Other Projects - Open Floor

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Are there any other projects or items that people would like to mention at this point, future projects, any questions about existing ones?

(No audible response)

6.0 EMERGING PROJECTS/ISSUES/UPDATES

6.1 YESAA Update - Diane Gunter via Christine Smith

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: We'll first start with a YESAA update from Christine.

CHRISTINE SMITH: I will just read this verbatim:

"YESAA Update - the Regulations - the winter of 2005/2006 is the new target date for the YESAA Regulations to be enacted. Triparty work has concluded, and the Regulations were bluestamped into the Federal review process on July 14, 2005. We are waiting for the Federal timeline as to when the Regulations will be released for public gazetting and the final estimated enactment date."

CATHERINE PAISH: I've been away, so it's not November. When is it "mid-winter"?

CHRISTINE SMITH: Let's just leave it at that, I don't know. Yes, we're still waiting for the final estimated enactment date.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: The scheduling of Treasury Board meetings is wreaking havoc on the regulation timelines.

CHRISTINE SMITH: "With respect to training, since April of this year, the Yukon Government, together with the Federal Government and CYFN, have been conducting networking sessions with all YESAA decision bodies and the YESAB to establish efficient working relations. A third session, with all First Nations, Federal Government agencies and Yukon Government and staff of YESAB, is planned for October 5 and 6 in Whitehorse. Yukon Government's internal working group on YESAA is finalizing its corporate and departmental implementation plans. Training sessions are currently being set up for all Yukon Government staff to ensure readiness once the first assessments are being conducted under YESAA.

With respect to communications, public communication materials for projects that will be assessed under both EAA and YESAA regimes -- these are called "transition projects" -- they have been distributed and are available on the Yukon Government DAP website. These materials were designed by the Yukon Government and Federal Government in cooperation with YESAB and CYFN.

Board [YESAB] - Work is continuing on the Board's front to prepare for full implementation of YESAA. The YESAB is travelling through all the Yukon communities in August and September to consult on their rules and procedures. The Board has now circulated the panel review rules, designated office rules and forms, as well as the Executive Committee rules, for comment, which are available on their website: www.yesab.ca, and that's under the "Rules" heading.

All comments are being accepted by YESAB until September 30, 2005. The multiparty committee that was formed earlier this year consists of representatives of the Board, Yukon Government, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and CYFN in order to review transition issues and work through technical and/or process issues, with technical staff assistance from all four organizations. This committee and specified technical working groups continue to work on project transition, communications and linkages between the regulatory and assessment process. Ross Leef has been nominated as the seventh YESAB Board member. The notice has been released on the YESAB website.”

So, that's it from Diane.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Any questions?

CATHERINE PAISH: When were the rules bluestamped?
When did they go in?

CHRISTINE SMITH: The Regulations?

CATHERINE PAISH: Yes, the Regulations.

CHRISTINE SMITH: It said “the 14th of July”.

CATHERINE PAISH: And what is the consultation period?

CHRISTINE SMITH: Those are the Regulations, and they need to be made ready for Federal Cabinet. So, they need to go before the Treasury Board first, and then, once the Treasury Board does its review, then it goes through its process on work to cabinet. So, that's why the time is bumped up, because the Treasury Board doesn't meet in August.

CATHERINE PAISH: So, they're not in the public process
yet?

CHRISTINE SMITH: Not yet, no, that's right.

CATHERINE PAISH: Great, thank you.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: And the gazetting period is, what, 30
days or 60?

CATHERINE PAISH: It could be either.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Well, it could be 60, but the idea behind this is there has been a lot of public participation already with these Regulations. So, they're hoping for 30 days.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Yes.

CATHERINE PAISH: It's just that there is new stuff added in the Tourism component. There are new activities and new thresholds, compared to what we consulted on originally.

CHRISTINE SMITH: Well, then, you'll definitely want to be part of the public consultation.

CATHERINE PAISH: Yes.

6.2 YERC - *The Next Generation* - Christine Smith & Chair Heidi Rumscheidt

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: The next item was initiated from the last meeting, and that was discussing the mandate and purpose of the Yukon Environmental Review Committee. Given that there are only two or three people here, it might be in our best interests to defer this one; because this is really a discussion where we almost need a pretty full group. This is to discuss what is needed in the future under YESAA and what would be desired in terms of continuing a forum like this.

CHRISTINE SMITH: This is what I would have worked on today. I can read it into the minutes just so that people who get the minutes can then review this.

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Yes, you can do that, then.

CHRISTINE SMITH: I'll go through a summary, and then, the plan for today was to identify our obligations or legal requirements under YESAA. So, that would be under the category of what we need to do, and then, maybe start talking about what we want to do, what our desirables are.

So, just to read into the minutes the summary from the minutes of June 15:

Suggestions put forward included: list what we need to do, our functions, what we require. We need resources to be a decision body. Departments need help from the DAP Branch in the resource area, for example, guidance when YESAA is first implemented, determining who does what, identifying. Suggestions: YERC could become the forum for guiding decision bodies through YESAA. Also brought forward was we need a forum for sharing technical

information, and we should develop a “YESAA to-do list” for each department, and then, develop a list of desirables.

So, that was what we were planning on doing today. So, if you want to go away and think about it, and then, we can have this maybe at the September meeting when I was planning on having a more facilitated approach.

Any thoughts right now/questions?

(No audible response)

CHRISTINE SMITH: But everybody agrees to defer it?

[Agreement and consensus]

6.3 Open Floor

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Unless there are other items from people, that was all we had on the agenda. If there was anything else?

(No audible response)

CHAIR HEIDI RUMSCHEIDT: Other than that, we’re finished. Thank you very much.

7.0 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:38 a.m.



**CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT
CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT**

**APPENDIX E
Technical Committee**

February 2006

Agenda

July 28, 2005

ESB Room 3A

Invited: Bill Dunn, Bill Klassen, Bob Holmes, Susan Davis, Bill Slater, Dan Cornett, Benoit Godin, Bob Truelson, Randy Lamb, Shane Andre, Wayne Kettley, Travis Ritchie, Joanne Oberg, Kevin McDonnell,

Topic: Carmacks Copper –Technical Committee Meeting

- 1. Introduction of Technical Committee**
 - i. Role of committee**
 - ii. Administrative issues**
- 2. Overview of Project –by Dan Cornett**
 - i. Focusing on changes to the project**
- 3. Comments & Discussion**

CARMACKS COPPER
Technical Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 28, 2005
Elijah Smith Building - Room 3A

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Klassen, Facilitator	WJK & Associates Ltd.
Benoit Godin	Environment Canada
Nichole Speiss	Access Consulting Group
Shane Andre	YG ECO
Dan Cornett	Access Consulting Group
Rob Walker	DAP Branch
Randy Lamb	Environment
Susan Davis	LSCFN
Fred Green	LSCFN
Bill Slater	LSCFN
Joe Bellmore	LSCFN
Wayne Kettley	YTG, EMR, Water Resources
Bill Dunn	EMR – Mineral Development

OTHERS:

Joyce Bachli, Secretariat	MEGA Reporting Inc.
---------------------------	---------------------

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:05 p.m.

2.0 INTRODUCTION OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Facilitator Bill Klassen: My name is Bill Klassen, and Bill Dunn has asked me to chair this meeting.

So, we have an agenda, and this is the first meeting of the technical committee that's been established to discuss matters related to Western Silver's Carmacks Copper project. There will be information provided here by Dan in connection with that project, but there are some other matters that we need to discuss, such as the role of the committee and administrative issues.

Perhaps the first thing we should do is go around the table, have people introduce themselves and say what their association is.

[ROUNDTABLE]

2.1 ROLE OF COMMITTEE and ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Facilitator Bill Klassen: The first topic we have is the role of the committee, and that is set out briefly in a project management agreement between the Western Silver company and the Yukon Government. Bill, do you want to speak briefly to that?

Bill Dunn: Yes, I don't see the technical committee being set. I see the membership may vary, depending on what particular issues we're looking at or whether it's a heritage issue or a wildlife issue or chemical issues, it may vary a little; but it's to address and give recommendations on technical issues that are raised by the stakeholders -- I use the term "stakeholders" as everybody interested in the project, whether it's Environment Canada or Yukon Government or the public or Little Salmon Carmacks -- to give technical advice on the questions raised.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: So, the committee, as you've indicated, depending on what the issue is, the faces around the table may change. Does anyone have any comments on that or further discussion? We need to talk a little bit about how the committee will function. Obviously, it's important to have a record of the discussion, and that's why Joyce is here.

Benoit Godin: So, basically when you're talking about the membership may vary, although the issues and the people will show up at different times, these issues will be circulated to everybody all the time; is that the understanding, and then, they are to choose whether or not they participate, or is it a question that Government decides who attends or not?

Bill Dunn: I think anybody that has a specific concern or role should be here to have a transparent environmental assessment. So, I see no problem with circulating the issues to everybody.

Dan Cornett: I think from the company's standpoint here, it's meant to be inclusive and transparent. This is an opportunity to assist with the review. People can choose to participate as they decide and according to their mandates or whatever. I would use the committee to assist with the review, and we can try and address issues, bring things forward so we can deal with them, a heads-up for us.

Benoit Godin: I don't see it otherwise, but I'm asking the question.

Bill Slater: A couple of things to ask about: When you say the membership of the committee may change, it may be bigger than what is currently here is what you're suggesting?

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Or different people; there are some people with specific expertise who may attend meetings to discuss that particular issue, at least that's what I would anticipate; and if there are specific, say wildlife issues, then we may have wildlife biologists here who won't necessarily attend when we are talking about the heap leach process.

Bill Dunn: I see there being a core of people who are going to be here all the time; but if you're going to have specific expertise, a Steven Day from SRK or somebody with wildlife-specific issues, then you're going to ask other experts or you're going to bring them along.

Bill Slater: Right; I mean, currently the committee is comprised, at this table, of basically the company and the three governments. My question was whether there was an intent to bring in other --

Bill Dunn: Well, the three departments within YTG; the Heritage Branch is separate so they'll --

Bill Slater: Yes, that's what Bill is suggesting, that it might be different people. That's still within one of the government groups. So, I'm curious whether there's an intent for it to be bigger than that.

Bill Dunn: Benoit's adds another government.

Bill Slater: Yes, when I say "within Governments," it's the Federal, the Territorial and the First Nation Governments.

Shane Andre: I think we intend for the YESAA Board to have a presence here, too. Whether they'll contribute at this stage, we don't know; but they should be here.

Bill Slater: I'm not really arguing one way or the other. I'm asking for some clarification on it.

Dan Cornett: I think the other thing worth noting is my understanding is this process or project will be part of the YERC Committee or whatever else is established if there are other things that are carrying on. This is meant to deal with the technical issues, although we're limiting it but within those sorts of details.

Bill Slater: I'm merely asking for clarification on it. When I think about that, I think about things like the RRC and those kind of issues that are independent. You mentioned the YESAA Board, and again, that's an agency that's somewhat independent from any of the three Governments. That was just a question for clarification, but it doesn't sound like there's a lot of certainty around that at this point.

Dan Cornett: That might be worth chatting about. From the company's standpoint, we've asked whether or not the company, Western Silver, would have any problem with the YESAA Board shadowing this process, and we've said "Not a problem." A letter was sent from ECO to the company, asking if they were willing to have the YESAA Board participate and shadow. There is a response. I just flipped something over to Bill. It just didn't come in in time. The board wanted formal written acceptance from the company and that didn't happen. Otherwise I would have expected someone to be here from the YESAA Board or YESAA office shadowing this thing.

Bill Slater: The other thing is whether it is intended to have formal terms of reference for the committee,

Facilitator Bill Klassen: It's one of the things that's mentioned in the project agreement. I recognize there may be some concerns about the project agreement on the part of some of the parties here; but it's one of the things that is addressed in that project agreement. The project agreement, of course, is between Western Silver and the Yukon Government for reasons that have been explained to at least some of the people in the room. The terms of reference can be developed; and if you want some discussion on that, I suppose we can entertain that now.

From my point of view as the Chair, it would be better if we had at least some minimal terms of reference to guide the work of the committee so that we're not going off all over the place. Perhaps starting with Bill or Dan, any comments on that, and then, others?

Bill Dunn: If the group feels it's necessary, I can come up with a draft terms of reference, and we can put it around to everybody. I'm open to your comments.

Benoit Godin: Well, Bill, you mentioned that the project agreement is it between the company and Government, YTG. Is this particular project agreement actually shaped the way this committee is going to work?

Facilitator Bill Klassen: The project agreement has a section in it on technical committees. Because the agreement is between the company and the Yukon Government, obviously they can't commit other people; but I think that's one of the reasons why we want to talk about terms of reference so that there is some guidance for the committee.

Benoit Godin: Could this agreement be tabled?

Facilitator Bill Klassen: I don't know; it's between the signatories to the agreement.

Bill Dunn: It basically was meant as an administrative document to lay out the roles of the company and the Yukon Government in advance of the project being brought into the E.A. process and how the proponent and the Yukon Government are going to interact during the E.A. process; but I don't have any problem with tabling it.

Susan Davis: And just for the Record, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation is not involved in this agreement. We do not acknowledge it. We are not a signatory to it, and we don't acknowledge it.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Thank you for that clarification, Sue. As I said, it's between the two parties. Dan, do you have a comment on Benoit's question?

Dan Cornett: Context for you: It basically follows the administrative guidelines for major mines in the Yukon, which is a standard format that was around for quite some time. It follows that format and template. It follows most of the guiding principles that are in there. It's not, shall we say, anything that's "out of the blue". It's a project agreement. I don't say the company --

Benoit Godin: Out of the Blue Book, you mean?

Dan Cornett: That's exactly where it stems from, and it's intended to follow that and provide some guidance for it. It was important for Western, before they engaged in even stepping into the review process, to have this arrangement in place; and that's fundamentally why it was put together between the Yukon Government and Western. Otherwise, they wouldn't have engaged.

Benoit Godin: No, and I agree that it's important for the company to come up with some agreement with Government; but at the same time, I think it would be beneficial for the committee's work to figure out what bounds have been laid out. Whether or not we agree, that's a different story.

Dan Cornett: That's fine. In my view, the process that was laid out as part of the agreement is part of this document. Performance standards criteria is a part of this document, a bunch of that is in here. There are guiding principles for technical committees and the role of individual people. I don't think it's a problem sharing it.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: So, that having been said, can we ask you, Bill, then to make that project agreement available to whomever wants a copy?

Benoit Godin: I would like one.

Bill Dunn: Okay.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Has it already been provided to Little Salmon Carmacks?

Bill Slater: Yes, it has.

Bill Dunn: Yes.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Coming back to the issue of terms of reference, then, do you want Bill Dunn to draft some preliminary terms of reference for this committee and we'll circulate them?

Dan Cornett: May I make a suggestion? You might just want to go back to the guiding principles in the project agreement. That's a very good place to start without getting too particular, to provide some basis for it.

Randy Lamb: Hopefully it won't be as long as the project agreement!

Bill Dunn: One page is sufficient for myself, one or two.

Dan Cornett: I don't think we're trying to cut it out. I'm just saying don't start from a blank piece of paper here.

Susan Davis: I think I would prefer you start from a blank piece of paper.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Well, we have to start somewhere. So, can we give it to Mr. Dunn to draft something for us to comment on.

Bill Dunn: And if you have any specific suggestions for me or whatnot, if you can flip them to me in an e-mail, I would appreciate that.

Susan Davis: Okay, as long as we're not 4.13 of it.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: I don't know that we need a timetable for meetings for this committee. I assume it will meet as and when required, but what are other views of that, recognizing that all of us have busy lives?

Rob Walker: I found to have them regularly scheduled, I mean, there are a fair number of people around the table, and not all from town, that it facilitates everybody being able to be there. The alternative to that is that we have some reasonable notification period before meetings; one or the other perhaps, some way of coming at it.

I mean, in terms of terms of reference, it sounds like we've already talked a little bit about membership and other experts coming in and whether they're open and transparent.

Bill Slater: I'm more of the "as and when required" kind of view, only because from the perspective of Little Salmon Carmacks, it costs money for every one of these things.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: So, you don't want to come in for a meeting if it's just going to be "Hi, how are you. We don't have anything to discuss today"?

Bill Slater: Yes.

Dan Cornett: That's not what I would call a technical meeting.

Benoit Godin: But what Rob was mentioning is you put the time aside and you fill the agenda; and if there is no agenda, at least people are putting that on their own agenda that within two weeks or three weeks, and then, you cancel. So, at least you know there is a regular time at which the meetings will occur and you can plan for it. That's the only difference.

I'm not sure about how frequently the company or Government feels it's required to meet. That may be the next question.

Bill Dunn: Maybe you can set it up on a regular schedule, and then, if there's need, we can add extra meetings, rather than have them at no scheduled time.

Dan Cornett: Or you provide two weeks' notice. I'm not really bent either way. Maybe Little Salmon Carmacks would like afternoon meetings, because it makes it a little easier for them to get here.

Benoit Godin: Yes, that's fine.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: The Chair doesn't have a voice, but I'm inclined to favour two weeks' notice. If something is of some urgency, two weeks is enough time for us to find out what it is, and then, get the information around and set up a meeting. At least my schedule would allow that. I see some nodding.

Bill Slater: If they're two weeks ahead, we can usually find somebody to come out.

Shane Andre: I'd agree with that. Two weeks ahead is fine.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Not seeing any vigorous head-shaking, we will provide two weeks' notice for the calling of the meeting.

Bill Slater: Just to back up a little bit on the terms of reference, do you have any idea, Bill, what you schedule might be on that?

Bill Dunn: No, it depends on what comes out of this meeting, for instance. So, we're going to go through the project, and as the people around the table actually get a chance to --

Bill Slater: We just need to make sure that we have something in place before we actually go and schedule the next meeting, I think.

Bill Dunn: There needs to be a reason for the meeting?

Bill Slater: No, the terms of reference, what is your schedule on producing a draft terms of reference; because we need to make sure we've dealt with that before we really launch into the next meeting, at least in --

Bill Dunn: I'll try and get them out within a week or so as draft. I'll e-mail or fax it to everybody, and you can provide comments back; and maybe at the beginning of the next meeting, we can hopefully finalize them.

Benoit Godin: So, corollary to the two weeks' notice, does it include two weeks receipt of the information to be discussed, as well.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: If somebody calls Bill Dunn, the project coordinator, and says, "We need to discuss this issue," there may not be information available to circulate, but we can set the meeting date, and then, get information out as quickly as possible. I'm reluctant to say "two weeks' notice, and then, two weeks for the material to get out," because then we're going to have to move the meeting another week.

Benoit Godin: No, just having the two weeks before so that you've got two weeks to look at it.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: You have time to look at the material, yes.

Benoit Godin: So, the notice with the information comes at the same time.

Dan Cornett: That appears reasonable.

Rob Walker: Well, it is a way to make things more efficient certainly, to have people well prepared before a meeting.

Benoit Godin: That's the point, otherwise you end up arriving at the meeting, not having time to review.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Maybe that's something that can be an item in the terms of reference.

Rob Walker: I would comment, also, that we should probably note in there that minutes of these meetings would be on the public registry. The legislation says we're to do that; but I think for clarity, it would probably be a worthwhile thing to do.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Is there anything else under the headings either of "Role of Committee" or "Administrative Issues". We seem to have jumbled them a bit.

Benoit Godin: Just the one issue in regards to YESAA in terms of administration of the transition. When the YESAA Regulations come in, where does it push the actual decision-making process with EAA and that sort of thing?

Facilitator Bill Klassen: I'm not sure that's a technical committee issue.

Benoit Godin: Isn't it?

Dan Cornett: Process, I don't know what's going to happen.

Benoit Godin: Well, it's an administrative issue. I'm sure if they're caught in this, it's important to be discussed.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: The whole transition process, I don't know, Bill or Shane, whether you want to speak to that. As Dan has already mentioned, the YESAA Board has been approached about having someone to shadow the process. They don't want to be, and probably, Benoit, you know this as well as anyone, can't be involved until they have the authority to be involved.

Benoit Godin: That's right.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: But the Act will come into force once the regulations are there, and then, that will determine who the decision body is. Bill, do you want to comment on the transition process at all?

Shane Andre: Yes, I'm not sure we can comment on that right now. I think that's something we're working on as far as transition issues are concerned. You're saying what would our timeline for completion of EA be, based on when YESAA comes in?

Benoit Godin: Well, in terms of a decision-making process, if the screening isn't concluded before YESAA comes into force, does it change something specific to what has been done up until then? That's my concern, and I'm glad that someone from the Board would be here to shadow hopefully so these kind of issues are not lost because there is a transition with someone who will be able to pick up the ball from there; and whether or not they would have a direct responsibility or whether it would be grandfathered by EAA, because your process is not terminated.

Shane Andre: Whether it will continue.

Benoit Godin: I'm not sure, that's what I'm trying to find out.

Rob Walker: At the end of the day, if YESAA comes in before any specific permit for the project is issued, then the Yukon Government will have to make a decision under EAA and also under YESAA.

Benoit Godin: Both?

Rob Walker: Yes, for permitting before we could legally issue like a water licence.

Shane Andre: No permit will be issued until both processes are completed. So, you can assume that the YESAA process would be later. Is that what you meant, or are you speaking to EAA?

Benoit Godin: Yes.

Shane Andre: Yes, no permits would be issued until YESAA was completed and a decision document was completed by whoever the decision bodies were determined to be. I'm not sure if I've answered your question.

Benoit Godin: Yes, then it becomes a dual process?

Shane Andre: Yes.

Susan Davis: I think what would be important, and we mentioned it this morning is that I think the three parties should get together with the YESAA people and that this should be clarified, because it's not clear; and I would like it to be clear from the beginning on how this is going to look.

Rob Walker: With YESAA you mean?

Shane Andre: Because it's a difficult question to answer. The DAP Branch has been --

Susan Davis: Well, we have to have something in writing; and if YESAA's not -- I understand the issues surrounding YESAA and where they are with development of the whole process, but things are not clear right now. Things are not clear in this room, and we have to bring some clarity to it.

Rob Walker: There is some clarity. I would just like to explore where it is maybe not clear, because certainly what the Yukon Government needs to do is laid out in the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act*. And what the YESAA Board needs to do, there are several clauses that say "The Board shall do things." So, the Board has to do those things, and the question is, when it comes to how they choose to do them, given that there has been a bunch of work done already, that's the nature of the uncertainty. There are clauses that say they have to consult and they have to take various steps. The question is to what extent will they choose to do that, based on the quality of the work that's gone before perhaps.

Shane Andre: This committee will have a member of the YESAA Board here to answer those type of questions in the future. So, there will be a bit of clarity in that regard. To the extent that I understand the YESAA process, they are able to use previous assessments done under regimes to influence their assessment, but --

Bill Slater: They still have to follow their process.

Shane Andre: They still have to follow their process. They still have to do their legislated obligations.

Bill Slater: Just to be clear, I presume that everybody around the table is of the same view, that the chance of this not going through YESAA is almost nil. The regulations have now gone to gazette. The chances of it being approved before this project has the water licence are very, very high. So, I presume everybody around the table is working from that assumption.

Dan Cornett: What's very high?

Bill Slater: That YESAA will end up applying to this project.

Dan Cornett: Yes, no question, the transition is what we're talking about.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Dan, you wanted to comment.

Dan Cornett: Just from the company's standpoint, what they want to see here is an opportunity to not duplicate processes. If they have gone through and had, for example, all these technical-type meetings and you have made decisions and whatever in relation to trying to determine the screening, that those not be lost. They don't want to go back and re-do all that work again. That's what we're trying to do here, and that was the purpose of trying to have YESAA shadowing so they are aware of the issues, and they can follow it along. We fully understand that the YESAA process will go along, but they can make their own decisions as to, "Heh, you've done a whole pile of work here. Great! Now I'll have to do what I need to do." But that's their decision. I don't know how it's going to play. We're just trying to make sure we don't have to start from the very beginning, and that's the commitment from Government.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: And we won't be able to determine, on YESAA's behalf, that degree of certainty, which I don't know whether you're looking for at the moment, Sue, that we as much as possible will be following the process. The company, I believe, has tried to meet some of the requirements that they're aware that YESAA will ask to have met with respect, for example, to socioeconomic impact.

Susan Davis: Actually the company has refused to speak to us on that.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Sorry?

Susan Davis: The company is not speaking to Little Salmon Carmacks on socioec.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: And that's something that we can't get into in this forum.

Dan Cornett: I'm surprised by that.

Susan Davis: They made that very clear at the Chief and Council meeting, that they weren't prepared to discuss that until this had gone through the environmental assessment process.

Dan Cornett: I don't think so.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Could I just interrupt. The discussion at this meeting is on technical matters.

Dan Cornett: I'd like to talk about that after.

Susan Davis: Sure.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: I apologize if I raised something that is an issue outside of this committee. I didn't mean to distract us. That is a discussion that obviously needs to take place; but what I would hope we can do at the technical committee is limit the discussion to specifically the technical issues. We can take note of those other concerns; and I'm aware, Sue, that you've raised it elsewhere so that it won't get lost.

Does that take care of the technical committee's role and administrative issues?

Rob Walker: I'm just not sure, was that little discussion we had about whether there should be some terms of reference speaking to YESAA and its role in this?

Benoit Godin: Well, from my point of view, if YESAA is going to be involved and there are definite issues that have to be dealt with for YESAA, like the socioeconomic, this is a definite technical issue as far as I'm concerned.

Bill Dunn: But YESAA is not in place right now.

Benoit Godin: Yes, it's not in place, but we all agree that YESAA will -- so, I think it would be blindsiding this committee if we are limiting ourselves. And I understand that someone will be shadowing from the YESAA Board; but at the same time, I think it's an important issue. I'm not necessarily saying that we have to deal with that issue as if it was YESAA, but we can't leave it outside. We may have to cross it later, and I totally agree with you.

Dan Cornett: I agree with you fully on that, Benoit, and I think Western is prepared, if it means writing a letter to the YESAA Board and to Yukon Government, saying, "Look at, let's deal with socioeconomic issues now."

Benoit Godin: Exactly.

Dan Cornett: So, we're prepared to put that on the table and deal with it.

Shane Andre: This is wildly out of control. This is a separate issue, and it's a larger issue related to transition projects that we're dealing with within the DAB Branch, within the YESAA Board and if you guys would like to talk about it outside of this meeting, that would be great, but --

Dan Cornett: That's fair, I'm just giving a --

Shane Andre: At this time, the YESAA Board is willing to sit in on these meetings as a shadow. Until the regulations come into effect, they have no power, and they aren't comfortable --

Benoit Godin: To exercise the power they don't have, I totally agree with you. However, we shouldn't be blind to the fact that it's coming.

Shane Andre: I agree, but ...

Dan Cornett: And if a corporation says, "Look, we're prepared to look at it either way."

Benoit Godin: Yes, I'm glad to hear that. Thanks, Dan.

Bill Slater: We should avoid, though, presuming to deal with it in a way that the YESAA Board might want us to or not want us to.

Dan Cornett: Agreed.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Could I just bring us back to the purpose that I think we are here today, which is to discuss the technical matters related to it; and I would argue strenuously, Benoit, that social and economic matters do not fit the usual definition of "technical", or at least not in any of the other assessments I have been involved; but I agree wholeheartedly that it's an issue that needs discussion. The danger of getting into it here, under the auspices of this committee, is that we would perhaps be doing a lot of work that would need to be repeated once YESAA comes along, because we may not do it in the way that they will want it done. I expect there will be some common denominator of socioeconomic impact. There is a standard out there that needs to be met, but --

Benoit Godin: Okay, to carry along on that, do you intend that this committee will dissolve once YESAA comes in so that we don't presume what's going to happen with YESAA?

Dan Cornett: I have no idea.

Bill Dunn: Can I speak to that?

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Certainly.

Bill Dunn: There has been a project description put forward to the Yukon Government under EAA. We have to go through and complete that whether YESAA comes in or not or when YESAA comes in. So, we have to go forward to complete that. So, I see this technical committee going forward to complete the requirements under EAA.

Benoit Godin: So, if YESAA comes with some other things, it will be added to it?

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Well, the YESAA process, we obviously --

Bill Dunn: They are going to be parallel processes. We have tried to reduce the amount of duplication or re-work, but there is certainly going to be a parallel process.

3.0 OVERVIEW OF PROJECT - DAN CORNETT

Facilitator Bill Klassen: May I suggest that Dan talk about the project and changes to the project.

[Dan Cornett tables "*Western Silver Corporation, Proposed Carmacks Copper Project - July 2005 Update*"]

Dan Cornett: I think the first thing on the top of this, I'll speak to that later. This is an update we were just going to bounce off the committee here. What I wanted to do was to maybe give a real overview of the project for the technical committee. Basically what I have done here is just taken some key material out of the project description report, and I'm going to use that as speaking points to walk through an overview of the project so everyone has the same project information in their heads.

Then closer to the end, I will speak regarding some of the revisions or areas that need to be focused on in relation to what is different with the project.

This first figure, Figure 2-2 out of the project description report, this was filed in June of this year. In essence it is both what I would call a "project description" and an "environmental assessment report". So, it's intending here to bring the whole project up-to-speed in relation to what has been done, along with any new information; and it references pretty extensively all the historic work that was done for the project. We haven't submitted or resubmitted all of the supporting detail, geotechnical studies or whatever, but they are all available electronically. If you've got your CDs, all that information was attached electronically with it.

The permits that were submitted with part of the application were water licence, quartz mining and a production licence. Basically, those are the triggers for the assessment.

By way of some corporate background, the company is actually moving its office here today just across the street in Vancouver. Otherwise, Jonathan said he would like to attend these meetings. He wasn't available. Because it was what I considered to be an overview meeting, without really getting into a whole lot of nuts and bolts and meat and potatoes at this point in time; they do intent to have more representation at these meetings as required.

Western is a publicly traded company, listed on American and Toronto stock exchanges. This project has been on their portfolio for a number of years. I'm not going to go into the real detail on the history of the project; but suffice it to say that the project description is based on a 1997 feasibility study that was done by Kilborne Engineering.

So, this figure 2.2 that I'm referring to here basically puts the project into context, where we're at. We're about 46 kilometers from the Village of Carmacks, travelling up the Freegold Road. Then up the Freegold Road for 33 kilometers, there's an existing exploration road into the site about 13 kilometers. The deposit is roughly nine kilometers from the Yukon River. On your map, there is a green environmental assessment study boundary. That is basically the environmental assessment study boundary that we looked at for environmental effects assessment. The only comment on that is that there is a whole regional context in relation to it, i.e. socioeconomic effects, Village of Carmacks, Whitehorse; and those were considered as part of the assessment but for kind of a spatial geographic boundary, the green line is intended to represent that. There are other things like wildlife, for example, they don't follow these sort of boundaries. So, those things were looked at outside of that.

Temporal boundary for the project, basically a zero-to-15-year timeframe to put the project -- construct it and decommission it.

Your figure 3-1, the general arrangement, fundamentally, this hasn't really changed a whole lot. The open pit is where the open pit is. That hasn't changed. We've got an open pit mine, with a solvent extraction process. There is a waste rock storage area for roughly 60 million tonnes. I'll maybe backtrack, on the open pit it's 13.3-million tonne deposit.

We've also got a crusher, which would take material from the open pit, crush it and conveyor it to the heap leach pad. Solutions are put on top of the pad and collected and processed within a solvent extraction electro-winning plant. There is also an acid plant associated with part of the infrastructure, site haul roads to connect the waste rock area to the open pit to the leach pad site; an access road and other associated infrastructure, a camp, onsite power generation, sediment control ponds, et cetera. This gives a general arrangement of the project.

The next figure, Figure 3-3, is more of a simplified process sheet for the project. We have an open pit operation and it's conventional truck-and-shovel where material is taken out of the open pit, it's put through a primary crusher, screened down. There's a three-stage crushing that's being looked at. That's conveyed down to the heap leach pad where an acid solution is put onto the heap using drip-emitters. This is done yearround. Then that solution is collected off the heap via gravity to the solvent extraction electro-winning process. From there we basically produce a copper cathode. There are sheets of copper that

come out of it that are about 98-99 percent pure. We're roughly looking at about 30-to-32 million pounds of copper produced per year. They are kind of like in big sheets.

The next figure is a figure of the ultimate open pit, Figure 3-5. This is an eight-year mine, length of the full open pit, the size. Roughly it's 780 meters-by-450 meters. So, it's not quite a kilometre-by-half a kilometre and 240-metre depth, to give you an idea of the size. That would be done in stages over the full mine life, basically an eight-year mine life for that. That's roughly at about 9200 tonnes per day of ore done at I think it's 240 days per year. They're not mining year-round. They're mining seasonally. The strip-ratio is roughly 4.6:1. So, we're mining 9200 tonnes per day of ore. In total you're running about 26,000 tonnes per day of ore and waste rock, all done by truck and shovel.

The next figure here is of the waste rock storage area, Figure 3-6. This storage area is designed to contain 60 million tonnes of waste rock, roughly 7 1/2 million tonnes per year; and we'd be stripping and mining waste rock year-round as much as possible. It covers an area of roughly 70 hectares. A total of eight different locations were looked at for selection of the waste rock storage area, and this location that was presented here was ultimately selected as the preferred location. Basically you'd be stripping off organic material, allowing any permafrost to thaw out. There would be collection ditches and sediment controls to control any runoff melting from that permafrost. There would be a contingency toe buffer and the need for a possible toe berm if you ever needed to buttress the dump up for stability purposes.

The next figure here is out of the appendix. This is an overview of the site plan for heap leach pad that was done by EBA Engineering. I believe it's Appendix D out of the Volume 2 Report. So, that document is there in its entirety. It's intended to contain the entire 13.3-million tonne capacity for the open pit. It's roughly 31 1/2 hectares, and it would be built in stages. So, you would start at the lower end, the confining embankment, and then, probably two-to-three different stages of construction. Ore would be placed via conveyor in roughly eight-metre lifts, 2.5:1 slope. As I said, there is a confining embankment. It's roughly 350 meters wide-by-22 meters high. Fundamentally, this is viewed as kind of like a valley heap leach.

In terms of the liner system for the heap leach pad, it's basically a double composite liner system with a leak detection system. There are two areas in the leach pad, what we're referring to as the "lower leach pad", which is around the confining embankment, and an upper portion to the leach pad. Fundamentally, the liner system has a one-metre ore cushion otop of a liner, 60-mill HDPE liner, a geocomposite or geonet between the liner for the LDRS, and then, a 60-mill HDPE lower liner. The only difference between the upper and the lower works, the lower portion of the leach pad has another soil liner that has been placed over the existing subgrade and compacted down to a 10^{-8} centimetres per

second permeability requirement. So, in essence, the lower portion of the leach pad has kind of a triple liner; but it's only the upper two where we have a captured leak detection.

Within the liner system itself, there is a series of collector trenches for the LDRS, and those are detailed in EBA's report. There is also a series of foundation drains that are below the entire leach pad that is piped and collected, reporting down to the events pond. So, that's fundamentally a bit of an overview of the heap leach pad and the design that was done by EBA Engineering.

The events pond, Figure 3-8, is a single events pond, 160,000 m³ of storage. It is similar to the leach pad, a double composite HDPE liner system, complete with leak detection, and a prepared subgrade. It's located down-gradient of the heap leach, so everything kind of flows by gravity. I might note that the leach pad is not an in-heap storage. We are not intending to store any solutions within it. We are not confining the fluids behind the confining embankment. Any fluid is going directly to the processing plant, the extraction plant, with any overflow going to the events pond. The events pond is designed to contain all of the operating solution, operating volume, 100-year critical storm event during a critical time of the year. The heap drain-down in its entirety 100 percent during the winter at any life of the operation; and during operations, 100 percent drain-down during the first year and thereafter, it reduces down to 48 hours from there on, depending on the type of event, complete with all the redundant systems for piping and power, et cetera. What is not shown on this figure, as well, is that there is also a contingency water treatment plant, a conventional lime treatment plant, that is to be in place should they ever need to release water from this system as another contingency measure. That plant would be available during operations, and it would be required at closure to process and release solutions at the end of operations.

Rob Walker: Could you just repeat the size of that pond, please?

Dan Cornett: 160,000 m³.

So, that, in essence, is kind of a real quick overview of the project and its components. Again, all the details are there. I'm just trying to provide some context for the project and what's in the environmental assessment document.

Your next table here, this is an example table, Table 4-2. It is basically here just to outline that there were a number of alternatives that were looked at for mining methods, how to process the ore, where to put the waste rock storage area, where do we have the heap leach pad, what do we do with heap storage and the type of storage that you have, looking at alternatives for infrastructure, where you would place that, power, mine accommodation, all those sorts of things. This really is an example summary table of how they looked at, for

example, the mining method. They had fundamentally an open pit or an underground method or combination, and this provides the areas consideration for selecting a preferred alternative, based on economic, engineering, environmental, socioeconomic considerations. So, it runs through that process, and there is a whole chapter, Chapter 4, which describes that process.

Moving into the environmental side of things, I just have a couple of quick figures in relation to that. Figure 5-4 is basically outlining a bit of a summary of the borehole and test pit locations. It gives a bit of a flavour for the types and numbers of borehole and test pits that have been done to document geotechnical conditions on the site to support design parameters for various infrastructure siting. There are a number of wells on the site that were used for hydrogeologic modelling, groundwater modelling. Other types of studies that were done historically on the project relate to site geology and mineralization, a characterization of waste and spent ore for metallurgical and environmental considerations. Climate, to support some of the water balance calculations. There is a climate station that is on the site now, operated by the Yukon Government, Water Resources. That information has been utilized as part of the water balancing. It has continued to be refined and used as necessary. There was work on terrain and seismic-type work.

Our next figure, Figure 5-3, shows the baseline water quality groundwater monitoring stations that were sampled to document baseline water quality conditions. There is a total of 13 water quality stations that were sampled, and this map is intended to show that. Along with the groundwater, a number of hydrology stations were set up. there has been data collected on stream sediments, benthos, fisheries work, as well as wildlife and vegetation.

On a whole host of the aquatic side of things, there is recognition by the company that this project would be subject to the requirements of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations and environmental effects monitoring. At a number of these stations, a program would have to be put together in relation to that legislation, and probably a number of these would be reactivated as part of that program.

Your next figure 5-6 here is just basically documenting some of the heritage and current land use in the area as it presently stands. So, it just provides a bit of current information in relation to claims status, traditional territory, some of the heritage work that was done previously, Little Salmon Carmacks settlement lands and trapping concessions, outfitting concessions, et cetera.

The next couple of tables 7-1 & 7-2 that I have here are really just to provide a bit of a brief overview of some of the approaches to the environmental assessment that was undertaken for this. It has basically been refreshed and re-looked at in relation to new information that's been brought forward on the

project, new designs and again to try and look at some of the requirements of YESAA. So, Table 7-1 is what we call a “Significant Effects Descriptor Table”. Basically, these are the types of descriptor and criteria that we have used to assess the significance of adverse effects. The first five: duration, geographic extent, magnitude, reversibility, ecological context, are pretty standard descriptors that have come directly out of CEEA in relation to that. The economic and social context was a descriptor we had put in place to basically try and address some of the socioeconomic effects and how to determine significance in relation to that, which is a requirement of YESAA; and also, to look at risk characterization. We have built that into our effects assessment in relation to it.

So, as an example, what we have done here is tried to put some numerical bounds to that so that if we have a duration of an effect, as an example, that is 100 years or more, something like an open pit that’s going to be there for a very long time, it has a very high effect for that category “duration”, and it is assigned a ranking of 5. So, just to give you an idea of how that was covered off.

4.0 COMMENTS & DISCUSSION

Rob Walker: Can I ask Dan, because I’m not sure I follow this completely, so you would take something like a pit, which would be very high, and then, combine it with one of the ecological contexts, just say it was a community with an ecological fitness and a high degree of resilience, then, and come up with something in the risk characterization?

Dan Cornett: No, there was a complete risk assessment done on the project. So, we have basically tried to add that risk effect as part of the effects assessment. It’s not typically required, and it hasn’t been done on other projects. It’s a way of integrating a risk of a component into the assessment.

So, if I move to this large table, just to give you an idea, if you want to talk about the open pit under “topography” and the parameters are atmospheric topography, some of these almost equate to your valued ecosystem and cultural components; but if you look at “topography”, as an example, you’ve got the development, and it’s broken down by: open pit, mine, waste rock storage area, the leach pad, the facilities, when that activity occurs, operations, construction, the consequence: you have a permanent open pit. The mitigation, well, there is some contouring, you put an access barrier around it; but the duration here it’s a very high effect. The geographic extent, based on the area of disturbance, is 2, based on your numerical classification. The magnitude is 4. The reversibility is 4, meaning that there isn’t much reversible that you can do there. Ecological context, well within the area, the ecological importance of that area, rating a 2; the socioeconomic and the risk, et cetera. So, this is a summary table that is

really used to help go through all the potential project effect on various components, roughly how they're mitigated, they're a summary table; and then, how that significance has been determined, assessed, and an overall sort of ranking on it, with the mitigation in place. So, it's intended to provide a summary. All of the supporting details are in there, the detailed descriptions on mitigation, et cetera.

Susan Davis: So, where it says "overall rating" on this one, is this the actual rating for this project?

Bill Dunn: Numerical, added up there.

Dan Cornett: Overall numerical rating, yes.

Susan Davis: So, on the other page, 7-1 there, the ecological context and economic and social context: "community with good ecological fitness and a high degree of resilience". What does that mean?

Dan Cornett: Well, Carmacks, in my view, where Little Salmon Carmacks live, you don't have a community with what I would call good economic fitness. It is very subject to boom-bust type things. If something came in there, for whatever reason, there may be significant effects that might occur because the community doesn't have the capacity to deal with those sort of things. So, in my view, it may have a poor resilience to things coming at it for economic or social consequences is how you would look at it. Now, it's a judgmental type of call in relation to that. We're trying to put some bounds around it. What I have used is there is an ecological context. That's basically CEAA. That comes right out of the *Responsible Authorities Guide* as to how you look at that. I tried to then mirror that for some type of socioeconomic balance.

Bill Slater: I think one of the things to keep in mind is what we see here is the company's evaluation of these things.

Dan Cornett: Oh, for sure, yes, exactly.

Bill Slater: It's their interpretation of that.

Susan Davis: Well, that's not actually what I was getting at. What is a "good ecological fitness"?

Dan Cornett: What is a "good ecological fitness"? You know, robust ecological conditions out there. I mean, it is a very good type of habitat, good communities, populations of wildlife and fisheries that are diverse.

Bill Slater: It's easier to describe what is not.

Dan Cornett: Yes.

Bill Slater: A cod fishery on the east coast is not ecologically fit any more.

Dan Cornett: Exactly, yes.

Bill Slater: It might have been at one time.

Dan Cornett: Yes, exactly.

Susan Davis: So, like, the salmon is not ecologically fit?

Bill Slater: Probably pretty fragile, fairly so.

Dan Cornett: Well, if it was really fragile, then you wouldn't have a fishery; and that occurs every year, and it varies.

Bill Slater: It probably fits in the middle somewhere.

Dan Cornett: Yes, these things are fluid and flux; and at some point, you've got to put something down. The key thing with an assessment is that you have to document how you come up with something. So, we put it down in writing, and Bill makes a valid point. He may say, "I think you're right off the mark." That's fine.

Benoit Godin: That's what we're here to discuss.

Dan Cornett: That's what we're here to discuss.

Bill Slater: Or somebody in the community might say, "You're right off the mark."

Dan Cornett: Exactly, yes; but it's our way to try to document how you went through the project, what you looked at for the whole environmental conditions, what those effects were, how you mitigated them, and then, tried to roll it up to say, "Is this significant or not" with mitigation.

Benoit Godin: So, what's your threshold in terms of determining the significance based on your rating?

Dan Cornett: That's on the table here that if you had something greater than 25 points, you had a high significance.

Benoit Godin: Oh, okay, down at the bottom.

Dan Cornett: That's the bar.

Benoit Godin: That's the bar.

Dan Cornett: And I guess that's open for --

Benoit Godin: Interpretation.

Dan Cornett: -- interpretation, exactly.

Bill Slater: One of the things I was going to say about that in terms of adding the concept of risk characterization, and I haven't looked at it in detail, but risk characterization overall looks at sort of the consequence and the likelihood of things.

Dan Cornett: Exactly.

Bill Slater: And the consequence of these things is already looked at with the duration, geographic extent, magnitude, reversibility; that is the consequence. So, I do wonder, by adding a risk characterization, whether you've sort of double-counted in that way as a result of that. I haven't looked at it in detail. I breezed through it quickly the other day, but the question did arise in my mind as to how that --

Dan Cornett: Where I looked at it was there was stuff that was done for some of the diamond ... So, the panel that actually said, "We want you to look at the risk in relation to your effects assessment."

Benoit Godin: It's a failure mode type of approach.

Dan Cornett: Yes, it's a classic risk you take it through. You're basically looking at what are the hazards and what are the exposures of that particular hazard? What are the consequences in relation to it, and then, trying to come up with the likelihood, and then, come up with an overall risk characterization in relation to it. So, in essence we went through that for the whole project, and I've tried to take that characterization by compound, assigned some value to it, and include it in the effects assessment; and you're right, they're open to interpretation on ways to do that. There may be some double-counting, and you may say, "Well, it's already been accounted for. Why would you do that?" Well, then you just reduce your tables down. But it's an acknowledgement that we are trying to consider the risk of things and the likelihood of failures and those sorts of things.

Bill Slater: The likelihood is not in the rest of it.

Dan Cornett: Likelihood is in the risk.

Bill Slater: It's in the risk, but it's not in those other pieces.

Dan Cornett: Exactly. Maybe that's the subject of a further technical meeting, I don't know. I was just trying to give the big overview on the project here for people.

3.0 OVERVIEW OF PROJECT - DAN CORNETT [con't.]

Dan Cornett: The next table was just a summary of what we would call the "VECC's" for the project. It's Table 7-3. That fundamentally came out of what we know about the property, some of the historic discussions with First Nations. We came up with that and a rationale for the selection of these, and in essence, they do fit into these component kind of parameter categories. So, it's a way of doing that.

Table 8-1, in essence this is, if you may, a summary of the performance standards and objectives for the project. Fundamentally, they stem from some of the work that was done with Government on the performance standards and criteria for it. A lot of these things are pretty much "off the shelf" type of requirements. If you look at "water", the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations and CCME criteria, then it basically goes through the mine components of trying to put the bounds in relation to what those performance standards and criteria are for water, chemical stability, physical stability, revegetation and monitoring. What's in the report is an updated design criteria report that basically provides a lot more of the detail for the specific mine components and their design parameters for that.

A couple of other things that I will mention is the ongoing consultation and whatnot is documented in the project description to cover off the environmental work that had been done previously and that was ongoing for the file.

Table 8-2, I'm not going to go into it in detail. It's just a summary of a monitoring plan. There is a monitoring plan within the document, and here is a summary of the table in relation to that.

The last couple of figures here relate to conceptual closure and reclamation for the site. This first number, Drawing Number 100-13-60, is just intended to provide a real overview as to what type of closure activity is being done for that particular mine component. As an example, the open pit, you would fence that off or it can be boulders or whatever type of fencing you're going to use for that, closing off access roads, those sorts of things. Waste rock storage area, recontouring it and putting overburden back on top of it and re-vegetating it, those sorts of things.

Your other figure, which is probably more pertinent to everyone's thinking here, is how we're closing out the heap leach pad. This is Drawing ACG-WS-01.001, and it shows the closure scenario for the heap leach pad, based on a 2-to-10, 10-to-20-year, again a conceptual. What is in the document here, detoxification work was done back in 2001 by Morris Beattie. It's a separate, standalone appendix here, where they looked at how to try and detoxify the heap. A summary of that work basically was they had added water to these large-scale columns and lime and basically looked at whether or not you could actually detoxify the heap. The long and short of that was there was no way that you could get the pH back up to around a neutral pH greater than 3 1/2, and that fundamentally was a problem. We were not able to neutralize the heap. We can't bring it up to a level where we can demonstrate long-term stability of that.

The first series of work that was done after that lime treatment, they looked at washing these columns with water, and then, next with a soda ash; and by using a soda ash, the preliminary results on that indicated you could, in fact, get the pH up to past 6 1/2, around 7, and bring the pH up to a level where you could actually neutralize the pile. There was some question as to whether or not, though, the metals that were coming out of that were stable. We still had high levels of copper within that. So, that's basically Morris Beattie's report on the 2001 detoxification work.

Subsequent to that, to let people know here, there is ongoing test work that has occurred now. It's not before anyone, but it basically is supporting the conceptual plan that's been laid out in this figure here, where basically your closure options here for the heap are to circulate water through the pile and rinse excess acidity off the heap, and then, introduce your alkali rinse, so your soda ash, and circulate that through the pile. Concurrently, you would put an evaporative transpiration cover to basically reduce water going into the heap. So, first you could be using rainwater as part of this initial rinse to be able to do that; but once you've got your pH up, then you start putting a cover overtop of the pile. At that point, we were looking at an in situ carbohydrate-nutrient treatment addition. We were basically adding a carbon source. Once you have the pH up to a near-neutral or neutral level to neutralize the metals in situ within the heap, this figure basically lays out how you would be doing that within the first number of years for closure. We would have the SXEW plant in place, a solution to recover copper from that while the events ponds, your contingency water treatment plant, is in place to do that. At some point, once you have the heap to a stable type condition and the metals down to an area, you would want to get rid of excess water out of the heap. So, what we're looking at here is a conventional lime treatment plant, similar to what's up at Faro or Vangorda or UKHM, known technology; basically just to do any final polishing and start to get rid of all that excess solution off the heap. Then that would be released to Williams Creek at that point, treated and discharged.

In the long term, what is being envisioned here is once you have got reasonable confidence of that heap being stable, the metals stable within it, there are a couple of contingency measures that you can use to put in place to eliminate the need for any treatment plant, and that's really what we're after here. We don't want to be having an active-care type of scenario. We're looking for something that's passive. You've got a contingency limestone drain where water would come off the heap basically to deal with metals, possibly a biological treatment cell and/or construction/operation of an infiltration gallery in relation to that. So, those are some of the things that are being looked at for the long-term closure to deal with the heap.

In terms of recent test work that's been underway, the company has been looking at other ways to leach the ore. One of the serious economic constraints on the project is the consumption of acid, sulphuric acid; and basically whether you truck in raw sulphur, have an acid plant produce your sulphuric acid on site or bring in tankerized sulphuric acid, it's a huge cost to the project. There have been other operations that have used what would be viewed more as a biological in situ bioleach; and fundamentally, what you're doing is basically in relation to this process, you would add raw elemental sulphur at a conveyor belt, possibly some acid to help kick-start things and a bacteriological solution. Basically that all goes into the pile, and what it does is the bacteria create their own acid, they create the sulphuric acid required, which basically leaches the copper out. You collect the solutions, and you run it around the same way that you're doing it now. It's an alternative way of looking at leaching for the project.

The company has done a number of columns on that to try and see if this is feasible. Those results have indicated that yes, within a small-scale, column-type test, that is feasible, it's economic, and it's something that they are continuing to look at here. To say that's a different sort of process here, fundamentally you need the same sorts of things that you have now for this project. I guess really the only big difference here is you may not need to have an acid plant. If you don't need to generate acid on site, we could eliminate the acid plant. Other things won't change like the camp, the leach pad and the open pit and all the things that are required for it that don't change for that. It's just how you would actually leach the ore.

When these columns had gone through the leaching process and recovery, they were looked at. We have now moved into doing the actual detox work on those. So, in essence what has been done is that we have followed the conceptual proposal here where you basically wash those columns. You get rid of the excess acidity. You neutralize with a soda ash carbonate solution, bring the pH up, and now they've inoculated the columns, running solutions through with a carbohydrate nutrient treatment to basically neutralize those metals. Those results, I haven't got a report here today to pass along. That will be forthcoming. We want to get that into people here. It has indicated, yes, you can reduce the metals levels to acceptable criteria for release into the environment.

It supports the conceptual closure model that we've laid out here, which is in the project description and the basis for the assessment. So, there will be some additional information that we want to get into people's hands here in relation to some of that test work so people have an understanding of how that was done and what those results were, et cetera.

So, that's a real high level overview of the project. What I want to do now is just go through some of the things that have been revised or changed or what has gone on in relation to this project historically, what people may have in mind. I will just touch on those.

In essence, we were working from the submission of this documentation: Performance Standards and Design Criteria. There were performance standards objectives to provide for environmental protection consistent with industry best practice, and these design criteria parameters were used to update designs for various mine components. They are listed in Appendix C of the document. There is a whole design criteria report for all the components as to what they're going to be designed to and those objectives. As well, in that report is an appendix that includes Yukon Government's performance standards and criteria for that, which we have talked a little bit about before.

So, that, in essence, provides an overarching backdrop to what were considered to be minimum requirements for a major mine project to come back into the assessment and permitting process.

The other large or major change in the project was the heap leach pad liner design. We went through a fairly extensive review, looked at what was done in the past historically and what actually needed to be done to meet the criteria and/or exceed that criteria; and that document, prepared by EBA Engineering, is found at Appendix D of Volume 2 of the report. It's basically what we've talked about here today. I have given you a bit of a summary of that, but all the details are within the document in relation to that liner system.

We have also talked about alternative means and alternative ways to the project. Certainly that is a requirement under EAA. A comprehensive study was done to complete that, to basically provide the rationale as to why certain things were selected and why other things were not and providing considerations for those.

We have also talked about the whole component to the environmental assessment was relooked at in relation to all the revised designs and performance standards; and as we talked about here now, there is a transparent, complete assessment for the project with attendant mitigative measures and plans, et cetera.

We have also done a risk assessment for the project. That was never looked at before. That has now been documented here, along with some of the attendant worksheets that were done to complete that risk assessment. It was basically a team approach. The design team went through all the project components, what were your hazards and exposure, the consequence of those things and basically followed a formalized qualitative risk assessment for the project.

We have also updated the conceptual closure and reclamation plan. I have touched on really in my mind what is one of the key changes to that plan that I think certainly provided the company with the confidence to be able to come back into the process and say, "Look at, we've got a way where we can actually close out and decommission the heap." It was a fundamental problem to people before. So, that has been updated, for example, the 2001 detoxification work has been included in the project description volume for that.

We have also updated sections on consultation, consultation that has been undertaken in recent months and historically, put that into context again, as well as addressing the capacity of renewable resources effects on the project, which is another requirement under a comprehensive study.

So, those really in my view are the big fundamental changes that have occurred to this project. I know when we met with Little Salmon Carmacks, they were asking, "What has changed here? What is the difference?" So, without trying to oversimplify it, those are some of the real key areas that have been revised to address or look at the project.

That's basically what I have on that. The way we were looking at this meeting is it was a bit of a kick-off meeting on the technical side of the project. I just wanted to provide a real overview of that and start getting into the details of the review.

4.0 COMMENTS & DISCUSSION [con't.]

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Thank you, Dan. I think that is a good recap of the project description. I am not familiar with the earlier history of this, so I thought the updating as to changes was helpful.

Comments, questions, discussion?

Bill Slater: I have a few questions, some are questions and some are comments. As Susan expressed at the last meeting, I haven't read through this in detail yet. I'm partway through it, so some of my questions may be answered later in it. I'm trying to avoid getting into those areas, but I will say, Susan raised the issue at the last meeting and I think it's a valid point. I think you mentioned earlier today that the data on which the analysis is based in

this project description is, in a lot of cases, fairly dated. When we look at the hydrology data, for instance, even that was updated in '98, so that's a fairly recent update; but we're missing five years of data in a location where the records are pretty short in some cases. So, the value of updated information would certainly be useful. When I look at it from the social and economic side, some of the information, referencing interviews that were done in 1993 and 1994 in the community, especially in the post-Mount Nanson era in Carmacks, is potentially problematic. So, some of those things I think definitely need to be looked at in terms of how you update that baseline data, whether it's on the social and economic side or on the environmental side of things. That's more or less a comment, and I think it's something that's going to come up as an issue from our side and it has already.

Some questions:

The performance standards identify a double-composite liner. Now, if I can, I'm going to make use of the board for a minute, because my recollection of a composite liner for the purpose of heap leaches is that you would have a plastic of some kind and a composite liner would entail then having that plastic with immediately beneath it some kind of low permeability material that is in intimate contact with that.

Dan Cornett: Yes.

Bill Slater: And the purpose of that is that if you have a hole in the plastic, having something very low permeability here dramatically reduces the leakage through that.

So, when I look at the liner designs that are in here, I don't see double-composites. I see what arguably is, in the lower works area, a composite lower liner, --

Dan Cornett: Exactly.

Bill Slater: -- composite lower liner.

Dan Cornett: That's right.

Bill Slater: In the upper works, arguably a composite liner, although it depends on what the subgrade looks like because it's compacted subgrade that happens to be there, --

Dan Cornett: Right.

Bill Slater: -- unless it's some kind of unacceptable organic frozen material or something; and in the events pond, I definitely don't see it. In no cases do I see a composite at the upper liner.

Dan Cornett: Right.

Bill Slater: So, even though those standards are saying "double-composite liner", that's not what I see there. Is that a fair assessment, or is Western of the view that that is what constitutes a double-composite?

Dan Cornett: Well, I think your interpretation is "Yes, you've got some type of composite, where does it actually occur"?

Bill Slater: There is a single-composite, I agree.

Dan Cornett: Well, no, there's a liner system. You have to look at it as a system.

Bill Slater: Right, but I would view a double-composite --

Dan Cornett: Yes.

Bill Slater: If I can look at that as a lower liner, --

Dan Cornett: That's fair.

Bill Slater: -- and then, the second one has a ... So, then we've got an LDRS in here. Above that, if I were to say a "double-composite", then I would view that to have a low permeability of material here again, followed by a second layer of plastic. And maybe my interpretation is different than Western Silver's, but my understanding in the past has always been that you would consider a double-composite as a composite liner on the top, a composite liner on the bottom, with LDRS in between. Otherwise, we're looking at a single-composite, with another liner and LDRS. So, I'm not sure whether that's an interpretation question, but that's been my view of what a double-composite is. I don't know what the Yukon Government's view is on that either. So, I raise that as a question, because it does come up for me several times.

The other thing is: I read the table at the front. I didn't read the Executive Summary. I read the table, though, which kind of included a quick run-through of what the thing looked like. In the table, it actually says a "single liner" in the upper works, and that I presume is an error.

Dan Cornett: What table is this?

Bill Slater: It's the table attached to the Executive Summary.

Dan Cornett: That could be.

Bill Slater: So, it's on page xi "single composite upper heap".

Dan Cornett: That would be an error.

Bill Slater: I presumed that was the case. It set off alarm bells when I first read it, and then, I got further in, and there actually was a double liner.

Anyway, that question remains as to what the interpretation is as to what a "double-composite" liner is. My interpretation has always been that's what constitutes a double-composite. What we're currently missing is that layer. We have the second liner sitting immediately atop of what is an LDRS high-trans material. So, this material, the green material, is completely the opposite of what this orange is. It's a high permeability material that's intended to make sure that any flow that comes through there actually moves very quickly so you know that it's coming out.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: That's a good question. I'm not going to ask YTG to respond right now.

Bill Slater: I don't necessarily expect a response right now.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: I appreciate your raising that.

Dan Cornett: I could just comment on it if you want.

Bill Slater: Sure.

Dan Cornett: Yes, there may be some what's called "transcription stuff" that occurred between the engineering folks and us kind of bio-type who put these things together, but the complete liner design system by EBA is in there. So, that's what I'm going to say is the liner system. They may have used different terminology than what I've got. I would be looking at it as a liner system. There are two layers of plastic and the lower portion of the works is overtop of a prepared soil sub-base in relation to it.

You should go back and also look at what YTG had for its minimum requirement for waste.

Bill Slater: The table that you gave us today, I don't know if that is YTG's performance standards?

Dan Cornett: YTG's performance standards --

Bill Slater: That's 8-1, "Carmacks Copper Project Summary Performance --

Bill Dunn: Look in the back of the project agreement, that's the YG --

Bill Slater: I haven't really looked at that one to see whether that actually has double-composites or not.

Bill Dunn: It doesn't. It says "A single plastic liner with something" -- 10^{-6} .

Dan Cornett: Where it appears Appendix C, Volume 2, that appendix to that report has YTG's in it.

Bill Slater: Yes.

Rob Walker: I think the liner portion really just speaks to permeability factor, as opposed to how you actually achieve that permeability.

Bill Dunn: Yes.

Bill Slater: In relation to that question, I haven't looked through EBA's report yet, so it may be clarified. My understanding, from the summary in Volume 1, was the leakage amounts through there, through the liner, were calculated on the basis of a theoretical permeability, which is --

Dan Cornett: That's correct, yes.

Bill Dunn: A theoretical permeability or a theoretical imperfection?

Bill Slater: That's the thing, I read it in the summary as a theoretical permeability. Now, it would be more typical to look at it as a theoretical imperfection and move from there. So, I'll have to look at EBA's report and see how they've actually interpreted that, and I will do that. The one thing I did note is that with this, you didn't get to the numbers you were looking for in the leakage numbers for this liner. Is that a fair statement? What I read from the summary was the number of cells would have to be too big, and so, you sort of stepped back from that, is that correct?

Dan Cornett: A comment on that: Typically what is done in other jurisdictions is you put a leakage rate by area.

Bill Slater: By area?

Dan Cornett: That's normally what is done in the whole solid waste industry and whatnot.

Bill Slater: I would argue that that might be a wise approach.

Dan Cornett: And that's where we had the engineers going: We said what's this criteria about so many liters per day? How you get around that is you put more cells in.

Bill Slater: Yes, I will not comment on that further until I look at EBA's report.

Dan Cornett: At some point, that to me is an area that says, "Heh, we're prepared to do this. What's maybe a better way to do it," because people are going on the basis of what was done for Brewery Creek; and in essence, they just put more cells in.

Bill Slater: Yes, which amounts to making it on the basis of area anyway.

Dan Cornett: Yes, it's more common, and that stems from the liner systems that come out of landfills and whatnot where they actually put leakage over an area. That's more common now than what has been done here.

Bill Slater: Yes.

Bill Dunn: Liters per metre.

Dan Cornett: Yes. So, we didn't get into that here. If you want to pick that, liters per day, then you just put more cells in in order to cover that off.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: More questions or comments?

Bill Slater: I do have one more. You mentioned the contingency water treatment plant today and that it would be in place as it's needed. My review of the water bounds is that it's needed under average conditions in year 7; under average conditions in year 7 or year 8, somewhere around there.

Dan Cornett: Right.

Bill Slater: When I read the description of the water treatment plant in the overview here in Volume 1, what I read is that the water treatment plant is to be built out of the tankage from the processing plant, which of course, needs to run --

Dan Cornett: That's at closure.

Bill Slater: So, there is an intent to build another one previous to that?

Dan Cornett: Yes.

Bill Slater: Because you said "The water treatment plant will be on site during development and it will be needed at closure." So, it's not the same one?

Dan Cornett: That's right.

Bill Slater: It is a different one?

Dan Cornett: Well, I mean, at some point, you've got all that infrastructure there. You don't need two of them.

Bill Slater: Right, but it seems odd that you would have one on site, and then, choose to decommission that one and build another one, because you've got tankage that was designed for something else. However, maybe it's a sizing issue, I don't know.

Dan Cornett: Right, for drain-down, yes, it is, I think. I'd have to go back and look at that.

Bill Slater: The overliner, the one-metre, have you looked at that in relation to using it with a conveyor system where you're dragging conveyors around on it? Is it something that is going to be potentially problematic, as opposed to ...

Dan Cornett: I believe that has been looked at.

Bill Slater: The column work with the soda ash, you have said that the lime work was done with columns. I presume the same approach was taken with the soda ash. When they went to do their neutralization test work with the soda ash, did they run it in columns, the same as they did with the lime, so they were able, in the columns, to reach that controlled pH?

Dan Cornett: That's right. So, the ones you actually see in Beattie's 2001 actually has some of that initial work there. That's basically the basis for --

Bill Slater: For the new --

Dan Cornett: -- the subsequent work that's gone on there. I think they were six-inch or eight-inch columns, I can't quite remember.

Bill Slater: That's all I've got for now. Like I say, I haven't been through this in detail.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Thank you, and this is just the first meeting.

Bill Slater: Yes.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Are there comments or questions from others?

Benoit Godin: Yes, in terms of the closure, is the objective of the decommissioning or closure process a walk-away situation?

Dan Cornett: I wouldn't call it a "walk-away". It's passive.

Benoit Godin: It's a passive treatment?

Dan Cornett: And you're going to have to have someone there to do the monitoring. How long that goes, I guess that's down the road, we'll see it; but it's not active. And it is active --

Benoit Godin: Initially?

Dan Cornett: -- initially to get the solutions down and do that. It's not intended we be able to pack it up and we're gone. It's more passive. The systems you have in there, whether they're lime, a lime bed or a BTC or an infiltration gallery, you may monitor it; and maybe after 20 years, we may have to go and change the limestone, but it's still a passive type of approach.

Benoit Godin: Who will be carrying the liability during the passive system or phase of the closure?

Bill Dunn: It's not closed until it's finished.

Benoit Godin: Well, this is not a walk-away. People are not forever, that's the thing.

--

Dan Cornett: True; my expectation is there will be sufficient

Benoit Godin: Is there a transfer of liability to Government?

Dan Cornett: -- bonding to cover that all off. it may not be Government. It may be somebody else.

Benoit Godin: Companies?

Dan Cornett: There are people who actually take that on. I think the folks who took over Brewery Creek are in that business.

Benoit Godin: Yes. In the same vein, I could not find any discussion on security bonding --

Dan Cornett: That's correct.

Benoit Godin: -- in the document, correct? Is that forthcoming?

Dan Cornett: Yes, that's something that needs to be done. I guess we were looking to have some more of that information provided, especially for regulatory stuff.

Benoit Godin: But at least the principle can be discussed in the EA.

Dan Cornett: What we've got, there's sufficient security at any one point in time; basically, as you're saying following -- YTG has a policy requirement for that.

Benoit Godin: Is the policy on?

Bill Dunn: Yes, it's ongoing work. It's a draft, --

Benoit Godin: It's a draft?

Bill Dunn: -- but it's as we brought forward, the security is sufficient and any plan to cover the outstanding liability.

Dan Cornett: Well, third party, --

Benoit Godin: Yes, third party.

Dan Cornett: -- I mean for someone at any point to go in and do the work if the company fails. For assessment purposes, that's what we've got to do. Yes, we've got to come up with hard numbers for bonding purposes and say, "Okay, those have to be developed." There was a bit of a timing issue on that, --

Benoit Godin: I realize that.

Dan Cornett: -- but it needs to be done.

Benoit Godin: I was just looking at the Table of Contents and trying to figure out, "Okay, what are we talking about security here?"

Rob Walker: I'm just kind of curious, the approach in terms of closure and decommissioning and so on, can you just sort of characterize what aspects of that you think are new technology here or examples of where the approach is used in other situations or jurisdictions?

Dan Cornett: The standard type of contour, cover, revegetate, rip up roads and scarify, that's pretty standard, off-the-shelf-type stuff. It's pretty common in terms of reclamation and closure. The key thing here again is the heap leach pad and examples of that. Probably the best example close to home I can give in relation to what is going on here, that it's a different process, is what was done at Viceroy. In essence, you are rinsing a heap to get rid of excess. As in Viceroy and Brewery Creek, to get rid of excess cyanide; here you're actually getting excess acidity, and that's the two ends of the spectrum. So, basically you're trying to bring this pile to a neutral state, which we've been able to demonstrate. At Viceroy they've been able to demonstrate the stability of the metals coming off that pile, and that's the same type of treatment technology that's here.

ALM Group, they're basically involved in this project, as well, and bring that whole technology and expertise that was used on that project to bear here. So, that was another area that certainly gave Western Silver a lot more comfort and confidence that they've actually got something that can work here.

Examples of other heaps, copper acid heaps that have been done this way, yes, rinsed down; but typically, most of these heaps have been in areas where they're dry. They don't produce a whole lot of water. So, no one has actually had to go to an amended treatment after the fact and deal with the metals. We're hoping that you're not going to get very much water off this pile at the end of the day either, but you still have to deal with it.

So, those are kind of quick responses.

Rob Walker: Are they rinsing those piles with soda? Are there examples of that?

Dan Cornett: I'm not exactly sure. Brad has got some information on that, Brad Thrall.

Benoit Godin: In your ongoing work with the detoxification, you're indicating that you're going to look at the introduction of carbohydrate for the neutralization of metals. I'm a little bit fuzzy on the chemistry of that. I'm not too sure if this particular work will shed a little bit more light on what is going on. I mean, I understand that technology with a cyanide heap leach, because it's a carbon source, but with a sulphur, I'm not too sure what the benefit is. My problem or my worry or concern is that you are reducing a compound with a lot of sulphur, inducing sulphur reduction, which produces sulphides, which is the AND source.

Dan Cornett: It's driving it the other way.

Benoit Godin: It's driving it the other way.

Dan Cornett: That's right.

Benoit Godin: So, I'm kind of concerned about that aspect.

Dan Cornett: I think it's fair to say -- we've had this discussion. I know Brad has had it with Joe Herrington from Arcadis. These are the guys who basically pulled all the stuff together, Green World Science for Brewery Creek, and brought his advice to bear on that. He was the one who basically looked at how the columns were set up to do the next detoxification to try and answer some of those questions. They have been doing different concentrations and setups in relation to that. I'm maybe oversimplifying it in relation to what is going on.

Benoit Godin: I mean, is it just a question of chelations or those kind of things, chemical processes?

Dan Cornett: I don't have the specific answer to that.

Benoit Godin: I was wondering if that was --

Dan Cornett: Certainly we'd look at providing the chemistry on that, "at least here's what they think is going on." I know Joe has talked about also doing some petrographic kind of analysis of some of that spent ore in relation to looking at trying to further some of those answers to see what they've actually got there. To me, the columns are still set up. They're still running them.

Benoit Godin: Were they from the last time, or are these new columns?

Dan Cornett: No, these are new columns. So, once you did this bio-leaching, you basically had spent ore columns, okay --

Benoit Godin: Let's do it again?

Dan Cornett: -- let's do it again. Do the full detox with them. So, they're still running now. They haven't been shut down. Brad was saying they're probably going to be running for the next year here, keep them going.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: I don't want to cut off the discussion, but I think it was generally understood we would go until 3:00. As long as everybody is agreeable, we can continue as long as there are questions.

Dan Cornett: If there is anything further ...

Facilitator Bill Klassen: There will be other meetings.

Dan Cornett: I fully expect that there will be a detailed session going through some of the closure issues.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Yes.

Dan Cornett: What I wanted to do on that, we had talked about doing that at this meeting, and I said, "Hold it here. Let's bring the whole project back into the technical forum." The company is committed to summarizing this test work now and getting it into people's hands. I think you're going to have a much better discussion about what's going on there.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Just on that, Dan, when do you anticipate that that further information will be available?

Dan Cornett: I talked with both Jonathan and Brad this week on that. So, I'm hoping that they can get something in within the next couple of weeks. I had hoped to have it in advance of this meeting, but that just didn't happen, so, I anticipate it soon.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: So, once we have that, that may be the basis for the next discussion.

Dan Cornett: That may be a good basis for another meeting on the technical side. We would probably bring in Brad Thrall and it may even be Joe Herrington with Arcadis.

Bill Dunn: I assume you're open, as people work their way through the document, if they have any questions to flip them to you to try and clarify them as quickly as possible or identify them?

Dan Cornett: You bet. Well, I'll never admit to being perfect at trying to put these documents together.

Benoit Godin: No, it's quite a task.

Dan Cornett: You're going to find stuff that's inconsistent or not quite the same. There were many versions of these things.

Bill Slater: I'm sure! We don't expect you to be perfect.

Bill Dunn: But if there are questions going to the company, I would ask people to also copy myself so I'm aware of them.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Yes, please.

Benoit Godin: So, from an environmental assessment point of view, are you going to be the point of contact for any comments, or --

Shane Andre: I'll be the point of contact for all the environmental assessment issues.

Bill Dunn: I guess the normal procedure would be that you also copy it to the company, and I would appreciate being copied.

Rob Walker: I guess that works for points of clarity, but if we start getting into discussions, usually they're focused a bit more through a technical committee, or the comments would come to the EA people, and they'd sort through them and come up with, "All right, this is the information that's requested from the company," as opposed to dribs and drabs. They become hard to track.

Benoit Godin: Yes; and as such, I'm trying to figure out is there a deadline for comments, and how do we proceed with the review?

Shane Andre: We're still early days in the environmental assessment, so we haven't asked for any comments. We'll let you know. We'll be working on putting out a public consultation package that will ask for comments in the next couple of weeks.

Bill Slater: And when you do that, your turn-around time on it is going to be?

Shane Andre: I imagine the standard 30 days.

Rob Walker: The first phase of the assessment under this comprehensive study process, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* did change the comprehensive study process. So, the first phase is what's called a "track decision". The idea is that there is a consultation to identify issues and opinions. Then a decision has to be made by the Minister as to whether this is a comprehensive study, mediation or a panel.

Then following that, based on whatever track is chosen, if it stays a comprehensive study, then you go into consultation, and you basically start the environmental assessment. So, in order to make the track decision and to do the public consultation on a track decision, the responsible authorities are required to prepare a document, which kind of gives a "heads-up" on what the issues are that goes to the public.

When I looked up how these have been done, a lot of times they are just sent out with this document, prepared by the RAs, which is maybe 15-to-30 pages in length. In this case, though, it seems much more efficient and those processes often start when there is only a project description and not the more detailed environmental assessment report. So, in this case, the idea is to develop the track document and these documents and provide them for consultation together so there can be a track decision developed and also, the company has an idea what is going on.

I would just comment. We have been talking about some closure, and some of the factors that people might like to consider as to whether they would suggest it be a comprehensive study or some other path relates to how proven the technology is and things like that. I would suggest if it would be possible to arrange this more in-depth discussion on how the closure works, it would be useful before we're in a position to be in a track decision. Does that make sense, Shane?

Shane Andre: Yes, I mean, the more information we can have upfront, the better. As we all know, EA moves faster when we have everything upfront. I'm sure you're working to get us this information as quickly as you can.

Dan Cornett: The conceptual information is provided, and what we're trying to do now is actually put some more meat to it. There was some initial work that was done in 2001 to look at rinsing and soda ash use, and the data there is for that. This is more follow-up for more details. The point is taken, yes, we'll get it in.

Rob Walker: I was suggesting that while this technical committee may need to embrace quite a wide range of issues, that that might be

one to start on right away and get a sense of that, because it can have implications for the remainder of the assessment.

Shane Andre: I think we need to give people an opportunity to review that information before we can talk about it. Just to review this information is going to take a fair chunk of time.

Bill Slater: You're sending out this and the track document basically at the same time with obviously perhaps a different time period for a response to those. I don't know whether you've made a decision about that or not.

Shane Andre: Yes, I don't know either.

Bill Slater: What I'm wondering is whether you're going to be expecting comments back on this before you make your track decision

Shane Andre: Comments back on this before we make our track decision? Our track decision will be based on your comments back on this; so, no, we won't be making that. Is that what you meant?

Bill Slater: Yes, in part; so, regardless of what the track decision is, we are to review that and provide comments, knowing that you still haven't made the track decision, and those comments will be used, regardless of which track is pursued, whether it's a panel track or a comp study track? I mean, if we're going to a panel track, obviously the whole scenario becomes quite different.

Shane Andre: Yes, that's right; but the information doesn't go into a void. It's still useful. So, if concerns are identified during that consultation period, the panel reviews that information.

Bill Slater: I wouldn't count on that.

Benoit Godin: The panel has totally different terms of reference.

Bill Slater: I think it potentially creates the "We're going to have to do this twice" kind of scenario if we're looking at providing comments for one of the unknown tracks before there's a track decision made.

Shane Andre: I don't know a way of avoiding that. Unfortunately under CEAA 2, we have to go through this path to decide what track we're going to take; and in order to do that, we have to have comments and concerns from stakeholders. I don't know any way to avoid that, other than to

ask for your comments and concerns now and deal with what happens in the future if that's fair.

Facilitator Bill Klassen: Thank you very much, everyone, and we will await that further information, Dan. Then we will schedule another session.

Bill Dunn: Yes, thank you, everyone.

5.0 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:15 p.m.

Nichole Speiss

From: Dan D. Cornett [dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2005 12:48 PM
To: 'Shane.Andre'; jonathan.clegg@telus.net
Cc: 'William.Dunn'; 'Bill Klassen'; 'Randy.Lamb'; 'Jeff.O'Farrell'; Jonathan Clegg (Jonathan E. Clegg); Brad Thrall; Clynton R. Nauman; 5Nichole
Subject: RE: Carmacks Copper Heap Detoxification test work

Thanks Shane for your note.

I have previously discussed this type of information request with Jonathan and Brad Thrall. We are working to getting an update on the additional test work to ECO for review. I will provide a timeframe soon.

However for point of clarification – we never stated that we were achieving a “walk away” closure condition – maybe at some point. The approach to closure is active care followed by passive care to eventually get to a walk away scenario. (PD & EAR – Appendix F section 1-2). Further testing is required to demonstrate that long term walk away is achievable – not at the EA stage. I believe that for the EA we are looking to demonstrate that passive care is realistic and achievable. This is consistent with YG performance standards where we would demonstrate that there is no need for perpetual treatment - passive care meets the performance standard and show to be achievable for EA purposes.

If we need to clarify this understanding, please let me know

Dan D. Cornett
 Access Consulting Group
 Vice President
 #3 Calcite Business Centre
 151 Industrial Road
 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
 ph: 867-668-6463
 Fax: 867-667-6680
 Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca
 Web: www.accessconsulting.ca

From: Shane.Andre [mailto:Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2005 11:17 AM
To: Dan D. Cornett; jonathan.clegg@telus.net
Cc: William.Dunn; Bill Klassen; Randy.Lamb; Jeff.O'Farrell
Subject: Carmacks Copper Heap Detoxification test work

Hi Dan,

Just as a follow up to our technical meeting last week the DAP Branch has the following request.

The Carmacks Copper conceptual abandonment and restoration plan for the detoxification of the heap is to achieve a “walk-away” closure condition. Within the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) the company has explained that “further column test work is planned to finalize heap detoxification methods”. At this time we feel that additional information, including the results of this test work, is required to demonstrate that “walk-away” closure of the site can be achieved.

We recognize that Western Silver is in the process of conducting this test work on the conceptual heap detoxification plan and is working towards providing further information to stakeholders on this issue. In hopes of expediting the Environmental Assessment process we would ask that the proponent ensures all required

information is received by the RAs as soon as possible to ensure that we have adequate time to review and consult on all aspects of the project. As it will likely affect our work plan, we would appreciate any information the company could give as to when this additional information will be available for review.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the Environmental Assessment please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to continuing to working with the Western Silver Corporation on this project.

Sincerely,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

Carmacks Copper Technical Committee

Terms of Reference

CONFIDENTIAL

August 24, 2005

Carmacks Copper Technical Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Government of Yukon seeks to achieve sustainable development by conserving and enhancing environmental quality and by encouraging and promoting economic development that conserves and enhances environmental quality. Under existing legislation, Yukon Government departments and other Federal Responsible Authorities (RAs), in relation to a project, are required to ensure that an environmental assessment (EA) of the project is conducted. **To help accomplish this with respect to the Carmacks Copper project a Technical Committee has been established.**

Purpose of the Technical Committee

To provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss technical issues, environmental concerns and mitigation surrounding the proposed Carmacks Copper Mining Project.

Vision

An inclusive environmental assessment process that provides opportunity for stakeholder involvement and open consideration of all stakeholder concerns. To prepare for a smooth transition to the YESAA process if implementation occurs prior to completion of EA review.
~~A smooth, efficient transition of the project to the YESAA process.~~

Purpose of the Terms of Reference

The purposes of these Terms of Reference are to:

- 1) describe the roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and Committee Members;
- 2) outline the functions of Technical Committee as it relates to the environmental assessment process; and
- 3) describe the process used by the technical committee ~~in~~ contributing to the Environmental Assessment process.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chairperson

The Chairperson has the following responsibilities:

- 1) Chairs the meetings or designates a replacement;
- 2) approves agendas and requests additional agenda items;
- 3) determines whether a meeting requested by a member or the proponent should be called;
- 4) calls meetings and determines their location; and
- 5) establishes sub-committees as necessary.

Committee Members Duties

Based on their specialty, expert information or knowledge and in accordance with their mandate, technical committee members:

- 1) attend meetings of the technical committee in the capacity of a representative of a group, agency, or department;
- 2) review meeting Minutes, including Records of Decisions and Action Items, to ensure accuracy;
- 3) when requested, provide advice on response letters, draft reports, and other relevant documents produced by the RAs in accordance with agreed upon timelines; and
- 4) where time lines for submissions cannot be met, inform the Chairperson as early as possible when comments will be submitted, with justification for the time extension request.

Members may request meetings and additional agenda items for proposed agendas.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership

The membership of the technical committee will consist of:

Chairperson

Member
ECO member
EMR member
Envir. member
LSCFN member
LSCFN consultant
LSCFN members
Envir. Canada
Proponent member
Proponent consultant

YESAB observer

Bill Klassen

Bill Dunn
Shane Andre
Bob Holmes
Randy Lamb
Susan Davis
Bill Slater
as available
Benoit Godin
Jonathan Cleagg
Dan Cornett

Travis Ritchie

EA Coordinator

Project Coordinator
EA Project Manager

Specialists will be invited to participate as members where they have a direct interest in the project or responsibility pertaining to the project, including the independent technical advisor.

Requests for membership and changes to members must be made to the Chairperson.

Technical Sub-Committees

On occasion there may be a need to form technical or socio-economic subgroups to review/study specific project components. Members of technical sub-committees are individuals with specialist knowledge in a specific area. External expertise may be used in the assessment at the discretion of the RAs. The nature of the project will determine the necessity and focus of sub-committees. The establishment of sub-committees is at the discretion of the Chairperson, in consultation with the committee members.

Notification

Best efforts will be made to ensure that reasonable notice is given for meeting times and that information will be distributed for review before the meetings.

Notification Minutes

Minutes of the meetings will be filed in the Public Registry for this project. This Public Registry is located within the Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch Office of ECO.

ISSUE	WESTERN SILVER	ACCESS CONSULTING GROUP	ALM GROUP	ARCADIS	EBA ENGINEERING LTD.	CLEARWATER CONSULTING LTD.
Overall Response	Response Oversight & Management	Overall Response Coordination & Management	Specific Input/Review	Input – Heap Detox/Closure	Input – Heap Liner/Geotechnical/Waste Rock Dump	Input – Site Hydrology Update; Site Water Balance/Model; Heap Water Balance
Update Environmental Data	Commitment from WS to initiate update of environ data collection program. WQ/stream sediment data initiated August 05.	Oct 05 WQ & sediment – 2005. Post moose rut survey – Nov/Dec 05. Winter low flow WQ survey – Mar 06. Spring/Summer/ Fall WQ & Grd water survey 2006. Fisheries Survey – Fall 2005 & Spring 2006. (Include LSCFN in surveys). Update community socio data – community consultation workshops OUTPUT: Environ monitoring program & Data Summary - Dec 9/05	Review data	N/A	N/A	N/A
Heap Detox/Closure	Commitment to further ongoing test work. Input on research for other Cu heaps/Detox	Coordinate response, input and review. Research for other Cu heaps/Detox	Develop response, update on test work. Coordinate with Arcadis. Review further test work needs. OUTPUT: Heap Detox/Closure Summary – Dec 16/05	Develop response, update on test work. Coordinate with ALM/ACG. Review further test work needs. Technology review & assessment. Mineralogy review. Expert input.	N/A	Update heap water balance for closure
Site Hydrology Update	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	N/A	Review site climate data. Update hydrological/meteorological parameters. Develop overall site water balance. OUTPUT: Site Hydrology Update memo. – Dec. 16/05. Overall Site water Balance memo – Jan. 13/06. Review all sediment and ditch event sizing.
Heap Water Balance Review	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Review CCL report and modify BCM water balance for project	N/A	N/A	Review CCL report and modify BCM water balance for project. OUTPUT: Updated heap water balance – Jan. 16/06
Solution Storage/Events Pond Sizing	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review. Develop rationale for pond sizing OUTPUT: Updated rationale for events pond sizing. – Jan. 16/06	N/A	N/A	Assist with rationale and risk characterization of events

ISSUE	WESTERN SILVER	ACG	ALM	ARCADIS	EBA	CCL
Site Water Balance Model	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	Input to ACG/ ALM as required.	N/A	Develop overall site water balance – used as basis for water quality model and input. OUTPUT: Site Water Balance Model for project – Jan. 13/06
Water Quality Model/Assessment	Review/Input	Coordinate response and review. OUTPUT: Site Water Model and downstream effects assessment. Adaptive Management Plan – Jan.31/06	Provide input and review.	Input to ACG/ ALM as required.	N/A	Ensure overall site water balance as basis for water quality model and input.
Water Treatment Plant	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Clarify operational and closure WTP needs. Develop response. OUTPUT: Updated Site Water Treatment Plant requirements (Operations & Closure). – Jan 16/06	Input to ALM as required.	N/A	Ensure site water balance input for WTP requirements
Heap Geotechnical Conditions	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review comments and assess need for additional data. Develop response. OUTPUT: Geotechnical data assessment , response to differential settlement and effects to liner – Dec 16/05	N/A
Heap Liner Design	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review comments and develop response to indicate that an YG liner criterion is met. OUTPUT: Liner criterion and leakage rate response.- Dec 16/05	N/A
Heap Embankment Design	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review KP design and bring design forward. OUTPUT: Updated heap embankment design.- Dec 16/05	N/A
Heap Loading	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Develop heap loading plan. OUTPUT: Heap loading plan. – Jan 16/06	N/A	Review and input into heap loading plan.	N/A
Low Grade Ore Stockpile	Commitment to no low grade ore stockpile.	Coordinate response OUTPUT: Response for no low grade ore stockpile. – Dec. 2/05.	Input and review.	N/A	N/A	N/A

ISSUE	WESTERN SILVER	ACG	ALM	ARCADIS	EBA	CCL
Waste Rock Dump Design	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input and review.	Provide input and review.	N/A	Review KP design and bring design forward. OUTPUT: Updated waste rock dump design. – Jan 16/06	N/A
Waste Rock/Open Pit Geochemical Assessment	Review/Input. Assess need for additional test work	Coordinate response, input and review. Assess need for additional test work Input into Overall WQ model. OUTPUT: Updated geochemical assessment - waste rock and open pit. – Jan. 31/06	Provide input and review. Assess need to additional test work	Assess need for additional test work. Input to ACG & ALM as required.	N/A	N/A
Closure Bonding Costing	Review/Input	Coordinate response, input on costs and review.	Develop reclamation costing. OUTPUT: Closure Costs. – Closure costs to be provided as supplementary data to YWB & EMR – March 06.	Input to ALM as required.	Input to ALM as required.	N/A
Community Consultations	Community meeting/workshop participations	Coordinate community consultations with LSCFN and VoC. Expect 2 LSCFN workshop and assistance with family visits. Update local socio-economic conditions and traditional knowledge. OUTPUT: Summary of community consultations and issues. Updated socio-economic and traditional knowledge. Timing dependant on LSCFN – Q1/06.	Provide input and participate as required.	Input to ALM as required.	Input to ACG as required.	Input to ACG as required.

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Friday, November 25, 2005 3:03 PM
To: Shane.Andre; Dan D. Cornett; Bill Klassen; Godin,Benoit [PYR]; Nichole Speiss; Randy.Lamb; Susan Davis; Bill Slater; Wayne.Kettley; William.Dunn; Travis.Ritchie; Lindsay.Dehart; Patricia.Randell; Stephen.Mills
Subject: Carmacks Copper Project - Response coordination Table



Response
ordination Table V2

Please find attached the Carmacks Copper Project - Response Coordination Table as prepared by the proponent. Details regarding this document are given in the email below.

This work will be discussed at Monday's technical committee meeting.

Thank you,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan D. Cornett [mailto:dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: November 25, 2005 2:49 PM
To: Shane.Andre; William.Dunn
Cc: Jonathan E. Clegg
Subject: Emailing: Response coordination Table V2.pdf

Shane;

Please find attached our strategic response to the project description review comments for the Carmacks Copper project. The strategic response table was prepared to develop a plan to address the review comments and identifies responsible team members and outputs. Expected completion dates for the various issues outputs are provided.

Please circulate this email to the Technical advisory group as I intend to speak to this table in detail at the upcoming meeting.

Thanks

Dan D. Cornett
Access Consulting Group
Vice President
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
ph: 867-668-6463
Fax: 867-667-6680
Email: dan@accessconsulting.ca

CARMACKS COPPER TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**10:00 am
Monday, November 28th, 2005
Shoppers Plaza – Fourth Floor Boardroom**

- 1. Approval of Minutes – Bill Klassen**
- 2. EAA/YESAA Assessment Process – Shane Andre/Travis Ritchie**
- 3. Environmental/Socio-economic Effects Committees Terms of Reference – Stephen Mills**
- 4. Proponents Proposed Work to Address Project Issues – Dan Cornett**
- 5. Review of Comments Received Summary Document – Shane Andre**
- 6. Topics for Next Meeting: - All**

CARMACKS COPPER
Technical Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Monday, November 28, 2005
Shoppers Plaza – Fourth Floor Boardroom

PRESENT: Bill Klassen, Chair	WJK & Associates Ltd.
Wayne Kettley	GY EMR, Water Resources
Bill Dunn	GY EMR, Mineral Development
Benoit Godin	Environment Canada
Randy Lamb	GY Environment
Shane Andre	GY ECO, DAP Branch
Patricia Randell	YESAB
Stephen Mills	YESAB
Travis Ritchie	YESAB
Lindsay DeHart	GY ECO, DAP Branch
Rob Walker	GY ECO, DAP Branch
Nicole Speiss	Access Consulting Group
Dan Cornett	Access Consulting Group
Susan Davis	Little Salmon Carmacks
Bill Slater	Consultant, Little Salmon Carmacks
Doug Ayers, Secretariat	Doug Ayers Reporting Services

(Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m.)

Bill Klassen: I suggest we get underway, and we have a number of items to address.

(Matters pertaining to room logistics dealt with)

Let me welcome you to this meeting. I think the first thing we need to do is to take a look at the agenda. This agenda has changed somewhat from the one that was provided earlier and, in part, that is to try to achieve some coordination between the Yukon *Environmental Assessment Act* and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment process. So, with your leave, I suggested we work from this agenda and, as in our meeting of July 28th, we're fairly flexible and not too formal. We want to give everybody an opportunity to say their piece and to be heard.

So, what this agenda outlines is an opportunity to talk about the Yukon Environmental Assessment and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment processes, and some committees that are being proposed to be established. We had talked about addressing socio-economic effects at the July meeting, and so there's someone here from the Executive Committee of the YESA Board to speak to that; and then proposed work, on the part of the proponent, that Dan Cornett will speak to; and

then a review of the comments received on the summary document; and then, importantly, topics for the next meeting and, I would suggest, the date of the next meeting, as well.

Comments?

Susan Davis: Can we do introductions?

Bill Klassen: Oh, very important. Thank you.

[ROUNDTABLE]

1. Approval of Minutes – Bill Klassen

(There was discussion regarding any possible changes to the minutes. Due to the fact that some people had not had an opportunity to review the minutes, and others had reviewed them quite some time previously, it was decided to leave the minutes unapproved, and comments were invited with regard to the minutes, to be received within the next two weeks.)

Susan Davis: Actually, I need to speak before we move forward on the agenda. I need to have it on the record, in these minutes, that we feel that this committee is inconsistent with EAA.

Bill Klassen: Inconsistent with the Yukon *Environmental Assessment Act*?

Susan Davis: Yes. Because of the government's agreement with the company. And that we're very concerned that the way this committee has been structured, and the terms of reference that we'll speak to, are not consistent with the transition process that's required for the YESAA process. We feel that this committee has been constructed on a foundation that Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation could not accept. And we need that to be clearly reflected in the minutes.

Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you. Now, are there any other comments before we get into the meat of the meeting?

Bill Slater: Just a question on the agenda. The committee terms of reference was on the previous agenda, it's not on this one. Not that I want to initiate a discussion on it necessarily, but I presume that doesn't mean that the committee terms of reference have been finalized and resolved.

Bill Klassen: No, it doesn't mean that at all. It's just that the way YESAA is progressing, some events are overtaking what this committee may be doing, so that will have a bearing on the terms of reference. And it may, Susan Davis, address some of your concerns.

Bill Slater: I presume that's why the EAA/YESAA assessment process item on the agenda moved forward, was to speak to that change.

Bill Klassen: Yes. Dan.

Dan Cornett: Just a comment from the company's side here. Fundamentally, this is a process-related issue, and we've certainly been trying to work with all governments in relation to resolving this process-related type concern. It's been causing some difficulty in trying to move through with the review, and I trust that today, with representatives of YESAA, Stephen and Patricia and Travis, that there may be some clarity that can help Little Salmon in relation to what's moving on here.

Susan Davis: For the record, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation has been doing extensive work on this. We've got a three part report that is almost finished and, when we get that finished, it will very clearly articulate what our concerns are with the process to date; and how we see it being developed in a way that's consistent with our Final Agreement.

Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you. When do you anticipate completion of that?

Susan Davis: The first part, on consultation, will be completed, hopefully, by the end of this week. The other two parts, which is the environmental socio-economic part, and there's a section on the environmental assessment process, so those two will be some time yet. And, in our consultation report, which we will release prior to the other two being completed, we'll clearly articulate how to move forward while working with the First Nation, with the capacity abilities that we have, which will tie into the timing of how a process like this would move forward.

Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you. Shane and Travis, then, could you enlighten us on the EAA/YESAA process... or, Stephen, are you going to be involved in that as well?

Stephen Mills: Yes, I'll be involved, as well.

2. EAA/YESAA Assessment Process – Shane Andre/Travis Ritchie/Stephen Mills

Shane Andre: Yes, sorry, I thought I'd just try and clarify some of these points. I'm sure this won't answer everyone's questions, but essentially I just wanted to describe this transition process, and how we see it working.

Basically, at this point, as you're all aware, this project has begun an assessment under EAA. So we've moved forward in that way. We've put together this working group.

Basically, the Executive Council Office and EMR have been identified as the two Yukon Government RA's. There aren't any other RA's described at this time. But it is very likely, and it's the reason for the YESA Board being here, that this project will require an assessment under YESAA. That doesn't mean that the EAA assessment will stop. It's

pretty clear, in EAA, that any assessment that begins under EAA must be completed, unless the proponent decides to withdraw their application. Which I don't think they have any intention of doing.

So, essentially, we're talking about two assessment processes going forward simultaneously. So, basically, what we've been trying to do, Yukon Government and the YESA Board, is work together to try and harmonize, where it's appropriate, to avoid any serious duplication. I emphasize "where it's appropriate", because we both have legislated obligations to meet.

So I think Stephen is going to speak to this in a minute, but I just wanted to mention that one of the ways that we've talked about harmonizing is by making these working groups a joint working group, to avoid having two separate groups, with essentially the same people, meeting for these two processes.

I think I'll offer the floor to Stephen or Travis to speak to anything else.

Travis Ritchie: I think, just to update everyone, the regulations for the YESAA act are going to come into force imminently. And, so, as far as our role in the assessment, it will transition to an active assessment role, as opposed to just a shadow role which we've been carrying out to date.

I'm not sure how familiar everyone is with the YESAA process, but I can just highlight a few key things that we'll be doing shortly, once the regs come into force. If anyone has any additional questions, I can certainly try and answer those.

One of the first steps for us will be to review the project proposal and conduct an adequacy review to determine whether there's any information requirements outstanding with regard to our ability to start the screening. And, certainly, we see advisory committees as helping to do that sort of work for us, and we're certainly looking to that sort of a tool, to aid us in the adequacy review, along with some of the work that's already been done to date through the EAA assessment, with regard to identifying information requirements or outstanding interests and issues, that sort of thing.

We are in full recognition that it would be useful to coordinate our efforts with the EAA process, so we're working with the identified Regulatory Authorities, within the Yukon Government, to coordinate the assessments where possible.

As far as identifying decision bodies, we haven't completed that critical analysis yet, but we imagine the Yukon Government will be the primary decision body for this project. But we're still looking at that, to see if there's any federal decision bodies.

And we are, again, looking at the proposal. We've started sort of an adequacy review, and one of the first steps there is examining the proposal to determine whether the proponent has met their duty to consult, pursuant to the Act. And we're just trying our

best to coordinate our efforts, to reduce the redundancy of the assessments, while still maintaining an effective assessment for the project.

Do you have anything else you wanted to add, Stephen?

Stephen Mills: Yes, I mean, I'll just maybe expand on it a bit, but all those points are dead on. Rumour has it that the regulation may come fully into force by Wednesday of this week, so... the only thing more certain is the vote, this afternoon, in Parliament. But, definitely, that's the rumour. So we are kind of gearing up to that, including our Designated Offices that are out there, all geared up to commence their processes, starting Wednesday.

With regards to this proposal, I guess there's a couple things we have to realize, is, we don't have a project proposal under YESAA; we won't have one until after our regulations come in. And, as Travis mentioned, we are looking, and we thought it would be useful, given that this project is currently under assessment under the Yukon's Act, that we at least look at some elements of the proposal. And one that Travis identified is around the consultation that's been done by the proponent.

As you know, in YESAA, we cannot – well, the way the legislation reads is that the proponent cannot really apply to the Board until they've met the requirements, so that's something that we're looking at.

We have also started to look at some of the technical aspects of the project, to identify some deficiencies. But, realizing that, we still can't really trigger, officially, until we get some project proposal that's in, and I don't think, necessarily, that the project proposal would be exact, in all components, as what was currently filed under EAA.

The second thing, with regards to our process, is that our requirement, to have a proposal that's adequate enough for us to accept and commence a screening, I believe our test is somewhat higher than that of the Yukon process. Under the revised rules, based on the consultations, there is a period of time that we will have in order to determine whether or not the actual proposal is adequate, so that we can accept it and commence the screening.

When we think about the rules and that, officially, the Board, as of a couple days ago, approved – yes, last Wednesday – the Board formally made rules for both the DO, as well as the Executive Committee, and I think we may have some copies but we can get more, but the rules are now in place.

Bill Slater: Are they posted on the web?

Stephen Mills: The rules are on there. What is not on there is the flow chart. We're just revising the final flow chart. And there have been a few changes to the Executive Committee rules, as well as to the DO. So, just so you're aware that they are there, and we're just – the last trigger, that commences our process, of course, is the regulation date now.

Another update... the panel rules are not yet completed. They're currently going through revisions and discussions with the Board, but they will be in place shortly.

With regard to this process, I mean, I guess we're really observers for at least right now, and I think the update from Shane is accurate. With regards to the transition of projects, we think that we should try to be efficient, and that we have similar advisory committees, and try to have them working on certain tasks. Recognizing, though, that, right now, the EAA process is much further along than the YESAA assessment, the screening by the Executive Committee on this particular project. And so, where they actually meet up over time, that's something we'll have to determine.

You made a reference earlier, Susan, to the terms of reference. We weren't trying to throw something on the table, here, but we –

Susan Davis: Oh, I wasn't talking about your terms of reference.

Stephen Mills: No, but one of the things that we are going to get to, I guess next, is some of the concept that we have on how to try to make this streamlined and avoid duplication, in both the assessment processes, through the structure of some of the advisory committees, and we're going to have a bit more detailed discussion on that.

So, that's our update. We're almost players in the game, at least; maybe another two days, and we will be.

Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you. Questions... I know Susan has one.

Susan Davis: Just to restate what I had said earlier, and your comment about that this process has moved further along. It's our position that the process hasn't actually been started yet, because we haven't got over the issue of the foundation of this process. We've never resolved that. And we've just moved along, and we've sat here going, "There's a problem." And so, because of that, that's why I'm doing this comprehensive work. So I just need to make that clear.

Stephen Mills: I recognize that. What we are looking at is more on, if you kind of look at the link on the flow chart, and whether there was the public comment on the project proposal, some of those elements we've seen, at least by the flow chart and by the presentations, that these things have been done. Versus, if you look at the flow chart for our process, our process is, we have a period of time to determine the adequacy of the project proposal once it's in; we then have a period of time for public comments on that proposal. And so that's what I mean, we're at totally different phases. We haven't gone out to seek public comment, at all, on the project proposal.

And I'm not trying to determine whether things are adequate or not, it's just that, looking at it on the sheets of paper and that, that's where we see that we are at a different point.

Bill Klassen: Thank you. Other comments? Bill.

Bill Slater: You were talking about having started working on some of the adequacy review work, which I can understand you might have done. I think both you and Travis mentioned reviewing the adequacy of the consultation aspect. When you're done that kind of a review, are you relying solely on the information in the submission, or is there other sources of information that you would take into account when you were evaluating the adequacy of that consultation?

Stephen Mills: We're looking at the project proposal, and the supporting documents that were attached as part of the project proposal. We're not making assumptions as to what occurred at certain meetings; we're not making assumptions as to what kind of documents we're presented, and how the results were incorporated. We're just simply looking at the wording that was in the consultation section. And the test that we're applying is, there's kind of a two-tiered test: the first one is, what does consultation mean within the YESAA legislation, which is consistent with what consultation is defined in the UFA; and the second element that we're looking at is a draft of the guide to proponents, as well as our guide to assessors, that we've developed. And we recognize that this is a work in progress, still, but there are certain elements there that try to further define what we mean by "consultation", and we're looking at both.

So our plan was to at least look at the current proposal, and what was submitted, and to determine whether or not we believe that that would meet the requirement under YESAA. And our plan is to at least give some sort of direction, and we'll make it publicly available to all, as to whether or not it meets the test; and, if not, what are the inadequacies within the project proposal.

So, that's what we have to judge; we can't, right now. And, again, this is based on a proposal that was submitted under EAA.

Mr. Slater: Under a different process, yes.

Stephen Mill: Yes. The whole issue, here, was, we don't have to wait till the very first day of the regulations, when the project proposal is in, to review. And we know that there's already been a proposal submitted, previously, under another process, that at least we may be able to give some helpful guidance back to all the parties on some, maybe, what needs to be done, if anything.

Dan Cornett: Just more of a comment than anything else... I mean, there was recognition, when the project description was submitted, that there would more than likely be a YESAA transition involved. So there were certain things that the company tried to undertake, in advance of that, without really knowing what the requirements of YESAA were, a guidance document. So, trying to get in and consult with communities, whether that's adequate or not, is another test, but trying to do those things, and addressing socio-economic effects – I mean, there were some things that we're trying to

deal with. So, we have been attentive to it. I guess the determination as to whether or not that meets the requirements of YESAA still has to be looked at.

So, I mean, just from our side, we're trying not to be the meat in the sandwich here, in relation to process. I mean, you're trying to work with it as best you can, in relation to what was available at the time.

Bill Klassen: Thank you. Any other observations or questions on this EAA/YESAA process?

Bill Slater: I guess, just to sort of follow up on that, the issue I was trying to get at there is a question of whether or not the single perspective on the consultation is enough for your consideration, in terms of how you are evaluating the adequacy. Because, you know, certainly, in some cases, there would be different views about the effectiveness of consultation that was carried on. And I know, for Little Salmon Carmacks, that's a concern. So that's why I asked about the source of documentation on that front.

Bill Klassen: Stephen and then Dan.

Stephen Mills: Well, I mean, one of the things we look at is the legal requirement that's under our Act, and defines what "consultation" is. And so we look at the language that's in the project proposal, and determine whether or not it meets that test. It's not our procedure to seek public comment on whether public consultation was adequate, or anything else.

So, for us, it's the first decision point. And I can't tell you, right now, the final.

Mr. Slater: No.

Stephen Mills: I mean, we've looked at the proposals, and we'll see what the new proposal looks like. But that is something that is the first point. And we have to also remember that the level of consultation is a bit different than the kind of – like, not the definition of it, but who was consulted with, when you get further in the assessment. The only obligation on the proponent, in order for it to get into our door, is that they must have consulted with the affected first nation; and an affected community; and residents of the affected community. But not necessarily every potential interest that's out there is now a part of that initial test.

The duty, of course, for consultation, then, really switches to the Board and Executive Committee, in conducting its assessment, to insure that they seek views from all those that are affected, and those that – and that's what happens once we get into the assessment, itself.

I've seen the correspondence with regards to the consultation process and that, but we believe that the guide, that we developed, meets the legal test for consultation, and that's the kind of lens that we're looking at as that first test of consultation.

Bill Klassen: Can we move on, then, to item number 3. On the previous one, then, with the promulgation of regulations, we'll wait for Wednesday to happen.

Stephen Mills: Maybe.

Bill Klassen: Stephen, are you going to speak to item number 3, please?

3.0 Environmental/Socio-economic Effects Committees Terms of Reference – Stephen Mills

Stephen Mills: The first paper you have is an Environmental Effects Advisory Committee. Again, recognizing that there has been discussion, and people provided comments on the previous terms of reference that circulated, we weren't, in any way, trying to hijack that terms of reference, or disregard the comments that came in on it.

We did a couple of things. We did review the terms of reference this body has currently set up, and I know it's a draft, and I know there are comments on it; but we also really had to take a look at this process – well, actually, I'll hand out the second one and then I'll talk.

(Stephen circulated two Terms of Reference papers, entitled Environmental Effects Advisory Committee and; Socio-economic Effects Advisory Committee)

We've had some ongoing discussions with Yukon Government, on how we look at this whole issue of transition on this particular project, recognizing several things, including the difference in timing, where we are in each of these processes, and also the particular structure on your previous terms of reference for this body. What we saw is that, not only is it a good idea, but there are certain obligations, to try to avoid some duplication where at all possible.

What we saw, unlike the terms of reference you had before, is we saw at least two key elements of how we would put this cooperation into writing and into practice. The first one is that, in your terms of reference, it refers to an Assessor's Committee (what we call it, I'm not sure). Basically there is a joint working group between the two assessment bodies, the EAA process and the YESAA process. And we see that as a way for the parties to deal with ongoing issues on their assessments, and to deal with specific elements of whether it's just our legislation or whatever, but the linkages. We also saw it as a way to try to insure that the various advisory committees -- recognizing that you might be responding to a couple different kinds of requests that come forward. And we saw that the advisory committee was a crucial part of this, because we do have different legislated timelines that we need to meet. We do have certain elements of the agendas that we need to insure are covered off. And we also have, maybe, our own interests (they seem similar) on who we want to seek participation on these advisory committees. But

with the assessors, generally, it was in such a way as to at least provide some direction to the two advisory committees.

We also saw a definite need, under our legislation, given the name of our Board and the whole purpose of Chapter 12 in the UFA, was that we saw the need for an Environmental Effects Advisory Committee, and a Socio-economic Effects Advisory Committee. And we recognize that there's going to be some overlap, that's why we have the arrow kind of connecting the two, and that they will have to work together on certain aspects. But, under our legislation, we have to look at the socio-economic effects of projects, whether or not they're a direct result of an environmental effect. So there's a bit of a different mandate that rests there.

We also definitely recognize that the make-up of some of these advisory committees might be different. You may have some of the same people on them, but you may have more of the environmental experts on one committee, and you may have some people with expertise in some of the areas around socio-economic matters.

So we have the terms of reference that are set out for these two different committees. We also recognize that this is a transition issue. This may not be how we structure under YESAA assessments, if we don't have a transition-type project. Nothing against the "Bill" at the end of the table, but we're not always sure that we would have, necessarily, an independent chair of all the YESAA technical committees. But we recognize that this is a process that has been created to date, and one that we would respect and want to participate in.

A couple of things that we're going to be looking at is for comments on these terms of reference. Basically, this table here, we see it, in our minds, as the Environmental Effects Advisory Committee, and the membership is consistent with the membership of this committee, as it's set out in those terms of reference. And when we look at the Socio-economic Effects Advisory Committee, we still have to formally establish that committee, as well as determine who should be members of that particular committee.

I guess the other element that we have to also recognize is that there is nothing that really prevents the YESAA or EAA from establishing some other ad hoc committee if they need to. An example, if we want to set up an advisory committee to determine the adequacy of the project proposal, we may determine that we only need a smaller group, and we may seek a different type of a make-up for that.

So, for us, it's a good effort. We've worked with the Yukon Government on these proposals, and, to us, we think it's a good effort to try to have as smooth of a transition as possible on these projects.

I should say, clearly, and I know Susan's not here, but, this transition doesn't, in any way, either shorten or change the obligations we have, under our rules, to conduct an assessment within certain timelines, nor does it take away any of the steps, because we're now kind of working within this process, it's already established, so we still have our

legislative requirements, as well as requirements that we've established under our rules, that we have to meet fully for this project.

So, there are some terms of reference, I don't know how you want to deal with those. But, again, this is a proposal on our part, from our side. For us, this is how we make it work with utilizing an advisory committee for both processes. The other option is always that we all strike our own advisory committees, and just some of you might be sitting at different tables, dealing with similar issues and, again, for us, I don't think that's a good use of everybody's time.

So, this one, here, is a proposal, and I think, between us and the Yukon, it's a proposal from both of us, both the assessment groups, that we can do some changes to the terms of reference if we need to, but we definitely would like some input in them. I guess we also wouldn't mind knowing, if this is a non-starter type proposal, then tell us right away and we can figure out what the next steps would possibly be.

Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you. Recognizing that people have just received these draft terms of reference for these two committees, it probably wouldn't be the best use of our time to get into them in detail, but I appreciate the overview and the rationale, and, hopefully from an independent perspective, it strikes me that whatever efficiencies can be achieved in the two processes, while recognizing the legal obligations of each, has a lot of merit, given how busy everyone is these days.

Perhaps a way to deal with it is to ask for questions of clarification about the process, and how this would assist with the transition; and then perhaps some questions on detail; and then a discussion as to how to address them. Dan...

Dan Cornett I think, from our standpoint, we are certainly encouraged by the proposal from the YESA Board in relation to it, and without really getting into the details of that, I think that's a step forward that we would see as a positive to making sure this transition moves forward, and certainly welcome the opportunity to work with the Board on that. So, we view this as a positive way to move forward, and thank you for that.

Bill Klassen: Okay, Shane, and then Bill.

Shane Andre: Just a comment... the RA's worked with the YESA Board to develop these, and we most definitely support this approach. So, we're hoping that we can move forward in this way.

Bill Slater: Just a couple of thoughts, perhaps with some questions tagged on there. First of all, the terms of reference on these obviously were moved on from the terms of reference from the previous committee. And I don't know what your understanding is of those terms of reference, but Little Salmon Carmacks had certainly not bought into that as a terms of reference for the previous committee, so we did have some concerns there.

The other thing, when you see these two committees, certainly from the Little Salmon Carmacks perspective, the assessment process that matters is the YESAA process. You know, yes, there's a transition; but, no, this is the process that falls out of the Final Agreement, and obviously is a key part of that.

So, given that, with these two committees, do you see the YESAA bodies really being in the driver's seat for these committees; or are you playing kind of a – is it a dual role; or is it a, we're kind of following along in this committee that has already started working? And is it different for the two? Because, certainly, I would see that there's a difference between the similarities with respect to environmental effects, between the two pieces of legislation, and the similarities or differences on the socio-economic side.

Stephen Mills: You want our opinion, and then get the Yukon's opinion, as to who's in the driver's seat?

Bill Slater: Well, I mean, given that we view your process as the one that's the most critical one, we want to know what your opinion is, to start with.

Stephen Mills: Our thought is, there is not one particular party that's in the driver's seat. The only thing is that we definitely have some different legislative requirements and outcomes that need to be addressed.

So, the Assessor's Committee, as far as we see, will be providing, as I said, some sort of direction to the Advisory Committees. And what I mean by "direction", being identification of certain timeline requirements that we have; identify certain tasks that we need to have considered; and so on. And we give some direction to the Chair, and kind of set out some timelines that we need to meet certain objectives.

With that, though, I don't think there is any particular driver's seat. Not one party can go against another one's direction on a particular issue, and nothing says that the outcomes of the two assessments may be the same. But, when it comes to process and utilizing peoples' time, I think we want to work cooperatively, and make sure that the direction we give to these committees is consistent from both.

Now, we have structured in such a way, where, if we find that this committee isn't able to meet certain requirements that we have, or maybe timelines or other things, then we do have the ability to establish a different committee, or something, to provide us some assistance to meet certain tasks. And I think that's the scenario that we probably want to try to stay away from if at all possible, but it's there. We need to meet our legislative requirements under our rules and under the Act, and we'll utilize these committees as much as we can.

Now, you will also notice, though, the terms of reference, and some of the elements of it, are different from the Environmental Effects Committee, as it is from the terms of reference that were established and circulated for this committee, that people provided some comments on. And, again, we did put quite a bit of work into these terms of

reference but, again, it's something that we really want to get some input, to insure that all the parties have good buy-in to it.

So, there's no driver's seat, and if we find that this process just is not working for us to complete an assessment under YESAA, then we'll have to either change it, fix it, or potentially develop our own process. We all recognized that in our discussions.

Shane Andre: Yes, I don't have much to add to that, but I would just say that we were very conscious of that right from the beginning. Where we can work together, we will, but the door is open, at any time, if there are obligations that are not being met, we will step outside. Nobody is in the driver's seat. The assessors' group is just made up of individuals who have a legislated responsibility to assess this project, so there's a representative of each of the RA's, from Yukon Government and the YESA Board, and we'll just work together where we can.

Bill Slater: A couple of things. One, obviously, you talked earlier about the EAA process being, at least on the flow chart, further along than the YESAA process, and so this committee could be in a position of dealing with a set of comments, on a project proposal, that are basically the same, but two months or three months out of step with each other. Do you see that as being any issue? Or is there some intent to try and merge those two into more of a common timeline?

Stephen Mills: Well, it's going to be hard to merge it into a common timeline, initially. We have the requirement to review the project proposal, and, once that's completed, and if we feel that any more information is needed, then it's provided and it's adequate, then we commence the assessment. We still have the requirement to go out to public comment on the project proposal. So that will, somewhat, duplicate something that's already been done, but those are requirements that we have.

Now, once we get into the drafting, doing the draft screening reports and those elements, I think that there may be a point where we're able to be much more at the same level or same period of time.

I'm not sure if we're playing a catch-up game, but we need to let our process work. And the one thing, again, that we have to look at, is, you know, when we're looking at our project proposal, the one issue that might cause some difficulty for a committee like this, is that you may be providing a much more detailed review of certain elements of the proposal and, at the same time, helping us, if we saw that, to determine whether or not the proposal is adequate in order to commence such screening. And we just have to see if that's possible, to work that through this committee, or if we establish another committee.

I should say, though, that a lot of the parties, and a lot of representatives in this room, would probably be similar to who we'd be seeking to help us with that first choice. And it's an unfortunate part of the whole provision around the transition of projects, but it's something that we will have to deal with.

Bill Slater: Perhaps I asked that question of the wrong agency, because, really, when I look at it from the perspective of trying to merge timelines, really, Yukon Government's process is, you're somewhat further ahead, if you look at the flow charts, but, you know, when it comes right to the outside end, Yukon Government can't issue the approvals until such time as both are done.

So, what is your view on saying, Look, let's let them carry out their process in a way that they need to carry out their process, and then move ours along in concert with that?

Shane Andre: Well, I think we're going to move forward with the assessment, but I have faith that their process will catch up with us at some point. Maybe that's just my opinion. But, in general, I think that, no matter what stage of the assessment we're in, it makes sense for us to get together and discuss issues of the project. It doesn't really matter whether they're doing their adequacy review, or whether we're doing a more comprehensive review, we still need to discuss the issues that come forward.

So I don't think it has so much of an effect on this group. It may be later on, but.... And, like I said, I think, at some point, we will catch up with each other. And, as you mentioned, we can't issue authorizations until their assessment is complete.

Bill Klassen: It has been suggested that we take a short break. I would say seven minutes, plus or minus one. Ten minutes, we'll be back at it.

(Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.)

(Meeting reconvened at 11:11 a.m.)

Bill Klassen: We, just before the break, had been talking about the Environmental Effects Advisory Committee and the Socio-economic Effects Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference. I had suggested that, since we had just received these, it probably wouldn't be the best use of our time to try and comment on them in detail; rather, perhaps, to talk about them more generally, and then how we revise them and bring them into full effect. Are there comments? Please. We don't want to just leave it hanging. Lindsay?

Lindsay DeHart: Is there a timeline for the comments to come back from, say, people who have just seen them for the first time today?

Bill Klassen: I think that would be useful, and perhaps in the context of when the next meeting is. Bill, you have some comments?

Bill Slater: Yes. We had a brief discussion, and Susan missed the presentation on that, and I guess the concern, and I'll call it a concern, that seems to arise in it, and it has arisen several times in this process, is that Little Salmon Carmacks feels, now, in the position of, yet again, responding to a discussion that Little Salmon Carmacks thought they maybe should have been part of the original discussion, in terms of setting the direction. And, I realize that you're saying you already said to us, Well, if you think this

is a crazy idea, then please feel free to say so. And it's not necessarily that we feel like we're in that position, that we want to say this is a crazy idea; just that the discussion, again, has already gone far enough to get the draft terms of reference, and we're back in that response mode again.

Susan Davis: And just to clarify that, you know, I keep mentioning that I'm trying to put together our document that is going to express what our concerns are with this whole process, and how we see it moving forward. And that's how come I keep saying, we keep moving forward, and I haven't had the time to put together the comprehensive work that I need to do, to sit at this table and express that. And so we just keep moving along, and I keep sitting here going....

I haven't had enough time. And we have been working on this with a lot of due diligence. I have got three experts, one in Ottawa, working on this. As well as, when I get this done, it's going to go in for a legal review. And I can't do this overnight.

So, in that case, I can't even respond to this, because I need to get the work that I'm expecting to get done, so I can sit down and figure out how we see this moving forward. So, that's all I have to say.

Bill Klassen: Well, recognizing that concern, and it has been noted at the outset of the meeting, the difficulty that I see, for the two processes, is that they have their own legal obligations and, in the one instance, I've already been presented with a proposal, and the other, presumably, will be shortly.

So, as an advisory committee, what I think we have to work out is how the concerns and the requirements of the different participants, in this case another government, in the process... how those can be dealt with, at the same time meeting the legal obligations of the other parties at the table. And I think that the work that you're doing will help inform how we address that, once we know the exact nature of the concerns of the Little Salmon Carmacks. I don't want to minimize those. All I'm saying is that, at the same time, these other people have obligations that they have to meet.

So, these draft terms of reference have been prepared, as I understand it (I wasn't party to it, as I shouldn't be because I'm independent here), by these two entities, to try and move the process along and, as has been said quite well, to make it as efficient as possible, so that there isn't the drain on time that there might be if we were having two processes running parallel.

It seems to me that, as much of a concern as it sometimes is, to be presented with a document you weren't part of the formulation of, it can be useful, in that at least there is something that others have given thought to and, while it may not be perfect (I'm no judge of that, I haven't read it yet), it at least is a place to start.

So, what I would hope we would be able to do, once Little Salmon Carmacks has their concerns articulated in these documents that you've mentioned, that we can move the

process along, correct it where it needs correcting, and move it along, so that the legal obligations of the other entities at the table can be met.

I don't know, Susan, if you want to respond to that before I ask others to comment on that process.

Susan Davis: I do know that the draft that I've read, of our document on consultation, speaks very clearly on the problem of moving forward on documents that were created in that manner. You know, like, we say, well, at least we have something to start from; but what happens is, we end up in a responding position every time. This document that I have, so far the first section, it's this thick; it's pretty comprehensive. And, unfortunately, I can't release it today. I was hoping to be able to, actually, but we're going to need one more week to do some final editing on it. And it really clearly articulates the problem about taking existing things, and trying to fix it, when the whole foundation is not built properly. And that's what our concern is.

Obviously, I have not opened this and, therefore, what may be in here may be fine. I can't say that. But I think, as we move forward, it's very important that Little Salmon Carmacks isn't provided with a draft of something that we didn't even know was being constructed.

Bill Klassen: Thank you. Do others want to comment?

Stephen Mills: Well, I'm not sure I understand the concerns that are raised, and I know there's a document coming forward. When it came to development of these documents, we weren't quite sure whether or not these documents would come along because we were just simply in discussion with the other legislated body that needed to do the assessments, so the pen had to hit the paper from somewhere, and that's why we thought it was useful to provide a draft. As I said earlier, when I presented it, we had the wording in here, it's our first crack, I'm not saying it's going to meet everything that's in the paper that's being developed, but we equally are interested in what the response is to this process, just the concept, and from there we can decide on whether or not we can work through joint advisory committees.

So, whenever the regulation date is, possibly this week, probably this week, our obligation starts once a project proposal comes in, and so we have some requirements that we have to commence within certain timelines. And so, for us, we thought that arranging these committees in such a way, where we know how we're going to be getting some technical input into both the environmental and the socio-economic side of this assessment, or elements of this assessment, I should say, is important, and we thought the earlier the better for that. We're seeking input into these terms of reference before we've even commenced our assessment and have a project proposal formally before us.

So, if we can get comments on them, that would be very helpful. If there are serious concerns, then it would be helpful for people to inform us, so we can have some good discussion on that.

Bill Klassen: Well, that kind of comment, in and of itself, would be a comment on the terms of reference, so I think that maybe that's the approach to take; that these are in draft form, and members of this committee can provide comment. If the comment that you have to provide says that the advice that you've received is that, because you weren't involved in the process of drafting them... maybe that's a comment that's necessary.

We can talk a little bit about timing of those. I'd like to come back to your question, Stephen, about just the general concept of trying to coordinate, between the two assessment processes, the analysis or consideration of environmental and socio-economic effects. Is there general comfort, I guess, with trying to achieve the efficiency that Stephen and Shane talked about with these two joint advisory committees? I don't see anybody shaking their head "no" vigorously.

Stephen Mills: Well, we'll support it, just to start it rolling.

Bill Slater: I think it's a hard question for us to answer.

Bill Klassen: I understand. Rob Walker....

Rob Walker: I'll just throw an observation out, that we're talking about setting up committees and a process, and, at this point, it's always a little mysterious how, at the end of the day, things are going to work, and how much of a say everybody is going to have. But it seems to me that most environmental assessments boil down to a certain list of issues at the end. Perhaps, at some time maybe before finalizing these, or in context of this, we could have a discussion about what are the key outstanding issues, and maybe try and put forward what sort of timelines, or a schedule, or some clearer steps on which issues were going to be discussed at these meetings.

I mean, I note that there are a number of places where there is still some information that is going to be coming from the proponent, on how certain things are going to happen. So, there are a whole bunch, even though the processes are at different places, where, when information comes in, they're going to be able to be discussed on the same timeline, and then we're not asking people, so much, to commit to something that's a little harder to see all the way through.

I'm not sure it's an easy thing to do, but I imagine, some time in a room together, people could get it down to a list of main issues, anyway, and schedule them or something.

Bill Klassen: Thank you. I expect that the advisory committees, once they get into their work, the identification of what the issues are that they will need to address, will be very much at the centre of how they function, and may well modify how they function.

Benoit Godin: From our perspective, in terms of Environment Canada, I'm glad to see that there are two committees; but, at the same time, we're not too sure where we're going to fit into these aspects. One of the issues that we always struggle with is the

security bonding and those kind of aspects, whether or not they are going to be considered as environmental effects, or socio-economics, or a combination of both. I haven't read your terms of reference, but those are the kind of issues that we are not too sure how it's going to be addressed. It goes a little bit with what Rob just mentioned; that certain issues need to be described, how they're going to be resolved, and where they're going to be resolved.

Bill Klassen: And just on the basis of the discussion here, it would appear that the membership of these bodies will shift, depending on what the issue is. It may be one, one time, and the other one the next time.

Benoit Godin: But, yet, it depends. If issues are moving across, will membership, or everybody that is involved in the assessment, be notified of both committees' agenda, so that we can provide advice when and where it's appropriate?

Bill Klassen: Yes. And I think that kind of administrative detail will emerge and will be resolved.

Well, it appears to me, from this end of the room, that there is general support for the concept, at least; that, some of the concerns notwithstanding, this is an efficient way to move ahead and make best use of the resources that are available. And, again, with the concerns that have been expressed about the process by which these were developed, as the Chair, I would ask that people provide comments to Shane and Travis – are those the contact points on these?

Shane Andre: How about myself, for now, just because, yes, it's not fully in effect?

Bill Klassen: That's right, you're not yet official, Travis.

Shane Andre: I'll pass all my comments on to the Board. So, just one point of contact.

Bill Klassen: Bill?

Bill Slater: I was just going to say, because you're talking about the overall concept, Dan mentioned, earlier this morning, that there's a process issue here, and it is, again, back to a process issue, and it's not to say that, if you went through a process, you wouldn't get to the very same place, but you'd have Little Salmon Carmacks with you. So, I mean, I can't say you'd get to the same place, I can't say you wouldn't, but it does all come back to a process issue, primarily, at this point.

Bill Klassen: That's understood.

Travis Ritchie: I'm really looking forward to understanding the concerns, because, right now, they seem sort of vague and ethereal.

Susan Davis: Well, yeah, they are.

Travis Ritchie: And I realize it's probably something that you've got to put on paper, because it's complex or comprehensive.

Susan Davis: Yes.

Travis Ritchie: But, certainly, trying to identify what the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation feels is their role in the assessment is really key for us, to understand where you're coming from.

Bill Slater: It's partly their role, and partly how they play that role; it's both of those things.

Bill Klassen: We've probably discussed that enough, and what I suggest that we do is move on to item number 4, and when we get to topics for the next meeting, and so on, these terms of reference will be on there, and we can decide, at that time, once we determine what the dates will be, by what time we want comment on the terms of reference, whatever form those comments take, sufficiently in advance of the meeting so that we can have an informed discussion.

Could I ask you, then, Dan to talk about the proposed work to address project issues.

4. Proponent's Proposed Work to Address Project Issues – Dan Cornett

Dan Cornett: Thanks, Bill. I will, just before I launch off here, pass along an apology from Jonathan Clegg. He was trying to participate at this meeting but, unfortunately, he's traveling today and we just felt it important to move the meeting along. However, he does plan to fully engage in these meetings as necessary.

What I'm going to speak to is this table that was distributed, I believe Shane had e-mailed it around. We've got copies here. This table, or issues matrix, was put together basically as a first cut for our work plan, to address particular issues that come out of the environmental review and comments that various stakeholders have made. So, I guess the best way to look at it is, look at it as a very global thing. We're not trying to put everyone's individual comments into particular boxes here. But, for the most part, this work plan was intended to address the bulk, if not the majority, of issues or comments that people had raised during their review of the project description.

What I thought I would do is just walk people through that, have a little bit of a discussion in relation to that. It outlines what we intend to do to address the particular issue (the consulting team, or individuals, have been brought in to assist Western Silver with that), what the outputs are in relation to that particular issue, and expected timelines for submission of various reports and so on.

So, with that, I guess the place to start would be on the "Update Environmental Data". There was certainly a comment that came back from a number of parties, that some of the data was slightly dated, and that it should be updated and brought forward with that. I can advise the committee, here, that water quality and stream sediment work was initiated back in August, this year. And we conducted another complete program in October of this year, that would be water quality and stream sediments on all of the monitoring stations. I'm not going to get into the locations and specifics of those, but they're basically in the project description. There was also a fisheries survey that was completed in October. And this is listed in our table under Access Consulting, since we are coordinating that. So, it's listed in this table, here, you can follow along. That work, as well as a planned post moose rut survey, which we're looking to try and do here in the next week or so, trying to coordinate something with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation in relation to that. We've got that on the table for planning purposes. And our intent, here, is to provide an environmental monitoring program update and data summary as to what's been done in the last little while, recognizing that the company has got a commitment to undertake further water quality/stream sediment/fisheries/benthos studies, starting late winter and into next spring and summer.

So, in essence, this program was put together to, fundamentally, let people know, All right, we've heard what you've had to say, and we're attentive to that, and we've initiated programs to address that concern. So we'll be providing an update, I've got December the 9th here as an expected timeframe for that, and we'll cobble together what's been collected in terms of the additional information.

Just as an aside to that, or comment to that, as an example, the fisheries work that was done this fall... yes, we have still found juvenile Chinook utilizing the lower reaches of Williams Creek. That's been consistent with what we've documented in the past. No further fisheries utilization was found upstream in Nancy Lee Creek or Williams Creek. People may say, well, you weren't there at the right time of the year, but certainly we've documented something for October, and the plan is to go back in the spring and the summer to re-verify it again. So, at this point, the information has been consistent with what we've found in the past, so that does link the previous data with the new data that we've collected.

The next issue we have here is the heap detoxification and closure. That work is being coordinated by ALM Group, out of Vancouver, with input from Arcadis. And these are kind of an introduction to these two firms; a little bit of background in relation to who they are.

ALM Group is basically the firm that is doing the decommissioning of Brewery Creek. Brad Thrall and Clint Naumann are the principals of that company. They're very much involved in closure planning and detoxification.

Arcadis is a firm out of the United States. They've been involved in numerous closure/reclamation type projects, and have specific patented technologies in relation to

closure planning. And they've been brought in to assist ALM Group with the detoxification work.

As I've said before to this committee, there are ongoing test columns. Things are being tested and the results are being, sort of, looked at as we speak. But the output from this particular task, here, is to present the results of the test work that has been ongoing on these columns, to demonstrate that we have a viable way of detoxifying the heap, and addressing various issues and concerns in relation to that. Some of those things would relate to other examples of heap closure, trying to bring those sort of things forward; looking at the geochemistry of the heap, and the mineralogy, and trying to document that, get an understanding as to what is the chemistry in relation to our proposed detoxification; and to bring that work into an end of the review process here, to demonstrate that there is a viable method to detoxify and close out the heap. Arcadis will be doing a senior review, or expert review on that, for ALM, as well.

The next issue here, we've got, is the site hydrology update. There were a number of comments in relation to the site hydrology. There is a climate station that's operated at the western Williams Creek area, operated by the Yukon Government, Water Resources. The concern was that this information should be looked at, brought forward, reviewed to make sure that we've got some – view the benefit of this new information, which has been done. Water Resources has been kind enough to provide the actual data from the climate station, which we have. And Clearwater Consulting, Dr. Peter McCreath, is reviewing that information. They're looking at the previous work that has been presented, and the site hydrology parameters, which basically forms the basis for a number of other tasks. So that work is underway, being looked at here, now, and it will support work for an updated heap water balance, as well as an overall site water balance for the project. And we're looking to have this updated memo by December the 16th, for consideration.

The overall site water balance, I've got it identified as another issue here, will be coming out in mid January, but I'll speak to that separately.

“Heap Water Balance Review” – this work is being done jointly with Clearwater Consulting and ALM Group. We are going to be utilizing the existing site water balance that was developed and used at Brewery Creek. It's an operational water balance that we have the benefit of utilizing. The site hydrology parameters will be updated, and that water balance will be revised and re-presented more specifically to this project, in relation to some numbers that we expect, and a separate report generated. And that, again, is expected by mid January.

“Solution Storage/Events Pond Sizing” – again, we sort of have to look at moving through these particular issues in a step-wise fashion, updating the site hydrology, reviewing the heap water balance. It then gives us an opportunity to review the solution storage requirements, in relation to what we have proposed here now. So that work will be done in conjunction with the heap water balance. And ALM Group, with their

experience and operations at the Brewery Creek Mine, will be coordinating the input and review of the solution storage requirements, and updating that as appropriate.

Flipping over here, the “Site Water Balance Model” – I’ve spoken to this, briefly, here. Once we have some of the input parameters, as well as the heap water balance, and looking at water balances for other components, for example waste rock dumps, those sort of things, we’ll have an overall site water balance that will be developed for the drainage, which will then serve as a basis for input into a component of the water quality model, which we’re looking to undertake as well. We’ve got a timeframe of mid January to complete that work, and to have a report submitted on that.

“Water Quality Assessment Model” – again, I’m not going to go into where all of these issues sort of stem from. I mean, people have raised them, and suffice to say that we’re looking to put together a plan to address them. But it was recognized that we should be reviewing the water quality, in a downstream water quality model, in relation to downstream effects, for assessment purposes. Access, our firm, is coordinating that. We have a specialist in water quality modeling, and we’ll be reviewing developing a model for that, with input from Clearwater Consulting on the site hydrology. And we’re looking at the end of January to come up with that particular assessment.

“Water Treatment Plant” – again, it flows out of the site hydrology, the site water balance, the heap water balance, and the solution storage requirements, and we’ll have a review of our operational and closure needs for water treatment and water treatment plant, and those will be clarified in the report. And we’re, again, looking for a mid January submission on that.

The next three items here relate to the heap leach pad and geotechnical conditions around that. EBA Engineering, out of Whitehorse, with support from their Vancouver office, will be assisting the team on preparing particular responses to that. I’ve kind of broken those down into heap geotechnical conditions, heap liner design, and the heap embankment design. There will be outputs specifically to those components, which EBA will be addressing and putting together more likely a letter report or a small report, to basically look at the concerns that have been raised, and address peoples’ concerns in relation to that.

As an example, the heap embankment design, the design that was submitted as part of the project description, was undertaken by Knight Piesold. EBA, basically, when they did their liner design, assumed using the Knight Piesold work. Comments were made, you know, Well, is this accurate? So we’ll have EBA go back and ensure that the confining embankment design is consistent with the liner that’s proposed, so the concerns are addressed and it’s looked at as an entire package. So they will be doing that, and then, again, preparing a report that can be tabled here.

“Heap Loading” – we’ll have a heap leach loading plan developed. Some descriptive words, more likely with a series of drawings, to basically describe how the pad will be loaded up. And that will be prepared by mid January, in relation to that.

I should just point out that all of the heap leach pad information, geotechnical side of things that EBA was proposing, we've tabled here for mid December to have completed.

The "Low Grade Ore Stockpile" – another particular issue. Really, this, in the company's mind, is not really an issue. What I think it is, here, is that there's a commitment by the company that there will not be a low grade ore stockpile. Ore will basically be put on the pad; left in the pit; or it will be waste rock. We are not intending to stockpile any material, here, in relation to that.

The "Waste Rock Dump Design" – there were concerns raised regarding the potential stability of that pile, the toe being on, potentially, thaw unstable material. We've asked EBA to go back and review that design, and also trying not to confine themselves to putting the dump in a single catchment. So EBA will be preparing an alternative dump design that fundamentally gets the toe of the dump, and the dump itself, off of any thaw unstable material; and then providing the stability analysis in relation to that.

So, what we would see, here, is the dump being reconfigured to be on better ground. It may encompass a couple of smaller drainages, but, fundamentally, we can deal with this issue of long-term stability of that dump, and it also provides an opportunity to review how that dump is constructed to deal with progressive reclamation.

The dump design, that was presented, was basically an end dumping type of dump; where we're now talking about trying to load up the dump from the bottom, and working upwards, and doing progressive reclamation as you come up the dump, and progressively reclaiming the dump as you come up the hillside. So, starting from the bottom and working your way up to the top.

But, again, that will be presented and described in EBA's report on that, targeting mid January.

On the "Waste Rock/Open Pit Geochemical Assessment", there were some concerns raised in relation to some of the historic test work, and the applicability of that in relation to a geochemical assessment of the waste rock. We are in the process of trying to get some older core, and some of the drill core that's been conducted previously, and have some of the test work done to bring them up to more current-type assessment types of test work, and doing some further ABA and metal leachate type of test work to demonstrate the chemical stability of that waste rock, as well as provide input parameters into water quality modeling.

"Closure Bonding Costing" – ALM Group will be looking to utilize some of the spreadsheets or costing that we've looked at and done for Brewery Creek and other sites. That will be done; work will be costed out. And what we are proposing here is that closure costs would be submitted as supplementary information for water licensing. The full costing for reclamation will be costed out and submitted for regulatory review.

The last item that I have on the work plan here, “Community Consultations” – we have been working with Little Salmon to try and get back into the community, to try and do the consultation that they would like to do. Basically, it’s their process, how they would like to be consulted. Once you have a game plan in relation to how you would like to do that, the company is fully prepared to participate and undertake that community consultation as per the desire of Little Salmon Carmacks.

So, I just listed it here as a work item, to do that, working with First Nations when they’re prepared to have that community consultation, and I think it provides an opportunity to gather some additional information in relation to Little Salmon’s particular issues or information, and bring that back into the assessment process.

So that, fundamentally, is what I would call our work plan. It was intended to address the issues that came out of the review. There are a number of other, shall I say, smaller type issues or questions that were raised. We intend to respond to those types of issues as well. I think, as an example, Catherine Parrish raised the issue of the Yukon Quest Trail, and it may be the Western Silver Road and the Freegold Road may be impacting on that. We’ve gone back and talked to the Quest people, and actually found out where the trail is, and documented those things. So, we are being attentive to those other types of questions that have been raised as well. So, we’re trying not to trivialize any of the other comments that have come in.

This work plan was, like I say, put together to deal with what we believed were the substantive issues that have been raised as a result of the review, and a work plan to go back and to address those. So, I think our approach here, and in some conversations with Shane and – well, we haven’t talked to the YESA Board in relation to it – there are bite-sized chunks in relation to particular issues, the reports or information that can be provided, it does make sense to start to schedule particular meetings to discuss some reports or groups of these reports once they’ve been submitted. Our intent, here, is to get the information to committee members, and give people an opportunity to review them and think about them, and then try and schedule some time to sit down and talk about them.

So, any other comments or questions in relation to that?

Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you, Dan. It’s a useful overview of the work that Western Silver is undertaking in response to the comments. You’ve given us a listing of calendar dates by which Western Silver expects to receive the different components of work. Are there questions or observations on what has been presented here?

Randy Lamb: I’d like to say it’s good to see a lot of those issues are addressing environmental concerns. It’s good to see timelines and expected dates. It gives us some certainty, and people should relax in our department, knowing that that information is coming.

Dan Cornett: We did review all the comments, I must admit, a few times. So, again, it's been structured, here, to be attentive to addressing those particular issues, and that's what we're trying to do.

Bill Klassen: Rob Walker.

Rob Walker: Dan, I'm just curious about this "Heap Detox/Closure" summary. Can you just explain what that is? Because I see that there's a number of tasks subsequent to that, that I would think were important to developing a closure plan; like the water balance and some things like that. So, I'm not sure what this one is, or whether all of these things are going to get pulled together at some point.

Dan Cornett: They certainly will be, or a component to that. I guess the way we were approaching this, is that there's a fundamental Achilles heel that people have concern in relation to this project, and it's the detoxification of that heap, and how that is to be done, and how stable is that going to be in the long-term. So, yes, some questions in relation to the site hydrology, updating it. Yes, that may bear on how thick an evapotranspiration cover you put on top of that heap; but the point is, we're still going to cover the heap and have an evapotranspiration cover on top of that.

So, yes, that will fit into that, but I guess, at this stage in the game, it was felt that we had to deal with this geochemical question right on, straight up. We have the information, the test work is there, and there was a desire to get that out on to the table as soon as possible, in relation to that.

So, yes, you're right. I'm not trying to say that we're not de-linking these things, when you look at the whole closure of that heap, there are a pile of other components to it, but, fundamentally, it was felt that we needed to get some of this other information into the works for discussion. A reclamation and closure plan, by their very nature, at this stage in the game, are conceptual. I mean, you're not out there operating. So some of these things can be fine-tuned and revised, as necessary, down the road, in relation to that.

So it's a bit of an interim process but, in terms of the importance of this particular issue, we wanted to get some of this other information sooner, versus later. I hope that answers your question.

Rob Walker: It does, thank you.

Bill Slater: I do have a couple of questions. Presumably, as you worked towards preparing what you were going to do to address the comments, you were primarily working on the basis of the comments, and there wasn't, as I understand it, any guidance from either YESA or YTG on how to go about developing a response; is that correct?

Dan Cornett: That is correct. But I've been in the game long enough to know that I expect that we're going to be asked, so, I mean, we can take our own initiative.

Bill Slater: Yes, I appreciate that.

Dan Cornett: It's also important for the people around the table to know that the company is attentive to particular issues being raised, and we're going to go out and start dealing with those things. And that's really what was more important from their standpoint, was to – we're not going to sit back and wait to be told to do this; we can understand where people are coming from, and let's put it together. So this was an easy way to address that, in my mind, was to try and put a work plan together, to go on out and do some of those things.

Bill Slater: As you work through these things, how does this fit in, in relation to your timing of putting a project proposal into the YESAA process? Is it anticipated that this stuff is all going to be part of a project proposal?

Dan Cornett: Well, it's like anything with this project from the get-go, I mean, YESAA's always been imminent.

Bill Slater: Maybe it's more imminent now.

Dan Cornett: That's correct. I mean, I don't know, I'll take Stephen's advice in relation to it, but I guess I haven't been betting on whether and when YESAA is being implemented.

Stephen Mills: Four years ago.

Dan Cornett: That's right. And, at that time, the company had some initial discussions about waiting for the whole process to wait for YESAA to come into play, anyway. So, I mean, I would have lost eight months of time, in relation to an environmental review. So, you had to launch forward and move through that.

I expect that, in the YESA Board's review, they're going to do their adequacy review in relation to the project. Some of these things, they may say, Well, actually, we want that information to make it adequate. I don't know that. It's a bit of an unknown quantity, and we'll try and work with it in relation to how that pans out.

So I'm not going to make any assumptions, I'm not telling people how they should be doing their jobs or how they run their process. What I have to do is work with the assessment that I'm in now. And the assessment that I'm in now is, I know there's particular issues, we'll go on out and address them and deal with them. So, I'll cross the fence and deal with that in three days, I guess.

Bill Slater: I guess I can appreciate the approach that you've taken on it, but, yet again, this sounds like a broken record and I hate to do that, but, from the Little Salmon Carmacks side of that, again, we're well down this process, and that involves a bunch of data collection and all those kind of things, and I appreciate that there's been times when

the company has contacted Little Salmon Carmacks and said, We want somebody to go with us to collect data, and Little Salmon Carmacks has not responded and not –

Susan Davis: Consciously.

Bill Slater: ... consciously, with the view that that isn't the stage that Little Salmon Carmacks wants to be involved in the discussions and decisions about what's going on. And so, again, it's that same process question that we've been talking about all day, and certainly that does continue to raise concerns.

Dan Cornett: And some of that, I mean, if we're going out in the field and we're going to do something, we'll let you know. We're talking about doing a wildlife survey, and I haven't scheduled it. We'd like to go on out and do that. We've talked about it three or four months ago, and, you know, we'll make the best efforts to do that. I can't tell Little Salmon what they can or can't do, they'll just participate as they want, and all I can do is make an effort, and that's, sort of, where it goes, I guess. We're trying to work with it as best we can.

Bill Klassen: Sue....

Susan Davis: I'm not going to speak very much on this issue, as I have a very comprehensive document that will come out, that will specifically express how we see this type of work moving forward. It is our position that, to date, Little Salmon Carmacks, and the Yukon Government, and the company, have not sat down and talked about how we will move forward. It was our expectation that we would have come together, after those comments came in, and had a group discussion on how to move forward with this. So that, if we were going to go out and collect the wildlife information, and collect the water data information, that it would be done with full participation from our Elders, and from the people of the community. And, to date, this has not happened.

What happened is, I received phone calls from contractors, asking for our token First Nation person to go along on a survey we had nothing to do with the development of. How do we know this survey is culturally appropriate? We don't know that.

And we, at Little Salmon Carmacks, consciously chose not to participate in the collection of this information, because we have not participated in the development of this. We are concerned that this is being pushed forward, and documentation is being collected, and we haven't yet addressed how we're actually really going to do this.

And as I said, when our document comes out, we will then sit down with all the parties who are involved with this, and we will talk about how this will move forward, from our perspective. That is all I have to say.

Bill Klassen: Thank you, Sue. We'll, as I said before, look forward to receipt of those documents and then the ensuing discussion. Other comments on the information that Dan's presented?

Benoit Godin: In terms of the security bonding, you indicated that you're going to provide supplementary information for the Water Board regulatory process. Could you make more of a distinction of what you're going to supply for the assessment process, versus what you're going to provide for the regulatory phase?

Dan Cornett: I was thinking of the short answer here. The short answer is, if Yukon Government has its mine reclamation policy out, all the company basically has to say is, we'll conform with that policy, so there's adequate financial security to cover off the environmental liability at any one time in the mine's life, it's done on the basis of third party cost to do that, and there will be bonding provided for that.

Now, I guess the question comes in, do people want to start reviewing numbers in relation to that? What's been done, historically, under EAA, basically there's a commitment – or the company, out of an environmental screening, is to provide full reclamation bonding, and those costs have typically been reviewed at a regulatory level.

A couple of other projects that I've been involved on, when the assessment was auguring down on a particular topic and costs became an issue... well, then costs were brought into the assessment process, to review, because there was a concern that it would cost too much to go and do that, or implement that technology. That, to me, is fair ball.

Under YESAA, I mean, maybe the YESA Board wants to see costs in advance because that's part of the socio-economic side of things. That may very well happen. I can't predict that, I'm just working with history in relation to it. If it means providing costing sooner, in relation to that, then that can be done.

Benoit Godin: So, basically, you're looking for guidance from EAA and YESA, on what kind of information you should provide that topic.

Dan Cornett Right. And, from our standpoint, I mean, people have seen costed-out reclamation and closure plans. I mean, you're basically pulling together, "Here's what we intend to do", and various components, and how much it costs to move dirt and... these are pretty standard things that you pull together, and you put together a costing model for the entire plan.

So, I mean, that is in the works to do. I guess if it needs to be brought forward, in relation to that, then I'm sure the company's prepared to do that. At this stage of the game, we're just working with what's gone on in the past, and, recognizing that there is a new regime, or new process, that may change.

Shane Andre: Yes, sorry, I just wanted to say, we'll have to give some thought to this, but I think, historically, Dan is correct. As far as EAA is concerned, the screening

will say something to the effect that security will equal the liability, the full cost of liability, and I'm not sure that that's an EAA assessment area.

Benoit Godin: Well, as Dan indicated earlier, the heap detox was the Achilles point with the project. I think it would be unwise to leave that aspect to the regulatory process. And we'll have to be able to evaluate the full costs of that decision, in the security, ahead of the game. Because there is no turning back, once you've done your screening and you've said you're okay. Then you're left with whatever legacy, positive or negative, of that decision. And I think, at this point, a full cost evaluation is crucial.

Bill Klassen: Thank you. Other comments on the initial work that's underway? All right, if not, then can we move to a review of comments received. This is a summary document that Shane put together, and some of those comments, obviously, have been addressed by Dan. Sue, you have a comment.

Susan Davis: I have to go, I have another meeting to go to. Is this going to continue at 1:00?

Bill Klassen: My understanding, when I was contacted, was that we would go straight through until we finished. But I don't know –

Shane Andre: I don't think we have that much more. I wasn't actually expecting to talk too much about this, I actually just wanted to offer everyone the opportunity to correct my summary, or speak to any points that they thought should be clarified.

Bill Klassen: And then, following that, we'll set the meeting time for the next meeting.

Susan Davis: I have another meeting, sorry.

(Susan Davis departs the meeting)

Bill Klassen: So, we'll continue with this, and I anticipate we'll wrap up... and, Bill, you're remaining in the meeting for Little Salmon Carmacks? Good, thank you.

Shane, do you want to speak to that draft, then?

5. Review of Comments Received Summary Document – Shane Andre

Shane Andre: As I stated, I wasn't expecting to go through this in detail. Basically, this is a summary document I put together, based on the comments that I received, or that the RA's received. I've tried to capture all the concerns that I saw in those documents. And so I saw this as an opportunity for the members of this committee to review my impression of their comments, and give you an opportunity to correct me if I'm wrong, add anything, any clarifications. We don't necessarily have to do that here, you could do it in writing, but I offer this as an opportunity.

Bill Klassen: Thank you, Shane. Looking at it, and having seen some of the material that was presented, my impression is, as somebody who has to do a synopsis every once in awhile, you did a commendable job... but, then, we'll leave it to the individuals. We want the larger document to be the judge of whether what you have here in the summary is an accurate synopsis of what they had submitted.

Benoit Godin: Well, since I am the first one on the list, I think it's rough, but basically the company had the opportunity to see the full comments as well, and I think it's more a question and answer, whether or not the company has some questions on whether they understand the points we were trying to make. I'm not sure if this is the appropriate forum to do that kind of stuff, especially since, well, there has been a lot of discussion on these comments already, from your comprehension of all the summaries and how you were going to address. I thought we were going to go, first, with those things, and then you provide a reply on how you're going to address the comments. But here is a little bit reverse.

Bill Klassen: I don't mean to put anyone on the spot here. Shane has said he has put this forward, at this meeting, just so you're aware of the summary that he developed, and to provide you the opportunity – and we may not have time for everybody to go through their section individually, but if there are some concerns that you have with the way this has been documented – Shane, is this on the registry?

Shane Andre: I can put this on the registry. And, generally, a document like this would make its way, at least the ones I've seen, into a screening, and in an appendix. So, I mean, I just thought, as I'm developing this, why don't I offer this as a resource, and why don't I offer you the opportunity to comment on my view of your view.

Benoit Godin: That's right. I have no issue, per se, with the fact that it's a summary, and it's to bring all the committee members with a focus on the type of comments and issues that are raised before it. I'm more interested in, actually, others, than mine. But, as I said, I'm more looking for feedback from the company, basically, if it's for my comments, on how they view those ones. Otherwise, I'll defer to the next committee member.

I mean, I looked through these, there's no errors. It's just a question of detail, and our comments were more detailed than the summary, granted, but the points have been captured.

Bill Klassen: To come back to Shane's point about the ultimate use of this, if this is going to make its way into a screening report, you want to make sure that your perspective is accurately reflected. So, maybe the best way to deal with that, then, would be, rather than –

Benoit Godin: Yes, I'll send an e-mail if there are some edits.

Bill Klassen: So, if people have comments on the synopsis that's been provided, particularly on their section, please contact Shane. What would be a reasonable time?

Shane Andre: Well, I assume that this document will evolve, so there isn't really a deadline.

Bill Klassen: If there's no deadline, then nothing will happen.

Benoit Godin: That's right. Because there are going to be a whole bunch of new reports coming in, so we'll have to move one issue and start –

Shane Andre: I would appreciate comments on this by the next meeting, that would be great. That being said, these will make it into the Comprehensive Study Report, which everyone will have an opportunity to review before it's finalized, so this won't be your last opportunity to comment if you don't make that date.

Bill Klassen: Of the individuals whose comments have been summarized here, does anyone have anything they want to provide live comment to Shane on? Randy.

Randy Lamb: I'll just basically say, with a cursory review, nothing jumps out. We only had 15 points, compared to Environment Canada's exhaustive listing. But I'll compare them and let you know by the end of the week.

Bill Klassen: Anyone else have a comment? Okay, thank you. So, Shane, again, what was the date that you said you would like them by?

Shane Andre: How about we just set it as December 15th.

(Comments regarding Shane Andre's Summary Document to be presented by December 15, 2005)

6. Topics for Next Meeting

Bill Klassen: The first topic for the next meeting is the date of the next meeting. Any suggestions.

(Discussion regarding the date of the next meeting)

Bill Klassen: Can I just make an observation? December 16th is a date when Western Silver is going to have a bunch of the work finished.

Dan Cornett: Well, my suggestion, you can take it or leave it, our commitment was, yes, these are our target dates to have something finalized. You want to give people an opportunity to review that. And I think our terms of reference, for the committee, was, you know, you give people 10 days – sorry, “draft”... Freudian slip – give people two weeks to review that.

The only issue that I thought we could address, before Christmas, is if I had this environmental monitoring and data summary compiled, submitted, that then gives people an opportunity to review that, and possibly have a meeting in relation to it. Most of the other topics are probably going to be new year discussions.

So, if we think there is a desire for the advisory committee to talk about the environmental monitoring program, and some of the data that's come out of that, we are quite prepared to do that.

(Further discussion regarding the date of the next meeting)

Bill Dunn: We could also put on the potential agenda, discussion points on the draft terms of reference that were tabled today. We'll have had a chance to look at those. So both of those items would be useful to deal with.

Bill Klassen: By then, we'll have the Little Salmon report.

Bill Slater: Well, hopefully, that will be done by then. But I can guess that Little Salmon Carmacks isn't going to comment on the terms of reference until that report is done, or engage in any discussion on it for that matter. That would be my interpretation.

Wayne Kettley: Shouldn't that be squared around before our next meeting?

Bill Slater: Hopefully.

Bill Klassen: My impression is, some of it, at least, will be done, from what Sue was saying.

Bill Slater: There are three portions to that. There's a process portion; there's a socio-economic portion; and there's an environmental assessment portion. The process portion is near complete, and that is, I think, the key component at this stage.

Bill Klassen: Well, shall we say Tuesday, December 20th. And on the agenda will be a discussion of the terms of reference of these two proposed advisory committees – and what was the other one that you mentioned, Bill?

(Next meeting date – December 20, 2006)

Bill Dunn: The environmental monitoring that Dan brought up.

Bill Klassen: Yes, the environmental monitoring. And process.

Bill Dunn: Hopefully, we'll have the first thing from Little Salmon Carmacks, on process, and we might be able to discuss that around the table.

Travis Ritchie: I would think, probably, the assessors will handle that, with the party that has a concern, as opposed to engaging the rest of the technical committee. That's probably something that's external to examining potential effects of the project.

Dan Cornett: I'd be quite happy if you guys figure out how you want to do your process. That would be good.

Bill Dunn: So we don't need your comments on it?

Dan Cornett: Well, sure, my comments are, environmental assessment is not rocket science. The mechanics of going through a project, and determining significant adverse effect, is not rocket science, folks. What's been a problem here is process, and transitions, and how people want to be consulted as part of their process. And, you know, we could do our best, on our side of the table, to do that, but people have to figure out how they want to handle it. We can get on to the mechanics of, will this have an effect... how do we mitigate it?

I'm not pointing fingers at anyone here, I'm just saying, it's a timing that's going to happen, and we're kind of caught there, so we'll try and work with it, to make it happen. As I say, I'm more concerned about how to get into the meat of the thing, because that's fundamentally what the purpose of it really is. You're going to have a good project; good responsible development, so that everyone can live with these things and are satisfied with them... or make decisions the other way.

Bill Slater: I appreciate Travis's comment, in terms of the assessors in that process thing, because I suspect that's going to be the direction Little Salmon Carmacks is going to be happy to hear; let's go that way, let's figure this out, before we come back into this forum to discuss it around this table.

Bill Klassen: Any other comments? Shane, you'll be sending out the usual notices as to time and place?

Shane Andre: Yes. And I'm noticing, now, what they might want to see in that agenda, but I'm assuming, between now and then, you may have a few items you'd like to add, so we'll leave it open.

Bill Klassen: Any other final words of wisdom?

Bill Dunn: A possible thing is also, there is going to be some more technical information provided mid December... should we look forward into January, to a potential January meeting date at that time. I think it's hard for everybody to schedule things and get them all at the same time, but if we schedule these ahead, then we should be able to fit in, and people can work around the known dates.

Bill Klassen: Anybody have any suggestions for a January date?

Bill Dunn: Tuesday, the 17th.

Bill Klassen: Tuesday, the 17th, is a tentative meeting date for January.

Shane Andre: Should we make sure we get buy-in on the terms of reference before we set another –

Bill Klassen: I think, if everybody at least pencils in January 17th, then, when we start to schedule other stuff, you'll know you may have something happening then.

Bill Slater: If you just send around an e-mail about that, I can respond to it. I don't have a January schedule here, right now, and I know I have a bunch of things already scheduled in January, so I don't know whether that date's covered or not.

Shane Andre: I'll send out just a tentative notice to that.

Benoit Godin: And also some options, because, also, it would depend on when the reports from Western Silver comes in January; the December ones.

Dan Cornett: Well, I think the December ones should give a lot of people enough time to review them, but... probably not when you're sipping eggnog.

Bill Klassen: Okay, I think we're adjourned until December.

(Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.)

(Next Meeting – December 20, 2005)

Dan D. Cornett

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2005 3:44 PM
To: susan.davis@lscfn.ca; benoit.godin@ec.gc.ca; wjk@yknet.yk.ca; bslater@whtvcable.com; dan@accessconsulting.ca; nichole@accessconsulting.ca; William.Dunn; Jeff.O'Farrell; Lindsay.Dehart; Patricia.Randell; Randy.Lamb; Robert.Holmes; Shane.Andre; Stephen.Mills; Travis.Ritchie; Wayne.Kettley
Subject: FW: Carmacks Cu Update Report Ready



Carmacks Cu_Envtl
Mon Prgm Upd...

Please find attached the "Environmental Monitoring Program Update and Data Summary" for the Carmacks Copper project. This information has been provided by the Western Silver Corporation for your review.

We plan to discuss this information at the next committee meeting.

Please contact me if you have any question.

Thanks,

Shane Andre
Project Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan D. Cornett [mailto:dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2005 3:22 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Cc: William.Dunn; Jonathan E. Clegg; Brad Thrall
Subject: FW: Carmacks Cu Update Report Ready

Shane;

In accordance with Western Silver's Strategic Response to Project Description Review Comments (Issues Work plan) for the Carmacks Copper Project as distributed to the Technical Advisory Group, please find attached the Environmental Monitoring Program Update and Data Summary.

The report provides a summary listing of previous environmental monitoring and planned programs. Data collected over the past couple of months is included.

Please circulate the report to the Technical Advisory Group for there consideration. We would be happy to discuss with the Group at our next meeting.

Thank you

Dan D. Cornett
Access Consulting Group
Vice President
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
ph: 867-668-6463
Fax: 867-667-6680

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2006 9:38 AM
To: susan.davis@lscfn.ca; benoit.godin@ec.gc.ca; wjk@yknet.yk.ca; bslater@whtvcable.com; dan@accessconsulting.ca; nichole@accessconsulting.ca; Randy Clarkson; Wayne.Kettley; Jeff.O'Farrell; Lindsay.Dehart; Patricia.Randell; Randy.Lamb; Robert.Holmes; Shane.Andre; Stephen.Mills; Travis.Ritchie
Subject: FW: Carmacks Cu - Rev#1 - Env'tl Mon Prgm Update



Carmacks Cu
nPrgm_REV#1 JanC



ATT35851.txt

Please find attached a revision to the previously distributed, Western Silver, Environmental Monitoring Program Update and Data Summary.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Shane Andre
Project Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2006 2:26 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Cc: Jonathan E. Clegg; Brad Thrall; 2Dan Cornett
Subject: Carmacks Cu - Rev#1 - Env'tl Mon Prgm Update

Hi Shane,

Please find attached Revision #1 of the Environmental Monitoring Program Update and Data Summary, previously submitted December 9, 2005. The document has been modified to include the results of a wildlife/post-rut survey on December 15, 2005.

Please circulate the report to the Technical Advisory Group for their consideration. We would be happy to discuss with the Group at the next meeting.

Thank you,

Nichole Speiss, B.Sc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
tel: (867) 668-6463
fax: (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2006 11:41 AM
To: susan.davis@lscfn.ca; benoit.godin@ec.gc.ca; wjk@yknet.yk.ca; bslater@whtvcable.com; dan@accessconsulting.ca; nichole@accessconsulting.ca; Randy Clarkson; Wayne.Kettley; Jeff.O'Farrell; Lindsay.Dehart; Patricia.Randell; Randy.Lamb; Robert.Holmes; Shane.Andre; Stephen.Mills; Travis.Ritchie
Subject: FW: Carmacks Cu - Draft Site Hydrology Update Memorandum



Memo CCL-CC6 ATT192267.txt
Carmacks Copper S..

Please find attached a Draft Memorandum on the Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update, prepared by Clearwater Consultants Ltd for the Western Silver Corporation.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Shane Andre
Project Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichole Speiss [mailto:nichole@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2006 9:36 AM
To: Shane.Andre
Cc: bthrall@alexcoresource.com; Jonathan E. Clegg; 2Dan Cornett
Subject: Carmacks Cu - Draft Site Hydrology Update Memorandum

Hi Shane,

In accordance with Western Silver's strategic response to project review comments for the Carmacks Copper Project, please find attached a Draft Memorandum on the Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update, prepared by Clearwater Consultants Ltd. This memorandum provides an update on the Williams Creek area site hydrology using data available up to 2005.

Please circulate this memorandum to the Technical Advisory Group for their review and consideration. We are not expecting to discuss this document at the upcoming Jan 27 meeting.

Thank you,

Nichole Speiss, B.Sc., EPI, CEPIT
Environmental Scientist

Access Consulting Group
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
tel: (867) 668-6463
fax: (867) 667-6680

CARMACKS COPPER TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**10:00 am
Friday, January 27th, 2006
Elijah Smith Building – Room 3A**

- 1. Approval of Minutes – Bill Klassen**

- 2. Updated Environmental Data**
 - I. Introduction – Dan Cornett**
 - II. Discussion – All**

- 3. Feedback and Q & A Regarding Previously Tabled Draft Committee Terms of Reference for Concurrent YEAA/YESAA Assessment – Bill Klassen**

- 4. Introduction of the Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update Draft Memorandum – Dan Cornett**

- 5. Topics for Next Meeting: - All**

CARMACKS COPPER
Technical Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Friday, January 27, 2006
Elijah Smith Building - Room 3A

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Klassen, Chair	WJK & Associates Ltd.
Benoit Godin	Environment Canada
Patricia Randell	YESAB Assessment Officer
Travis Ritchie	YESAB
Stephen Mills	YESAB
Shane Andre	YG ECO
Lindsay DeHart	YG ECO - DAP
Nichole Speiss	Access Consulting Group
Dan Cornett	Access Consulting Group
Rob Walker	DAP Branch
Randy Lamb	Environment
Susan Davis	LSCFN
Bill Slater	LSCFN
Wayne Kettley	YTG, EMR, Water Resources
Bengt Pettersson	EMR

OTHERS:

Joyce Bachli, Secretariat	MEGA Reporting Inc.
---------------------------	---------------------

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:13 a.m.

2.0 BILL DUNN LEFT YG & CHAIR CONCERNS

Chair Bill Klassen: Perhaps, since the faces aren't always the same at this table, we'll go around, and everyone can say their names.

[Roundtable]

Some news that probably everyone is aware of: Bill Dunn has left the employ of the Yukon Government, so Randy Clarkson has been contracted to work in that position, representing Energy, Mines and Resources on this technical committee. Unfortunately, Randy is outside of the Territory. So, he's not able to participate in this meeting.

Before we get to the approval of the minutes, I would like to indicate that I'm aware that concerns have been raised about the independence of the chair of this technical committee. So, I would simply like to say that I am under contract to the Yukon Government through the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources; and others are going to have to make a decision about whether I continue in this role. I thought I would chair the meeting today -- unless everyone gets up and walks out -- unless there is any serious concern about my chairing the session today. As I say, the concerns have been raised, and others are addressing them. I don't know whether we need to take up a lot of time, but I thought I needed to make you aware of that.

3.0 MINUTES

3.1 July 28, 2005

Chair Bill Klassen: Could we move, then, to approval of the minutes; and we have two sets of minutes, the ones from the July 28th meeting of this technical committee. They apparently weren't distributed to everyone initially. So, Shane made sure they did go to everyone who is involved with this committee. Whether everyone brought their copy with them or not, I don't know.

Shane Andre: There are copies on this table if anyone wants to pick them up.

Chair Bill Klassen: Thank you, Shane. Could I ask, then, assuming that everyone has read them, whether there are any corrections or additions; deletions would probably constitute a correction.

Dan Cornett: I think we've provided some feedback. So, our comments have already been provided on those minutes.

Chair Bill Klassen: Those were provided to Shane?

Dan Cornett: Yes.

Chair Bill Klassen: Any other comments on the July 28th minutes?

(No audible response)

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, taking into account comments provided by Dan Cornett, then those minutes will be the record of that meeting's discussion.

3.2 November 28, 2005

Chair Bill Klassen: Could I ask you to take a look at the minutes of the last meeting, which were distributed to everyone, the last meeting being the one on the 28th; and Doug Ayers worked with us, recording those minutes in place of Joyce. Are there any comments on those minutes?

Dan Cornett: A similar comment; we've provided comments to Shane.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you.

Dan Cornett: They were mainly editorial-type comments and clarifications.

Chair Bill Klassen: Well, if there are no comments on those minutes, then we will have them as the record of the discussion that transpired at that meeting.

4.0 UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Chair Bill Klassen: The next item is "Updated Environmental Data", and Dan Cornett will introduce that topic; and hopefully, we can have some discussion on that.

4.1.1 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.1] Water Quality - Dan Cornett

Dan Cornett: Maybe just a point for the agenda, Bill, Item Number 4, we're talking about just an update on the site hydrology; and I can maybe provide a bit of an overall status on other reports that have been provided or expected and maybe talk about those things, as well, at that agenda item.

Chair Bill Klassen: Is everyone comfortable with moving agenda item number 4 to be part of number 2?

Dan Cornett: No, it doesn't matter, you can leave it in the same place. It doesn't really matter to me. I just wanted to expand the agenda item to provide an update of where we're at with the overall reports and studies instead of just the site hydrology.

Chair Bill Klassen: Well, it may make for a smoother process if we deal with the updated environmental data all under 2 and an update from you on the remaining information; and then, move on to number 3. Is everyone comfortable with that?

(No audible response)

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, let's do that, then.

Dan Cornett: Environmental monitoring program update, I'm assuming everyone has got the e-mail version of this report. I have brought a few hard copies here if people need those.

Shane Andre: Yes, there are enough hard copies for everyone. I wasn't sure who might bring those.

Dan Cornett: There was Revision 1, which is the one you should be looking at. We had sent out an earlier version, and the second revision 1 basically incorporates the most recent moose survey data that was collected in December. So, what I'm going to be speaking to is what I'm calling "*Environmental Monitoring Program Update and Data Summary -- Revision #1*".

Chair Bill Klassen: I think everyone has that. Please go ahead, then.

Dan Cornett: Okay, basically this report or this component of the project was put together to address some very broad comments, which we received from Little Salmon Carmacks, some of the regulatory agencies, that the environmental data for the project was dated, was a number of years old, and that the information on environmental baseline information should be updated and brought forward with new data so that we could compare the historic data and bring linkages between those data sets forward. So, this program was intended to address that particular issue, updating the environmental baseline data for the project.

What we've done with the report is basically provide a little background on what types of information were collected previously. That is basically Section 2.0 of the report. It discusses the previous investigations for water quality, surface hydrology, hydrogeology, sediment sampling, benthos sampling, fisheries investigations, wildlife survey and climate.

Section 3 discusses the update program. So, in essence, most people have already seen the information from Section 2 on water quality and those various components; and they're fundamentally in the project description. So, all we've done is just brought that information forward and tied it to this report. So, you have already seen that information. It's just been brought forward into a more consolidated document so that we could compare it with the new updated data. That's really what I'm going to focus on here, a bit of an overview on that; and then, we can talk about if there are any particular revisions or changes or things that people want to see to those modified programs since we'll be looking at trying to undertake the bulk of that work in the coming field season, the late winter, spring, summer, fall.

With regards to the water quality sampling program, we've got a total of 13 monitoring stations on the property that have been historically sampled over the years. They basically range from upstream background sampling to various tributaries, all the way downstream to Williams Creek near the mouth with the Yukon River. Table 1 provides a summary of those 13 stations, with Figure 3 indicating the location of those monitoring stations.

Table 2 in the report basically provides a bit of a summary of the historic sampling that's gone on with respect to those stations; and I guess the important line out of that is the most recent October, '05, sampling program where there was an attempt to get out to every one of those monitoring stations to resample them all, which was done for every one of the sites except W5, and that may be more of a clarification in relation to that tributary and its location. So, just a point to note.

The more recent data that's been collected to date was collected in August, although that is not what I would call a "complete water quality survey". We had just taken the opportunity, when we were on the site, to look at the property to collect some monitoring data when we were there. So, limited sampling was done in August at five locations, W2, W3, 4, 7 and 9; and there was water quality and sediment collection done in August of '05.

In 2005, October, the most recent sampling that was done, again we revisited those stations, except for the notation for the one site that was not visited; but basically, we were at those stations again, collecting water quality and stream sediment data, as well.

Parameters that have been collected are a typical suite of routine parameters for physical parameters, nutrients, total dissolved metals; and again, that data has all been compiled and included in Appendix A. I'm not sure if people want to go through the details of the data. In a general sense, the information that's been collected typically matches what was done historically in relation to it. So, we're not seeing any strange anomalies in any of the chemistry, compared to the historic data.

Chair Bill Klassen: Maybe what we can do, Dan, is after each one of these sections if I can ask if there are any questions of clarification; and then, at the end of your presentation, if there are detailed questions, then we can get into them then.

Dan Cornett: Sure. For planned monitoring for '06, what we have is a late winter program. Basically I'm just looking at Section 3.1 of this report, page 10. We're looking to do a late winter low flow sampling event, probably in March, followed by a spring event in that May/June timeframe; a summer event, probably July; and a fall event, September for the timeframe. The

other noteworthy point is that we also intend to establish a couple of monitoring stations on the Yukon River upstream and downstream of Williams Creek; and we'll do that, if possible, during the late winter survey. And by spring, '06, as well, we'll have those stations implemented and collecting data on that. So, as you can see here, what we're trying to do is round out the data collection program, tie that in to the historic data and add additional monitoring stations to close the loop on the entire effects from the property, collect that baseline information and go from there.

4.2.1 DISCUSSION - [3.1] Water Quality

Dan Cornett: So, any questions on the water quality side of things, this is probably a good opportunity to discuss those.

Wayne Kettley: Yes, I have a question. I guess you said the proponent's intention was to do a seasonal sampling.

Dan Cornett: Yes.

Wayne Kettley: I would like to see monthly for baseline. I don't know if anybody else ...

Chair Bill Klassen: Wayne, is that the usual practice?

Wayne Kettley: I'm not sure if it's going to become, but for Yukon Zinc, the intention there was to have a monthly baseline sampling, although it hasn't occurred.

Dan Cornett: For an operating mine?

Wayne Kettley: No, for baseline collection for the environmental assessment.

Benoit Godin: What you're looking at, in terms of a monthly basis, is looking at the seasonal variation or just --

Wayne Kettley: Well, as we can see, it's quite sparse. Yes, if you want to capture events, you have to be out there. If you want to do the science to determine what the frequency should be, then you'll have to be out there more often.

Benoit Godin: Basically, you're saying you have to be sampling more frequently than the event you want to capture?

Wayne Kettley: Yes, and I think the monthly is even a compromise at that, but I believe it would certainly reflect favourably; and in the

end, if it ends up to be some kind of site specific guidelines that they want to set, I think monthly would even support that.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you. Dan.

Dan Cornett: A couple of comments: Certainly the intent here in this proposal was to capture that seasonal variation on that. so, that was recognized by get in in the fall, do the late winter sampling, so the spring freshet, get back in and do the summer, and come back in and get the late fall again. So, we are capturing that seasonal variation. That's our intent on that.

Regarding monthly sampling, the point is taken. If we started to see a whole lot of variation within the chemistry in relation to some of those monthly events, that's something we can go back and revisit or do further sampling on the frequency to determine that actual variation in relation to it. I would point out that typically, from an environmental assessment standpoint, most of the monitoring is usually done on a quarterly-type basis to reflect seasonality. Where we get into monthly monitoring are those sorts of things that we see typically in water licenses for operational-type situations. So, while I can understand the need for more frequent monitoring, at the environmental assessment stage, we're probably looking to be more at a quarterly or seasonal approach; review that data, and if there is something that maybe requires more in-depth frequency, we can take a look at that.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, for the time being, we will note that the point has been raised and that the company is taking it under advisement.

Dan Cornett: That's fair.

Benoit Godin: Wayne mentioned some issues in regard to site specific objective. Is the company thinking that it might need such objective for water quality downstream environment and meeting CCME Guidelines and that sort of thing?

Dan Cornett: Let's put it this way: I'm on the cusp of it now; because right now, historic data and some of the data that we've collected would indicate that background chemistry data would indicate that we're focusing on copper here, that CREM criteria are not being met naturally in that stream; and this is a problem that we run into in many mineralized type of drainages. They are mineralized for a reason, and that's typically why people are in there looking to develop a particular deposit. So, yes, there's a recognition that copper, as an example, there have been exceedences of CREM Guidelines at some of those stations, although there has been some seasonality on that basis. So, we are aware of that; and certainly, the question has come up: Do you actually have to come out and develop a site specific criteria just because we know we are exceeding CREM Guidelines? CREM certainly provides the opportunity to

develop site specific criteria on that basis, and I think the way that I've been looking at it here is up until -- you'll probably see it quite shortly here. We have actually completed an overall site water balance for the whole drainage. This is the report that's being done by Clearwater as per our work plan, and that's the first time where I can actually take some real drainage information, from a modelling standpoint, to plug that geochemical data in and take a closer look at "Do we actually need to do any further work in relation to a downstream site specific type of criteria for copper."

So, to answer your question, Benoit, we'll be taking a closer look at it.

Benoit Godin: Yes.

Dan Cornett: We just needed to have some more information in relation to the hydro standpoint, as well as going back and updating some of the information from the heap, as an example, and some of the waste rock geochemistry, to plug those in to an overall water balance and a loading model and take a look at what we actually have in the downstream environment to say, "Okay, does this have a potential impact? Do I need to start addressing a need for a site specific criteria for that?"

So, I'm trying to build our information base to allow us to really take a close look at that.

Chair Bill Klassen: Any other general comments?

(No audible response)

4.1.2 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.2] Surface Hydrology - Dan Cornett

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, let's move on to surface hydrology.

Dan Cornett: On the surface hydrology, there was previous data collection, on-line data that was collected previously. Recognizing that this is certainly a bit of a hole in our data for the site, we're looking to re-establish two data loggers on the stream, hopefully prior to spring freshet; and these were at previously established stations, W4 and W10, and the intent here is that as part of the water quality program, stream flows will be collected at all these sites, and with the on-line continuous data recording at W4 and W10, we can validate some of the information that's been put together for the overall site water balance now to update some of that information.

To date, we just haven't routinely been collecting the site hydrology as part of the monitoring program. So, it's a bit of a hole, which we intend to update the data and the information to collect that.

4.2.2 DISCUSSION - [3.1] Surface Hydrology

Chair Bill Klassen: Anything on that from anyone?

Rob Walker: This information leads into the water modelling that is being done?

Dan Cornett: Well, from the overall site water balance, it's done on a catchment basis. So, you're looking at a unit amount of rainfall for a particular elevation, and that is done on a regional basis for what we expect to see in the stream at various reaches, adding in the inputs from the mine; and it's more of a regional-type analysis that's applied to the drainage. This information actually provides some what I would call "ground truthing" to the modelling side of things. So, it's not imperative to have that information to do some of the overall water balance. There were previous data there. Certainly it's going to give us some more confidence that the numbers that are being used in the overall water balance are within the range that we're looking at here.

As a rule of thumb in the hydrology game, typically 10-to-15 percent variation in a stream flow is pretty normal. It's pretty tough to get that information down to a real fine level there. This really helps in trying to ground truth that and plug your information in.

Rob Walker: Okay, I just wanted to see the relationship to the timelines, but that's good.

Dan Cornett: Yes, it was more important to get the overall site water balance in place to that. This plugs into that program, or this information can be used to help validate it.

4.1.3 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.3] Water Hydrogeology - Dan Cornett

Dan Cornett: On the hydrogeology, there is an existing network of monitoring wells that exist on the property. I think the last round of sampling occurred in 1997 and the same sort of issue was brought up with respect to that data, trying to refresh it and bring it back into modern-day and take a look at that. So, we'll be going back in in the spring to go and re-establish those monitoring wells and get some data from them again. Again, there are five monitoring wells within a leach pad area. The waste rock storage area has three or four there and a couple in the open pit; and we'll be going back and taking a look at those.

There is also a pump test well that was put in just at the base of the leach pad, which we'll also be monitoring, as well. It's called "water well" on Figure 3. It's a well that was drilled for testing the production capacity of the aquifer, the

groundwater aquifer, for use as a groundwater resource. So, we'll monitor that, as well, for chemistry and water level, groundwater level.

4.2.3 DISCUSSION - [3.3] Water Hydrogeology

Chair Bill Klassen: So, any comments/questions on the hydrogeology?

Bill Slater: Those are not newly-established sites?

Dan Cornett: No, they're existing.

Bill Slater: It wasn't clear in the report which way it went, but it sounded you say they're not.

Dan Cornett: We are re-establishing or re-sampling the existing wells. Sorry about that.

Bill Slater: While we're on the well question, are there any thermistors still in place along this side? Is there any intent to update that information?

Dan Cornett: There are the two-to-three thermistors that are still intact on the site, and the reason I didn't put them down here is I wasn't exactly sure if they could actually be re-established or not. So, our intent is to take a look at those thermistors; and if I can re-use them, get them up and running, then we will. And there may be a need to actually re-establish or actually re-install a couple of other thermistors at some key places to verify these things. For that I'm thinking of a location in the heap, which might put to bed some of the questions that have been raised about permafrost in that area. That's an easy way to address that, as well as going back in and looking at the waste rock dump area for some of those things.

Chair Bill Klassen: Thank you.

Benoit Godin: Just in terms of the thermistors, I gather that the site for the leach pad has been all cleared?

Dan Cornett: Correct, yes.

Benoit Godin: Is it the same for the waste rock area?

Dan Cornett: No.

Benoit Godin: No, okay.

Dan Cornett: The intent with the waste rock -- and you'll see that before this committee here -- was we've had EBA go back out and look at re-configuring the waste rock dump; and one of the easiest ways to deal with concerns about putting waste rock on thawed and unstable material is to pull the waste rock basically up the hillside and reconfigure it around the pit to actually get the toe of that waste rock up onto stable ground. So, that's fundamentally what they're looking to do is put this whole question of building waste rock dumps on unstable ground is to actually put it on stable ground and not have to deal with contingency measures for toes kicking out and contingency berms to deal with melting of permafrost and that sort of thing. So, that's what is being looked at now. If you looked in our report, there was just kind of an area that was looked at for the waste rock dump. It will probably have more of a banana-kind of shape, --

Benoit Godin: Configuration.

Dan Cornett: -- configuration around the pit and be constructed, using a different type of technique. You start below instead of end-dumping out. You start actually down below and work up. It makes it a lot easier to do the reclamation, progressive reclamation, as you go along. So, a bunch of that stuff was actually being put together now.

Suffice to say, "Yes", we can go back in and measure the thermistors. I don't think it's going to change a whole lot of what we know. Yes, there's still permafrost there. That hasn't changed a whole lot. You know, our intent is just to get out the whole question of how to mitigate that and to take the uncertainty out of it. Just go and reconfigure your dump. That's been the approach on that.

Benoit Godin: Thanks.

Bill Slater: I don't have any particular need to know ground temperatures in some location that isn't going to be ...

Benoit Godin: Impacted.

Bill Slater: Yes.

Dan Cornett: Right. To me, it's more important -- I think it can help us answer this question on the heap. It has been cleared for a number of years. If you just look at the vegetation that's growing overtop of it, it's not your permafrost-type kind of vegetation. It's a way to answer that question.

Benoit Godin: Yes.

[Susan Davis joins group and is welcomed]

Chair Bill Klassen: Just to recap what we've done is to go around the table and introduce everyone, and we have gone through the minutes of the July and November meetings. And I drew people's attention to the fact that Bill Dunn is no longer part of this process. He's left the Yukon Government, and Randy Clarkson, another engineer, has been contracted to replace Bill in his role. Randy is not able to be with us at this meeting today.

The other thing I mentioned was that I had been made aware that there was a concern about the independence of the chair and that is something that is going to have to be addressed by others than people in this room. So, for today's meeting, there seemed to be consensus that I could chair, that concern notwithstanding.

What we have then started to do is go through the *Environmental Monitoring Program Update & Data Summary, Revision #1*; and we are just about to start discussion on Sediment Sampling.

Susan Davis: I have a question.

Chair Bill Klassen: Yes, certainly.

Susan Davis: Is this something that's been submitted?

Chair Bill Klassen: Yes, this was submitted and distributed electronically when, Shane?

Shane Andre: I'm not sure of the date; before Christmas, I think early December.

Susan Davis: That's Carmacks?

Chair Bill Klassen: Yes, Carmacks, and it's on behalf of Western Silver, and it was responding to some of the information requests on a range of topics.

Bill Slater: This is an update that came out in January, though. There was a December version.

Shane Andre: Yes, there was a December version. This revised version, I think came out at least two weeks before the meeting. I can't remember exactly when.

Bengt Pettersson: It was January 3.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, glad you could make it!

4.1.4 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.4] Sediment Sampling - Dan Cornett

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, sediment sampling, 3.4 on page 11 of the document I have.

Dan Cornett: The most recent sediment data that's been collected on the property, we re-initiated some of that in August and October of '05; and that was done in conjunction with the water quality program. The August sampling was collected for two different size fractions, and the October samples, collected in triplicate, were looked at for the -100 mesh sized fractions. Again, the results are provided in Appendix B.

We're looking to re-collect a complete program again in the fall of '06 as part of our water quality monitoring program. Generally, again, no real variation or anything kind of significantly has changed in relation to the data that was collected previously. I think it ties in nicely with what we have seen before. So, as a general comment, there wasn't anything that was really kind of too unusual in relation to the data that was collected; and we'll just continue with the monitoring that we'll be carrying on as part of the upcoming program. Again, that would be at the 13 stations on Williams Creek.

4.2.4 DISCUSSION - [3.4] Sediment Sampling

Dan Cornett: I guess the question that I'll put out to the committee here is do you see any utility in grabbing stream sediment samples from the Yukon River. Sometimes they can actually be more of a problem than they're worth sampling, but I'd be interested in just as a general comment what a couple of people around the table may have as thoughts on that.

Benoit Godin: Well, I'm quite glad to see the sampling program and the data that were collected, especially the October one with the triplicates. It filled a data gap around the waste rock area that I was mostly concerned about; and it would be good to see another survey next year.

In regard to the Yukon River, I agree with you; I'm not sure, because, I mean, it's everything!

Dan Cornett: That's right.

Benoit Godin: I would rather spend a lot more effort in the lower reaches of Williams Creek than the Yukon River. To me, it makes more sense, and it's a lot easier to tie it back to the actual minesite. Hopefully, we will never see anything beyond the lower reach.

Dan Cornett: Exactly; that's my sense, Benoit.

Benoit Godin: That's my thinking.

Dan Cornett: I would concur with that. I just put it on the table and asked the question if people wanted to see that. I know, as an example for everyone else here, in the Faro-type situation, looking at Anvil Creek and the Pelly River, the Pelly River has just such markedly different stream chemistry. To try and link any effects assessment from a sediments standpoint is very, very difficult; and I expect to see the same sort of thing in the Yukon at Williams Creek.

Benoit Godin: Right.

Chair Bill Klassen: Anyone else have an observation on that?

(No audible response)

4.1.5 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.5] Benthos - Dan Cornett

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, then let's move on to benthos.

Dan Cornett: Benthos, what we're looking to do is in the summer of '06, re-establish the benthic invertebrate sampling program. We had artificial sub-straight samplers that were collected previously. So, we've decided to go back and use a similar technique for that data collection. We're looking at Upper Williams Creek and Nancy Lee Creek as the control sites as W9 and W11; and downstream locations, W10, 12 and 13 for the benthos monitoring program. So, again, they would be tied in with the water quality/stream sediment flow sampling that would occur during those times. Those baskets would be put in the creek, allowed to incubate for a five-week period; and then, as part of the fall sampling, go back and check the water quality and information. At the same time, we'll retrieve those baskets and collect the samples from them.

4.2.5 DISCUSSION - [3.5] Benthos

Chair Bill Klassen: Any comments on that piece of work?

(No audible response)

4.1.6 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.6] Fisheries Investigations - Dan Cornett

Chair Bill Klassen: All right, the fisheries investigations.

Dan Cornett: Okay, fisheries investigation, previous work and delineation of the reaches is shown in Figure 3. In essence, there were three reaches established on Williams Creek, and this is work that Paul Harder's

group had done back in the early-to-mid-'90's -- sorry, four reaches on Williams Creek and two reaches on Nancy Lee Creek. Those similar reaches were re-visited again, and this work was done in October by D.N.A. Enterprises -- Dave Petrovich and Rem Rixs -- fisheries biologists did that work late October; and again the intent was to bring the dataset forward in relation to what we had seen previously to try and tie in the historic data with current data. So, pretty much the entire drainage was looked at. Their report is included here for people to see.

In terms of a summary of what was found there, the lower reaches of Williams Creek, Reach 1, we've got juvenile chinook salmon and Arctic grayling, which was what was seen there historically. So, that's no surprise. That reaffirms what we had seen there previously. Then in the upper reaches, slimy sculpin but no Arctic grayling further on up the drainage, which was consistent with what was seen previously. However, I do note that it was late in the season, and yes, there may be potential for grayling to be further up the drainage. Our intent here is to get back out next spring, to actually go back and re-do those same locations again and to reaffirm the utilization and the seasonality of those reaches.

Again, Appendix C provides the reporting on that.

4.2.6 DISCUSSION - [3.6] Fisheries Investigations

Chair Bill Klassen: Any general comments; Travis?

Travis Ritchie: I was just going to say, just a clarification: It looks like they were just catching slimy sculpins down in the reach, but not Arctic grayling. You said "Arctic grayling", but it looks like it's just chinook and --

Dan Cornett: Just chinook and sculpins; I thought we had grayling, okay.

Travis Ritchie: It could have been on the previous fishing effort. That's all; just because it's getting written down, I thought it would be useful to make that clarification.

Dan Cornett: Thanks. But we're going back out in the spring/summer of '06 to go back and re-affirm that. If there are grayling using those upper reaches, we'd try and pick that off.

I think you'll see in Figure 3 here; if there is a bit of a barrier that hasn't really been identified previously, we wanted to take a closer look above Nancy Lee Creek to actually determine if there is some type of a barrier there in relation to it. But we would do that during more of an open water-type of a season to take a look at that.

Chair Bill Klassen: If there's a barrier, you think it's on Williams Creek, above Nancy Lee Creek?

Dan Cornett: Correct, possibly down in here.

Chair Bill Klassen: Anything else?

Dan Cornett: It's just unusual not to have seen Arctic grayling, even historically, further up that drainage; and we were just kind of wondering ourselves if there is something up there. It might be more of a confined draw. The creek steepens up on both sides, and there may be a reduced or high velocity type of flow situation that may be providing a barrier there. That just needs to be re-affirmed.

4.1.7 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.7] Wildlife Survey - Dan Cornett

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, the wildlife survey.

Dan Cornett: Again, the wildlife survey was to address some concerns with the lack of information that's been collected previously on the site. This particular survey was identified as a post-moose rut survey. It took place in mid-December, which is a typical time when you have these animals congregating in the upper basins of water sheds. Grant Lortie and myself were involved in the survey. It's a helicopter survey. We don't really follow the standard, Yukon Government-type of survey approach, where they use a swing and actually go over certain transects at certain speeds, a certain elevation. This approach is actually more of an intensive look at the drainage to fly the helicopter up the individual drainages and down. You can see, in Figure 4, the type of survey line that was flown; and it identifies the location of specific animals and areas where tracks and those sorts of things were found.

We had a total of six adult moose that were identified during the survey in the subalpine reaches of Merrice Creek, and then, a number of other locations where tracks were identified. No other types of caribou or other sorts of wildlife were noted at the time.

4.2.7 DISCUSSION - [3.7] Wildlife Survey

Chair Bill Klassen: Any questions or clarification on the wildlife survey?

Randy Lamb: I had one question on the last sentence. You mentioned "additional aerial surveys are planned". Do you have a ballpark idea of when, or just upcoming 2006 for another post-rut winter?

Dan Cornett: Post-run winter is usually a good time to do those, as you know, Randy. One of the things that I'd like to do is have a little more discussion with Little Salmon Carmacks in relation to maybe some additional things that they would like to see, as well. We haven't really had a chance to have those discussions.

From my standpoint, it was important to get this particular survey done. It was a timing issue to make that happen, which we did the work in relation to it; but I think there is some follow-up work that we'd like to do, and I would like to do that more in conversation with Little Salmon Carmacks -- Susan's shop -- in relation to that.

4.1.8 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW [3.8] Climate - Dan Cornett

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, climate.

Dan Cornett: Government of Yukon, Water Resources Branch, has a climate station near the minesite. It's an automated station that measures precipitation, temperature, wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity. What else am I missing?

Travis Ritchie: And there's a snow course there.

Dan Cornett: And there's a snow course there, as well. That data is collected by the Yukon Government. We had obtained all of their data up until this fall, and that information was provided to Clearwater Consultants, Dr. Peter McCreath; and that information was used as part of his site hydrology update. So, that information -- if you look at that report -- rolls into that. So, my understanding from Yukon Government is that information continues to be collected there. It's probably something down the road if you have an eventual project there, I'm sure there would be discussions with the company and government to try and take over operation of that site and manage it. But for the time being, it's managed by government, and we have access to the information, which we're quite appreciative of.

4.3 DISCUSSION - Detailed Questions

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, are there detailed questions, then? these were just questions of clarification for the most part. Are there any detailed questions on the material that's been presented; and preferably in the order of the presentation of them.

Benoit Godin: Just a question in terms of the fisheries work. There is a mention that it is a G-trap analysis that you've done to capture in the lower reach, right? Are you planning to use the same methodology for the next fish survey or other methodologies like electro-fishing or that sort of thing?

Dan Cornett: Certainly we're doing more electro-fishing. What we're finding with the October survey is there were a lot more ice conditions on the drainage, which makes it a lot more difficult to do that work. So, yes. Our sampling permit or the permit these guys have is to do the G-trap, the electro-fishing, the angling, those sorts of things. A little more effort will be put into using that technique, as well. It's much easier to do during --

Benoit Godin: Open water.

Dan Cornett: -- open water. I mean, there was a lot of shore ice and whatnot, and the small upper reaches of those drainages were getting pretty tight the latter part of October.

Chair Bill Klassen: Any other questions?

Dan Cornett: We'll try and get people a lead time as to when we intend to schedule these trips. If there's an opportunity or an interest in any particular group wanting to come out and participate in relation to that or a joint sampling protocol or program -- Wayne, if you want to try and do split samples or those sorts of things, there's an opportunity to try and coordinate and do some of that if there's a particular interest. We'll try and make that happen.

Wayne Kettley: So, you'll be sending a schedule around?

Dan Cornett: Well, I'll let this committee know here probably through Shane or however the communications go that we'll be trying to do those sorts of things; and for planning purposes, if people want to have an opportunity to get out and take a look at those sites, those locations, do some more participation or, like I say, joint programs with government, we certainly could consider doing that or helping to facilitate that.

Chair Bill Klassen: Thank you.

5.0 Introduction of the Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update Draft Memorandum - Dan Cornett

Chair Bill Klassen: If there aren't any further questions on that update, Revision 1 -- Susan, just for your benefit, we've moved Item Number 4, "*Introduction of the Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update*" up to be part of Item Number 2. What I would ask, then, Dan is if you can speak to this hydrology update, recognizing that it's a draft.

Dan Cornett: Okay, this draft Memorandum, called "CCL-CC6", prepared by Clearwater Consultants January 13, that was distributed to Shane, and then, circulated to the group here. I'm not going to specifically speak

to that today. I just wanted to let people know that this is now available. It's probably a topic for discussion with the -- probably a separate meeting, and I've got some thoughts or a bit of a proposal on that that we can talk about here as to how best to handle that. This particular report was put together to address the issue of taking actual onsite data, collected from the Water Resources climate station and going back and reviewing the regional information that was collected, as well as the actual onsite data and updating the Williams Creek site hydrology. Basically, we're affirming the base parameters that are used for subsequent engineering design inputs. So, total amount of rainfall, snowfall, temperature, those sorts of things; this information gets plugged into an overall site water balance, heat water balance, all those sorts of things for design purposes. So, this specific report was put together to address that. We had Clearwater go back and take a look at that information and bring this forward. I'm not intending to get into the discussions on that today. My intent would be to have Pete McCreath as part of the committee here, bring him in; and he can give an overview as to what was done, what was found and have an opportunity to speak to that.

There are two other work plan items that sort of fall within the same category of site hydrology/water balance. One is the overall site water balance, which Clearwater is also working on. I have reviewed a draft of this report internally. I expect to have that submitted here shortly to the committee, and that report deals with an updated water balance for the heap leach pad, open pit waste rock and carries that all the way down to throughout the whole drainage. So, that's an integral part of the project. This information feeds into that, as well.

The third item is the solution storage requirements for the heap leach pad and events pond sizing. Again, these are all linked to the site hydrology and the heap water balance; and my suggestion -- I'll just put this forward -- is the opportunity to hold a technical committee for efficient use of people and our resources and to try and maybe look at those three reports at one time. The solution storage sizing for the heap, I've actually just provided that report to Shane this morning. I'm sure that he'll be distributing that around. And I expect the overall site water balance report will be done here shortly, which will get distributed. So, to try and make things more efficient, the proposal is to maybe try and deal with those three particular topics in one technical advisory committee meeting.

The other thing that I have also distributed to Shane this morning is the results of the heap detoxification and rinsing test work. This is work that's been done by Alexco, and that report is now completed here. I've circulated that to Shane, which I am sure will be sent around, as well. It's something that people have been anticipating here in relation to it. It probably warrants its own separate technical session in relation to it. So, if this gets out and people want to chew on it for a couple of weeks, this may be the next session you may want to try and deal with here.

So, those are the upcoming reports. You're going to see those here pretty quickly.

Chair Bill Klassen: Could I interrupt for a moment, Dan, and maybe come to some agreement on your suggestion?

Dan Cornett: Sure.

Chair Bill Klassen: If I understood you correctly, we have got these three water-related reports, and you're suggesting we have a technical committee meeting focusing primarily on that; and you would bring this Peter McCreath in for that discussion?

Dan Cornett: And possibly Brad Therall with Alexco to speak to his experience on the solution requirements and size. A lot of that information we have tapped into the Brewery Creek experience in relation to drain down and those sorts of things. I think it might be useful to have him there, as well.

Chair Bill Klassen: And as you indicated, after the material is distributed, people would need some time to digest it --

Dan Cornett: Exactly.

Chair Bill Klassen: -- so they would be in a position to discuss it usefully.

What are committee members thoughts on convening a meeting specifically to deal with the water balance, solution storage and so on?

Shane Andre: I think it's a great idea. I think this is part of a key technical issue of the project. As long as we all have enough time to review the information, I would support that for sure.

Chair Bill Klassen: Is there general support for that approach? I see nodding of heads.

Can we leave that with you? Bill, did you want to comment?

Bill Slater: I just want to say I think we need to have an overall understanding of what the framework is that that's fitting into and that includes an understanding of where we stand in the YESAA process -- which I think we really don't know at this point -- and how that information that comes out of those technical sessions, what the expectation is as to how that will move forward. Perhaps an example is Wayne's discussion this morning of a potential need for monthly sampling, and the company is taking that under advisement; but what is the role of this committee in terms of making a decision or

recommendation about those kinds of things and how does that carry forward into the assessment process.

Chair Bill Klassen: That's an entirely valid point. We're going to be talking about the terms of reference for that joint technical committee, and perhaps the answer to some of your questions will come out of that discussion. In the meantime, convening a meeting of the technical committee to talk about the water information seems to me to have utility; because the YESAA people will be involved in that discussion, too, if I'm correctly interpreting the nodding down on that side of the table. Then once the process is sorted out through the environmental effects committee, then that information can be fed into it.

Susan Davis: I can't condone that.

Chair Bill Klassen: You can't condone that?

Susan Davis: No, I can't participate in that without resolving other process issues.

Chair Bill Klassen: Well, we're going to be having a discussion about the process shortly. The utility of having experts discuss the information that the company is putting forward, it strikes me has merit all by itself; and then, guidance can be given to the company as to -- as Wayne's suggested -- the frequency of sampling. That, I expect, is advice that the company has to take seriously, because it has implications for the outcome of the environmental assessment process and the level of satisfaction with the information that they provide. But the Record will note your concern at this point.

Susan Davis: At this time, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation is in the process of a legal review. We have retained Arthur Pape -- and I'll speak to this later today. And at this time, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation cannot agree to this idea without further discussions with our legal people.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, acknowledging that, the information will be distributed, because that's part of the process.

Are there other comments on the advisability of convening a meeting, or do you want to leave the determination of a date for a meeting -- a meeting and a date for the meeting -- until after we have had the discussion on the technical committee, taking into account Susan's comment about the advice that we receive from Arthur Pape.

Benoit Godin: I think the latter is probably the preferable route.

Chair Bill Klassen: I'm sorry, I can't remember what I said, the latter what?

Benoit Godin: Well, I mean, the information has to be discussed. As for what format, I think it has to be discussed in a certain format, and then, it has to be decided, after that has been resolved, how to proceed and when to proceed and who to proceed with it.

Chair Bill Klassen: So, the information will be distributed, and then, the forum and the date will be determined at a later date?

Benoit Godin: That's right.

Chair Bill Klassen: Dan.

Dan Cornett: Our intention here is to wrap up a consultation summary that the YESAA Board has requested in relation to this project for transition, with a formal application filed with the YESAA Board imminently as soon as I can get my rear end down to have a look at it; but it will be done probably within the next week or so. That will be formally triggered in relation to that to initiate a formal YESAA process in relation to it. Our understanding -- which makes relevant sense -- was that they were trying to utilize these advisory committees in a capacity that addresses both processes. We can speak a little bit more to that; but if it helps the situation here, our intent is that we will be in the YESAA process, as well, and following through with that and carrying on through that process.

Chair Bill Klassen: Could I ask for a five-minute break so I can go and put money in the metre so I don't get a ticket like I did the last time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 11:48 a.m.

Chair Bill Klassen: Just before the break, we had concluded that it would be useful to have the information distributed and a meeting time and purpose and how it fits into the rest of the process to be determined, but people are going to need a couple of weeks anyway to go over the material.

The other thing, under Item Number 2, there had previously been distributed a schedule of when additional information or updated information would be distributed. You referred to some of that already, Dan. Would it be appropriate to just do up another schedule of that material, or are we nearly there with the updates? Shane, you may be able to help with that, as well, or Stephen.

Dan Cornett: Well, let's just say that there has been some slippage in relation to the timeframe. I think we were maybe a little overly optimistic in relation to the Christmas schedule in between all this stuff, and that's kind of put a bit of a wrinkle into our timeframe here; but work is still proceeding on all of these fronts. EBA is trying to get all their geotechnical conditions, heap liner design, heap embankment design, all that information from our work plan and rolling that all into a document here. I met with them this past week, and they're working on that.

Similarly with the waste rock dump design, I spoke with Richard Trimble on that. They are a bit behind in relation to that type of work.

On the water quality model assessment side, we've got a base model that's put together. The water balance that's been completed now we can tie into that. With the heap detox report, I've now got some updated information in relation to inputs for that particular model. The one thing that I have been having a little bit of difficulty on is trying to obtain some additional waste rock samples. I thought we had some down at the PRA Research Lab in Vancouver, possibly the company. I'm just chasing down whether the Bostock Library has some core. If not, I've got to get back out to the site and go through a pile of core under the snow here. So, that may take a little more time to get that done, which then puts some of the work on the water quality modelling assessment a bit behind, as well; because I do want to have the waste rock analyzed for additional ABA and metal leachate test work. The test work that was done previously was using a sweep test. This is a strong acidic acid leach of the waste rock and really is not considered representative of meteoritic kind of rainwater. So, we wanted to get some additional samples from that, using a more modern kind of analysis and laboratory results to plug that into our modelling. So, that's probably the one item that we're going to be a little bit behind on, but there will certainly be enough for people to start chewing on in relation to some of these other aspects we'll get into. I can undertake to provide a bit of a short table with a list of all these reporting items, trying to put some timeframes around that and circulate it around. So, we can do that.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you. Is everyone comfortable with that?

Shane Andre: Dan, is there any chance you could just throw us an update, electronically perhaps update this sheet. That would be great.

Dan Cornett: Yes, what I was looking to do was to take our report item, and then, we can say it has been submitted or expected date and just sort of update the table. We can do that. It will just be a little small table, update it and circulate it around.

Chair Bill Klassen: Good, thank you.

6.0 Updated Draft Terms of Reference - Stephen Mills

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, the only other significant item we have on the agenda are these terms of reference; and I'm noting that Susan wants to make some comments, before the meeting adjourns, as to the process, I assume.

Susan Davis: Yes.

Chair Bill Klassen: These draft terms of reference have previously been distributed, and Stephen spoke the last time as to the process. What I would appreciate now, as the agenda indicates, comments or questions regarding these terms of reference. Stephen, do you want to perhaps get the ball rolling here?

Stephen Mills: Well, I would assume that either we just nailed it or that people haven't reviewed it or a combination of the two. The reality is we're not in a position to strike a joint committee or a committee of any type until we have received a project submission; and again, it doesn't necessarily mean that a committee of this nature is going to be struck on day one, because we still have certain things we have to look at with regards to the project proposal, the first one being whether or not the proponent has met the consultation requirements with the First Nation and the affected community. Then we get into an adequacy review of the proposal if the first test has been met. So, we're really not in a position to formalize any one of these three committees that we proposed.

We do think, though, that if there are some fundamental issues with regard to the structure or how these committees are currently proposed, we think it would be useful to get that kind of feedback so we can determine whether or not we should change what we're seeing as the picture and what we're seeing as the relationship between YESAA and EAA. I think if there are some other aspects that we need to go back, it would be nice for us to deal with some internal thinking and redrafting of some of these particular documents to take into account any of your input so that we have these pretty well ready to go when there is a project proposal coming in, and I guess you said by the end of this week or something.

Dan Cornett: No.

Stephen Mills: Sorry, it's imminent, though. I figured that's --

Dan Cornett: It's like the imminent YESAA Regs coming in!

Stephen Mills: Sorry, that's a government issue.

Dan Cornett: It's pretty close.

Stephen Mills: So, again, it would be good to get some comment on it. The structures are -- as I said before -- similar to the current draft of the terms of reference that were put forward; but there are some concepts that are different, as in the role of the Chair, but also the interaction between the assessors -- that being EAA and YESAA -- and the type of direction and the type of scheduling, you know, the direction we give to particular committees to ensure that the timelines that we have to operate under, that we're able to meet them.

I have knowledge that there was some correspondence between the First Nation and the Chair of our board, as well as other correspondence that probably touches a bit on some of the terms that we put forward in these draft terms of reference. So, basically, it would be good for us to get into some discussion and see if we can move it forward to finalize it or to another draft or whatever we have to do to be better prepared for the imminent project proposal coming in the door.

Chair Bill Klassen: I would be quite happy to facilitate a discussion here if people have comments now. If there isn't a lot of comment at this point, would it be helpful for people to provide written comments?

Shane Andre: Absolutely, yes.

Bengt Pettersson: I just have a minor comment on the membership due to, as you said before, Bill Dunn departing from government. What I got from Bob Holmes is I guess he would be the assessment team member.

Chair Bill Klassen: Bob Holmes would be in place of Bill Dunn at the table, under point III "Membership"?

Bengt Pettersson: Correct, and then, my understanding is that Randy Clarkson would be the technical member. That's the information I got from Bob before I came here. I mean, we still have the other issues regarding when this committee officially can start and all that but just to provide that update.

Chair Bill Klassen: So, Randy Clarkson would be a member of the committee but because of his technical expertise from your perspective?

Shane Andre: I don't think the membership was really hashed out all that well. I think there are probably some names missing. My thoughts were that essentially the group that's sitting at this table -- as a minimum -- would be a member of the Environmental Effects Committee.

Chair Bill Klassen: Any other observations right now on this?

Dan Cornett: Fundamentally and generally, there is not a whole lot of comment that the proponent has on this. I mean, it's pretty similar to other committees we've seen. I certainly support what we're doing here in relation to that.

Probably the only note that I would have -- as we mentioned here earlier -- there would be technical people that we'll bring in periodically on the proponent's side, whether there are other consultants or whatever, to speak to particular issues or the authors of reports or whatever. There is some recognition that these people will be brought into that.

Similarly, I'm sure on the other side of the table, there will be other independent experts that government or First Nations or whomever want to bring in to particular issues. So, some flexibility in relation to that.

Chair Bill Klassen: I think that's anticipated in the language under that table where "other specialists and experts may be invited to participate," et cetera.

Dan Cornett: Yes, that's consistent with our understanding.

Randy Lamb: That would cover our involvement, as well, because since there's a focus on water issues, we've always had members of Water Resources, such as Wayne, involved as necessary. So, that would be covered under that, as well.

Chair Bill Klassen: Susan.

Susan Davis: We'll be providing comments probably fairly quickly, because right now what we're looking at is the process we'll be involved in is the YESAA process for the environmental screening. So, the terms of reference will be something we'll be looking at within the next week or two very seriously, and we'll be responding fairly quickly.

Chair Bill Klassen: With written comments?

Susan Davis: Yes.

Chair Bill Klassen: Good, thank you. Stephen.

Stephen Mills: I just want to make one comment just to clarify one thing, though on this. The structure of the committee, you know, for example the choice of an independent chair, this is not just for those departments and everybody who are going to be participating on ongoing technical committees that are established under YESAA, especially with the Executive Committee level. This is probably not the format that you're going to see for all assessments

in the longer term; and some examples -- and this is only for this particular project because it's a transition project and we're basically caught with two assessment processes underway and we're trying to best utilize everybody's resources to provide support to both assessments. So, you may have some comments -- and we welcome them, of course -- on longer term how you see these committees operating and so on, but in particular, this is only related to that. I would say some examples are that there's a good chance that some of the committees that we establish, the membership in the long term might vary, depending if we're looking at the adequacy of a project proposal versus further on in the assessment where we're looking at particular elements. We may only have two or three people on a particular committee that we invite to participate when we're only dealing with one particular aspect; and other times, of course, we'll have committees that are structured in such a manner where we have points of views from all the various departments and so on. Mostly likely in a lot of assessments that we'll do -- if we're not in this transition-type project -- the Chair could very likely be one of our assessors or myself or someone else; and it will vary over time. So, this idea or concept of the need for three committees, while in itself, seems quite bureaucratic, it's something that we see as a way to ensure that there is good cooperation between the two assessments, and it's our best shot at the best way to coordinate it and use everybody's efforts as efficiently as possible. So, we definitely look forward to comments; and in the end, once the project proposal comes in and we're ready to strike the committees, then we will be in the process of establishing it and use everybody's comments -- incorporate them where we can before we formally establish each of the committees.

Chair Bill Klassen: Thank you. Recognizing that this is a transition project and this structure isn't to be taken as precedent-setting, in order to try to finalize this, can we set a date for submission of comments on the terms of reference so that it doesn't drift? You've indicated "very shortly". Does that mean two weeks?

Bill Slater: But Stephen indicated he can't finalize them anyway, given that --

Chair Bill Klassen: No, I realize that, but I think that the comments would be helpful so it doesn't have to start up again after they get a submission.

Susan Davis: Can I ask a question?

Chair Bill Klassen: Yes, certainly.

Susan Davis: So, does the company have an option of pulling its application out of the EAA process; and if so, then we could just enter the YESAA process? Would the EAA process stop if the company pulled out of it?

Travis Ritchie: I don't know. I would let Shane answer that question, but yes, I think it would.

Shane Andre: Yes, I believe that that's probably the only way that this project could be pulled out of the EAA process at this point is if the company chose to re-submit their Water Licence and other applications and withdrew their present applications.

Susan Davis: So, if that were to happen, then it could really streamline this whole situation. We have two options, and to continue in this situation is just really a very complicated situation and/or it could be simplified. There is that option.

Dan Cornett: Well, I can speak to that a little bit. Right now if I withdrew from EAA, we wouldn't be sitting at this table; and the company is not prepared to throw aside all the work that's been done in relation to the EAA process, the consultation that's been done and the identification of issues and so on and so forth in relation to that project. We're moving forward with it. This is useful, and it's useful in relation to a YESAA review. I made the comment that at some point down the road here once this project is formally submitted under YESAA and we move forward; they do their consultation and we catch up to where we're at, then there may be some pretty good consideration for the company to actually withdraw from EAA. Until I've actually caught both processes up, we're not prepared to entertain that, because I can't get any of this work done; and we're not prepared to throw that review aside to make that happen.

There was a decision made very early on back almost a year ago should we just wait for YESAA to come in. No one knew when that was going to happen. There was such an uncertainty that we couldn't wait. So, we launched it under the existing environmental review process, and that review process has gone on for eight, nine months -- well, actually more than that; it's coming up to the nine, 10 months here -- and there's been a lot of comment and feedback. The company has actually moved on a number of particular issues in relation to collecting additional data, doing additional reporting, all that sort of stuff. That's been very useful for the review for the company.

So, at this point, we're not prepared to sort of throw that away. I'm just suggesting that once the two processes are running more in tandem, parallel, I think there is some utility to withdraw from that. Until that time, we wouldn't be doing any of this. I would be waiting another four or five months for consultation to occur and other reviews; and we wouldn't be undertaking some of the issues and deliberations.

Chair Bill Klassen: Thank you. From my perspective, the company has been made aware of some of the -- I'm going to use the word "shortcomings" -- in the information as a result of discussions with the technical committee. So, presumably, the provision of that information will help in meeting the adequacy test under the YESAA process.

Dan Cornett: Yes, and fundamentally, our intention here is to get a consultation package together for the YESAA Board. They've provided us their initial requests or comments on that, which we appreciate, because it gives us some insight as to how they wanted to see that information. There are over 10 years of history on this project. It's just taken a little bit of time to put that all into a consultation document that demonstrates that there has been work going on with this file.

So, that's being pulled together in relation to that. Any of this information and new data that would be coming in would all be submitted as part of the application in relation to what I have by the time we submit it, as well as the existing information here. So, most of it, people have already seen. It's already all in front of you now.

Susan Davis: So, then, the way you're saying it, then, once the two processes are parallel, then you will withdraw from EAA?

Dan Cornett: I didn't say I will withdraw.

Chair Bill Klassen: I think he said they'd consider it.

Dan Cornett: We would consider reviewing whether or not we would withdraw from the EAA process. We haven't made that determination. What I'm looking forward to is that at some point, the processes are going to catch up here. They will, and we're going to be dealing with issues, and we're still going to be dealing with issues.

Susan Davis: Well, from our perspective, the situation that we will find ourselves in is that we will have one process under EAA which does not meet our expectations of the process under YESAA. So, we're going to have two entirely different processes going from the First Nation perspective.

Dan Cornett: Well, EAA has been operating in the Yukon for quite some time.

Susan Davis: The EAA process was started with an agreement between the company and the Yukon Government, which was done, which was not necessary; and the whole EAA process has been built on the foundation of an agreement that was inappropriate.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, Thank you. The process has -- notwithstanding the differing views on the adequacy or appropriateness of the process or its foundation -- some useful work has come out of it. This committee isn't going to resolve what that process will be. Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation has made its views known, and I expect that it will be getting a response from the appropriate government agencies or organizations. The minutes of the meeting will show this discussion and the company's preparedness to take a look at withdrawing from the other process once the two have "caught up" so to speak.

So, I don't know that we can accomplish anything further here today with an extension of this discussion. I'll give people another opportunity to comment; but what I would like to do -- before I lose track of the thought -- in terms of providing written comments on these draft terms of reference, can we set a date for the provision of those. I'm looking at February the 10th, which is two weeks from today.

Shane Andre: Sure.

Chair Bill Klassen: It should be easy for YESAA.

Stephen Mills: Yes, we think they're pretty good.

Dan Cornett: They're fine, they're good.

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, if there's consensus on that, then we'll expect people to provide written comments on the environmental effects advisory committee terms of reference by close of business February 10th.

Bengt Pettersson: Sorry, to Shane or to who?

Chair Bill Klassen: Yes, good point; perhaps if you provide them to Shane and he can distribute them, or do you have some comment on this?

Stephen Mills: Well, I just wanted to expand the work requirement a bit to also cover off the socioeconomic effects committee, as well.

Chair Bill Klassen: Yes.

Shane Andre: Sorry, just to clarify, do you want to have those sent directly to YESAA, or do you want me to collect them. I'm not sure.

Travis Ritchie: If you collect them, Shane, that would be great; and then, you could forward them over to us.

Shane Andre: So, if they could just be sent to me, that would be great.

Chair Bill Klassen: Comments to Shane for distribution.

Benoit Godin: I've got a question or a clarification in regards to the role of YESAA in this environmental effects monitoring. What is the nature of your participation since you haven't initiated your own legislation?

Stephen Mills: We've very keen observers right now. That's where we're at right now. We're observers at this level; and once the project proposal comes in, then we will be active participants in all elements of the various technical committees that are going. So, that's where we're at right now, and that's why the comments are useful; but again, keeping in mind that you focus the comments on assuming that we've got a project proposal in hand and that it is now in the YESAA process, this project.

Benoit Godin: Because I have a little bit of difficulty between the environmental effects and the socioeconomic, since there are two different legislations.

Dan Cornett: Well, there are two terms of reference here.

Stephen Mills: Yes, there are two terms of reference, and the reality that we see --

Shane Andre: I'm sorry, I just distributed the one for this meeting, because I thought that would be the only one discussed.

Chair Bill Klassen: Both were distributed previously.

Shane Andre: Yes.

Stephen Mills: At the previous meeting.

Benoit Godin: Okay.

Shane Andre: I'll make sure that I re-distribute them again.

Stephen Mills: I don't know if you wanted us to clarify why we have two different committees.

Benoit Godin: No, I understand, but it is just a question of since your process has not been triggered, what is your involvement in the socioeconomic because you still don't have a project. So, are you participating in

this the same way as if you had a full project proposal, and therefore, meeting the socioeconomic requirements?

Stephen Mills: Well, currently, because we don't have a project proposal -- actually also, there's not a socioeconomic committee established right now even through the EAA process -- so, right now we're basically here as observers of the current technical committee proceedings. The purpose of the terms of reference, we see two things. We see, under YESAA, that there is an obvious requirement for a socioeconomic effects committee to be established; and when that will happen, unless EAA initiates one in the next few weeks, then most likely it will be initiated jointly by us under those terms of reference that are established.

At the same time, we think at some point, there will be a changeover of the terms of reference under which this committee currently operates and how this committee will operate. We believe that over time, it will become consistent with the terms of reference around the environmental effects committee that is tabled there. It still is a question. I think Dan mentioned it, and I think others have, too, because we're at two different stages of process, we have to just figure out when the best time is to initiate the full changeover of the committee and under which terms of reference it should operate. We're not trying to confuse the process here with more process. It's just we think that everybody should recognize that at least with EAA and YESAA, given that the assessments are going to continue under both assessment processes, that's how we see -- between the two assessment bodies -- the best way to coordinate it. And yes, if we can get some input that can help us to improve these terms of reference, that would be great!

Benoit Godin: Thanks.

Chair Bill Klassen: Anything further on the terms of reference?

(No audible response)

7.0 Topics for Next Meeting

Chair Bill Klassen: The last item is "Topics for Next Meeting", and I would suggest we determine a date for that, as well. We know that we have some more information coming forward from the company. We know that Little Salmon Carmacks is producing some information. Whether they'll want that discussed at this committee or not I guess is LSCFN's call.

When would it be useful to reconvene to consider the additional information that the company will be putting forward, recognizing --

Dan Cornett: I have a suggestion: This latest report on the detoxification of the heap, which Shane has now and will be distributed, this is probably your next topic for discussion, because I haven't completed the overall site water balance. You haven't got that in hand.

Chair Bill Klassen: Yes.

Dan Cornett: So, the easiest thing to deal with is probably the detox work, and it's probably something that people have been much anticipating. So, that would be my suggestion. It's a good stand-alone.

Chair Bill Klassen: Well, I'm not an expert on the subject obviously, but I expect that could take a fair amount of time. So, should we set a date for the meeting with that as the main item, dealing with other matters that will be arising between now and then?

Shane Andre: Yes, I think that that could be a substantive item on a technical committee meeting. I would just ask that we'd have a bit of time to review this, --

Chair Bill Klassen: Oh, definitely.

Shane Andre: -- because I think this is a pretty substantive document.

Chair Bill Klassen: Well, it will be distributed in the coming week.

Shane Andre: I'll distribute it as soon as I get out of this meeting.

Lindsay DeHart: Is that four weeks or six weeks or eight weeks, how many weeks for appropriate review?

Shane Andre: I'll ask the group. I would say more than two. I'd say at least three.

Dan Cornett: We've been working on two weeks, but certainly this is three, if you want to wait a month. Three-to-four weeks would give people time to look at it.

Benoit Godin: Three would be the minimum for us. I'm going to be away, too.

Dan Cornett: I don't have a problem with that.

Shane Andre: Why don't we say "four weeks" to make sure everyone has a chance to review it properly.

[Discussion: re: appropriate time for review]

Dan Cornett: My only caveat, Bill, is I would want to make sure of Brad Thrall's availability.

Chair Bill Klassen: Good point, yes.

Dan Cornett: So, if you can give me a couple of dates and I can try and work around those. I'd certainly want to make sure he's available.

Chair Bill Klassen: Shall we look at the 22nd of February, which is a Wednesday, or the 1st of March, which is a Wednesday.

Rob Walker: It seems to me that there is likely to be more complete participation at these technical meetings if these issues about the terms of reference are resolved. So, I'm just wondering how this fits with the resolution of that.

Chair Bill Klassen: Maybe I can ask Stephen, Rob Walker is just saying that he thinks the participation might be -- what was the word you used?

Rob Walker: Fuller; that's not the word I actually used, but --

Chair Bill Klassen: More fullsome [sic] if the terms of reference are resolved. Now, the terms of reference I expect will be finally resolved once we get a submission from the company to YESAA; but Rob, if I can just press you on this: Why would there be more fullsome participation in the discussion if the terms of reference -- I mean, we've got technical people around the table. We're going to have the technical person coming from the company that helped with the --

Rob Walker: Well, I thought I heard someone say that was important for their participation.

Shane Andre: Rob, I think maybe settling the terms of reference might be something that we could do perhaps outside the -- not the terms of reference but maybe some of the process issues outside of the committee. So, I think we'll do what we can to resolve those.

Bill Slater: The resolution is bigger than just the terms of reference. It's the bigger process issues.

Chair Bill Klassen: That's a good point, Bill, thank you.

Stephen Mills: Although we think the terms of reference are important in everything, but they don't solve all problems, I know.

Chair Bill Klassen: I don't know that we're going to solve your problem, Rob. I want to solve my problem. The 22nd of February or the 1st of March, are those two dates that we can use that Dan can talk to his experts about?

Dan Cornett: I'll get back to Shane on that, then.

Chair Bill Klassen: Is there anything else before I ask for final comments, because we're done with the agenda.

Dan Cornett: If we have this overall site water balance in by next week, then there is an opportunity to do some more back-to-back stuff. I'm just putting that on the table.

Chair Bill Klassen: Did you want to say anything further?

Susan Davis: No.

Chair Bill Klassen: Anything else?

(No audible response)

Chair Bill Klassen: No momentous announcements?

(No audible response)

Chair Bill Klassen: Okay, thank you all very much for your participation.

8.0 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:25 p.m.

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2006 1:11 PM
To: susan.davis@lscfn.ca; benoit.godin@ec.gc.ca; wjk@yknet.yk.ca; bslater@whtvcable.com; dan@accessconsulting.ca; nichole@accessconsulting.ca; Randy Clarkson; Wayne.Kettley; Jeff.O'Farrell; Lindsay.Dehart; Patricia.Randell; Randy.Lamb; Robert.Holmes; Shane.Andre; Stephen.Mills; Travis.Ritchie
Subject: FW: Final Reports

Hello everyone,

Please find attached the most recent additional information from the Western Silver Corporation as described below.

Please let me know if there are any questions or problems viewing the attached information.

Thanks you,

Shane Andre

Project Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan D. Cornett [mailto:dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2006 9:44 AM
To: Shane.Andre
Cc: 5Nichole; Jonathan Clegg (Jonathan E. Clegg)
Subject: FW: Final Reports

Hi Shane:

On behalf of Western Silver Corporation, please find attached the Carmacks Copper Detoxification report and the a letter report discussing the events pond and solution storage requirements for the project. Please distribution these reports to the technical advisory committee for their review.

We would be happy to schedule meeting dates to discuss the report and their finding with the advisory committee.

Thanks

Dan D. Cornett
Access Consulting Group
Vice President
#3 Calcite Business Centre
151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
ph: 867-668-6463
Fax: 867-667-6680

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2006 2:52 PM
To: susan.davis@lscfn.ca; benoit.godin@ec.gc.ca; wjk@yknet.yk.ca; bslater@whtv.com; dan@accessconsulting.ca; nichole@accessconsulting.ca; Randy Clarkson; Wayne.Kettley; Jeff.O'Farrell; Lindsay.Dehart; Patricia.Randell; Randy.Lamb; Robert.Holmes; Shane.Andre; Stephen.Mills; Travis.Ritchie
Subject: FW: Western Silver - Carmacks Copper - Water Balance Update

Hello everyone,

Please find attached further additional information regarding the Carmacks Copper project as described below.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Shane Andre

Project Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan D. Cornett [mailto:dan@accessconsulting.ca]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2006 12:25 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Cc: Peter McCreath; Jonathan Clegg (Jonathan E. Clegg); Brad Thrall; 5Nichole; Randy Clarkson
Subject: Western Silver - Carmacks Copper - Water Balance Update

Hi Shane;

Attached, please find Clearwater Consultants Ltd. Carmacks Copper Project - Water Balance Update - CC7. This document should be circulated to the Technical Advisory Committee for their review.

I would propose that we schedule a TAC meeting to discuss the following reports:

Williams Creek Site Hydrology Update - Clearwater Water Consultants Ltd. - CC6;
Carmacks Copper Project - Water Balance Update - Clearwater Water Consultants Ltd. - CC7; and
Technical Design Memo - Carmacks Copper Project Solution Storage/Events Pond Sizing - Alexco Resources.

Both the Site Hydrology Update and the Solution Storage Events Pond Sizing reports have been previously distributed to the TAC. I have discussed a tentative with Peter McCreath and Brad Thrall regarding a proposed TAC meeting to discuss these reports and the week of March 20th does not work. A meeting schedule before or after this date would work.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss a TAC meeting date, please give me a call.

Thanks



**CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT
CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT**

**APPENDIX F
Government of Yukon
Record of Consultation**

February 2006



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

#3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3

PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

January 12, 2005

NOTE TO FILE

Prepared by: Dan Cornett/Nichole Speiss, Access Consulting Group

Re: Telephone Conversation Between Dan Cornett and Bill Dunn, GY Minerals Management Branch on January 12, 2005

A telephone conversation between Dan Cornett and Bill Dunn on January 12, 2005 included discussion of the following topics:

- Project Agreement update;
- Performance Standards – use of accepted Guidelines as project objectives;
- YWB Quartz Mining Guidelines;
- Socioeconomic Guidance;
- YEAA/YESAB transition – YESAB not ready and no information available on requirements, making it hard to bridge information gap for YESAA;
- YESAA implementation expected in Fall 2005.

**Carmacks Copper Mine
Project Description/EAR Distribution List**

Organization		Hard Copy	CD	E-mail only
DFO - Sandra Orban	Can	1		
DIAND - Laura Spicer	Can			1
DOE - Benoit Godin	Can	1		
Parks Canada - Mike Walton	Can			1
Council of Yukon First Nations	FN			1
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations	FN	3	1	
Selkirk First Nation	FN	1	1	
Client Service and Inspection - Carmacks	GY	1		1
Public Registry	GY	1		
ECO - DAP	GY	2		
Environment - Randy Lamb V-8	GY-EAA		1	
Community Services - Eric Magnuson C-9	GY-EAA			1
Economic Development - Terry Hayden F-4	GY-EAA			1
Education - Gordon DeBruyn E-1	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Bryony McIntyre K-320	GY-EAA			1
EMR - David Murray K-320	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Diane Brent K-6	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Judy St. Amand K-9	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Karen Pelletier K-10	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Ken Galambos K-10	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Marg White K-320	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Myles Thorp K-918	GY-EAA			1
EMR - Richard Corbett K-12	GY-EAA			1
Health - Violet Van Hees H-1	GY-EAA		1	
Highways - Allan Nixon W-13	GY-EAA		1	
Justice - Laurie Henderson J-2A	GY-EAA	1		
Tourism - Cathryn Paish L-1	GY-EAA	1	1	
Tourism - Ruth Gotthardt L-2A	GY-EAA		1	
Yukon Water Board, A-419	GY-EAA	1	1	
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society	Public	1		
Yukon Chamber of Mines	Public	1		
Yukon Conservation Society	Public	1		
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Public	1		
Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council	Public	1		
Yukon Salmon Committee	Public	1		
Scott Herron	YERC - DOE			1
Terry Bidniak, Community Development, C-9	YERC - GY			1
Al Beaver, Protective Services, C-19	YERC - GY			1
Dan Boyd, Protective Services, C-19	YERC - GY			1
Fred Jennex, Protective Services, C-19	YERC - GY			1
Ken Kiemele, Environmental Programs, V-8	YERC - GY			1
Kevin McDonnell, Water Resources, V-310	YERC - GY	1		
Fred Privett, EMR, K-235	YERC - GY			1
Mark Zrum, CSI, K-325	YERC - GY			1
Marg Crombie, AAM, K-419	YERC - GY			1
Naresh Prasad, YWHSB	YERC - GY		1	
YESAB	YESAB	1		
Village of Carmacks		1		

**Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report
Carmacks Copper Project
Yukon Territory**

Submitted by:

Western Silver Corporation
1550 – 1185 West Georgia
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4E6

DISTRIBUTION LIST

1 Copy + 1 PDF*	Yukon Government (YG) Energy, Mines and Resources, Minerals Management Branch
1 Copy + 1 PDF	YG Executive Council Office, Development Assessment Process Branch
1 PDF	YG Department of Environment, Environmental Affairs Section, Water Resources
1 Copy + 1 PDF	YG Yukon Water Board
1 PDF	YG Highways and Public Works
1 PDF	YG Health and Social Services
1 PDF	YG Tourism and Culture, Cultural Services, Heritage Resources Unit
1 PDF	YG Workers Compensation
1 PDF	YG Energy, Mines & Resources, Client Services – Carmacks NRO
1 PDF	Village of Carmacks
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Selkirk First Nation
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada
1 PDF	Natural Resources Canada
1 Copy + 1 PDF	Transport Canada
1 PDF	Environment Canada
2 Copies + 1 PDF	Access Consulting Group
2 copies + 1 PDF	Western Silver Corporation
2 copies + 1 PDF	ALM Group

*PDF = CDRom version of report

Western Silver – Carmacks Copper

EA Coordination Meeting

July 21, 2005

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Shoppers Plaza 4th Floor Boardroom

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Departments (YG and federal) identified as RAs, TAs, etc.

3.0 Next Steps in EA Process: Appendix B of Project Agreement

4.0 Proposed Timelines and Associated Risks

5.0 YESAB shadowing

6.0 Agenda for July 28 technical session

7.0 Adjournment



Executive Council Office
Development Assessment Process Branch (A-310)

August 16, 2005

PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER MINE, CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Yukon Government's DAP Branch has received the Western Silver Company's Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for the proposed Carmacks Copper Mine project.

This application has triggered an environmental assessment pursuant to the (Yukon) *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The Yukon Government departments of the Executive Council Office (ECO) and Energy Mines and Resources (EMR) have been identified as Responsible Authorities (RAs) pursuant to EAA for the assessment.

By this letter and attached document, the Yukon Government requests your comments on the proposed project. Please review the attached document and provide me with any comments you may have concerning the proposed project. Specifically comments relating to potential environmental effects and cumulative effects of the proposal would be appreciated.

All comments must be received at the DAP Branch by **4:30 pm. on September 13, 2005**. Comments would be appreciated in electronic form. Please contact me at (867) 456-3803 or via email at shane.andre@gov.yk.ca if you have any questions pertaining to this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Andre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch

Att.

**Carmacks Copper Mine
Public Consultation Document Distribution List**

Organization	
DFO - Sandra Orban	Can
DIAND - Laura Spicer	Can
DOE - Benoit Godin	Can
Parks Canada - Mike Walton	Can
Trans. Canada - Colin Parkinson	Can
Trans. Canada - Anita Champlagne	Can
Council of Yukon First Nations	FN
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations	FN
Selkirk First Nation	FN
Client Service and Inspection - Carmacks	GY
Public Registry	GY
Environment - Randy Lamb V-8	GY-EAA
Community Services - Eric Magnuson C-9	GY-EAA
Economic Development - Terry Hayden F-4	GY-EAA
Education - Gordon DeBruyn E-1	GY-EAA
EMR - Bryony McIntyre K-320	GY-EAA
EMR - David Murray K-320	GY-EAA
EMR - Diane Brent K-6	GY-EAA
EMR - Judy St. Amand K-9	GY-EAA
EMR - Karen Pelletier K-10	GY-EAA
EMR - Ken Galambos K-10	GY-EAA
EMR - Marg White K-320	GY-EAA
EMR - Myles Thorp K-918	GY-EAA
EMR - Richard Corbett K-12	GY-EAA
Health - Violet Van Hees H-1	GY-EAA
Highways - Allan Nixon W-13	GY-EAA
Justice - Laurie Henderson J-2A	GY-EAA
Tourism - Cathryn Paish L-1	GY-EAA
Tourism - Ruth Gotthardt L-2A	GY-EAA

Yukon Water Board, A-419	GY-EAA
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society	Public
Yukon Chamber of Mines	Public
Yukon Conservation Society	Public
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Public
Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council	Public
Yukon Salmon Committee	Public
Scott Herron	YERC - DOE
Terry Bidniak, Community Development, C-9	YERC - GY
Al Beaver, Protective Services, C-19	YERC - GY
Dan Boyd, Protective Services, C-19	YERC - GY
Fred Jennex, Protective Services, C-19	YERC - GY
Ken Kiemele, Environmental Programs, V-8	YERC - GY
Kevin McDonnell, Water Resources, V-310	YERC - GY
Fred Privett, EMR, K-235	YERC - GY
Mark Zrum, CSI, K-325	YERC - GY
Marg Crombie, AAM, K-419	YERC - GY
Naresh Prasad, YWHSB	YERC - GY
Village of Carmacks	MUNICIPALITY

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY PUBLIC CONSULTATION
DOCUMENT

For the

WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION PROPOSED
CARMACKS COPPER MINE

Prepared by:
Development Assessment Branch

August 10, 2005



PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides information on the proposed Carmacks Copper mining project and the proposed approach to the environmental assessment by the Yukon Government. It outlines information on the environmental assessment process as set out in the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and is intended to assist stakeholders in preparing comments on this project.

The Carmacks Copper project includes activities described in the Comprehensive Study List Regulations and is therefore subject to either a “Comprehensive Study”, “Panel Review” or “Mediation” under EAA. Under subsection 18(1) of EAA, where a project is described in the comprehensive study list, the responsible authorities (RAs) must ensure that public consultation is carried out on:

- the proposed scope of the project for the environmental assessment;
- the proposed factors to be considered in the environmental assessment;
- the proposed scope of those factors;
- the public concerns in relation to the project;
- the potential of the project to cause adverse environmental effects; and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

The present review is the first opportunity for input into the environmental assessment process. The public will be given other opportunities to participate in the environmental assessment process.

1.2 LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Executive Council Office (ECO) – DAP Branch, in their role as lead RA, have determined that the Carmacks Copper Project is subject to either comprehensive study, panel review or mediation under EAA pursuant to paragraph 10 (a) of the Comprehensive Study List Regulation, which reads:

10(a) The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of a metal mine, other than a gold mine, with an ore production capacity of 3,000 t/d or more

1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS (APP. FIGURE 1.1)

Following the initial public consultation, pursuant to section 18 of EAA, the RAs must submit a report to the Minister of ECO which includes the following:

- The scope of the project, the factors to be considered in the environmental assessment and the scope of those factors;

- Public concerns in relation to the project;
- The project's potential to cause adverse environmental effects; and
- The ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

The RAs must also recommend to the Minister of ECO whether the environmental assessment should be continued by means of a comprehensive study, or whether the project should be referred to a mediator or review panel.

After considering the report and recommendation, the Minister must decide whether to refer the project back to the RAs to continue with the comprehensive study process, or refer the project to a mediator or review panel. If the Minister decides that the project should continue as a comprehensive study, the project cannot be referred to a mediator or review panel at a later date.

Due to the irreversibility of this decision it is therefore crucial that stakeholders submit any and all concerns they may have regarding the project during the present consultation period so as to ensure these concerns are properly communicated to the Minister for consideration.

If after considering the report and recommendation, the Minister refers the project to a mediator or review panel, the project will no longer be subject to a comprehensive study under EAA. The Minister, after consulting the RAs and other appropriate parties, will set the terms of reference for the review, and appoint the mediator or review panel members.

If the Minister determines that the environmental assessment will continue as a comprehensive study, an environmental assessment will be undertaken and a Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) will be prepared and submitted to the Minister. RAs must ensure there are opportunities for public participation during the comprehensive study process.

Following drafting of the CSR, the DAP Branch will invite the public to comment on the report prior to the Minister of the Environment making his determination. The Minister of the Environment may request additional information or require that public concerns be further addressed before issuing the environmental assessment decision statement. Once the environmental assessment decision statement is issued, the Minister will refer the project back to the RAs for action.

1.4 YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT ACT (YESAA)

Environmental assessments in Yukon are currently being conducted under EAA, and/or CEAA. On November 13, 2004 the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) came into effect. However the regulations which accompany this legislation are not expected to come into force until the winter 2005/2006. Until this time, assessments will continue to be conducted under EAA/CEAA.

It is likely that this project will not obtain all required authorizations before full implementation of YESAA, in which case an assessment under YESAA as well as EAA will be required. The YESAA process is likely to require further public consultation on the project along with consideration of socio-economic effects outside of those considered in

the present EAA/CEAA process. The RAs are working with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) in an effort to avoid any disruption in the process.

2.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Carmacks Copper Project is a proposed open pit copper mine and solvent extraction and electro winning (SX/EW) processing facility being developed by the Western Silver Corporation (Western Silver). The orebody is located approximately 38 km northwest of the Village of Carmacks, or 192 km north of Whitehorse (see appendix figure 2.1,2.2). The deposit contains an open pit mineable reserve of 13.3 million tonnes at an average grade of 0.97% total copper. The project will include the following main components and associated activities:

- 1. Open Pit;**
- 2. Waste Rock Storage Area;**
- 3. Heap Leach Operation;**
- 4. Events Pond;**
- 5. Processing Facilities;**
- 6. Haul road; and**
- 7. Ancillary facilities and Services.**

Below is a brief overview of these components and associate activities. For further information regarding this project please refer to the Project Description/Environmental Assessment Report which can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html.

2.1 OPEN PIT

Mining will consist of a single open pit designed. The pit will be mined in 12 m benches at an average strip ratio of 4.6 tonnes of waste per tonne of ore.

The open pit will have a long, narrow NW-SE configuration with a length of approximately 780 m, a maximum width of 450 m, and a depth of 240 m at its deepest point.

Access to the pit will be provided by a 26 m wide haul road along the SW side of the pit.

The main access road provides for a two-way haulage route from the mine to move waste to the waste dumps and the ore to the primary crusher. Waste will be mined from the pit and placed in waste dumps to the north of the pit. All run-of-mine ore production will be directly trucked to the primary crusher and/or to a small surge stockpile adjacent to the crusher.

2.1.1 Drilling

The majority of the waste rock and all of the ore will require mining by drilling and blasting. The near surface waste and topsoil will be ripped by bulldozers for removal.

2.1.2 Blasting

Blastholes will be charged with ammonium nitrate/fuel oil (ANFO) blasting agent by means of a truck mounted ANFO supply and slurry mixing/dispensing unit.

2.1.3 Loading

The equipment units selected for loading will be one 10.7 m³ diesel hydraulic front end loader (FEL), and one 10.5 m³ diesel hydraulic shovel. The shovel will be used for waste mining and for bench clean-up to final pit walls. The FEL will load ore.

2.1.4 Haulage

The open pit haulage equipment will be a fleet of used and refurbished 91 tonne capacity, off-highway mechanical drive haul trucks. The trucks will be four pass loaded by either of the loading units, and will be utilized for hauling ore, waste and overburden.

2.1.5 Roads, Dumps and Pit

Pit and mine site roads will be maintained by one of two ripper equipped track dozers, a grader, an excavator, a sand truck in winter and a water truck in summer.

The rubber tired dozer will be operated in-pit for shovel and loader face clean-up, and for ramp and toe clean-up. A second, smaller, ripper-equipped dozer will be utilized for breaking out bench face toes, for in-pit temporary and permanent ramp access work, and for catch berm scaling and clean-up.

2.2 WASTE ROCK STORAGE AREA

The waste rock storage area (WRSA) is located immediately north of the open pit on a north-east facing slope. The WRSA covers an area of approximately 70 hectares.

2.3 HEAP LEACH OPERATION

The heap leach facility has been designed for the valley heap leach method, which involves the preparation and placement of leach ore behind a confining embankment.

Solutions from the leach pad will be collected by a network of solution pipes within the overliner and conveyed to the events pond and/or directed to the process plant via gravity flow solution pipes.

The operation of loading the heap and leach solution handling described below includes: the raffinate distribution, PLS collection, interconnecting piping, the heap stacking sequence, solution management and the liner system.

2.3.1 Design Basis

The heap will be designed to store approximately 13.3 million tonnes of ore at a dry density of 1.6 tonnes/m³. Ore will be placed for eight years at a maximum rate of 9,872 tonnes per day for up to 200 days per year. The 31.5 ha leach pad will be constructed in

three stages ahead of ore placement. Ore will be placed in 8-m lifts at an overall slope of 2½h:1v using haul trucks.

2.3.2 Liner System

The entire leach pad and the uphill face of the confining embankment will be lined with a double composite liner with an integral leak detection and recovery system (LDRS).

2.4 EVENTS POND

Normally, solution will flow directly from the heap to the plant. When there is a high-rainfall or high-precipitation event, or when the plant cannot accept solution, the flow can be directed from the heap to the events pond. The events pond will have a capacity of approximately 160,000 m³.

2.5 SOLVENT EXTRACTION AND ELECTRO WINNING (SX/EW) PROCESSING FACILITY

2.5.1 Solvent Extraction

The solvent extraction circuit consists of a single train of extraction and stripping mixer settlers. The extraction circuit consists of two mixer settlers in series and the stripping circuit consists of two stripping mixer settlers in series. The design capacity of the solvent extraction circuit is 270 m³/h providing flexibility in solution application rates to the heap.

2.5.2 Electro Winning

High purity copper cathodes will be produced in an electrowinning (EW) plant.

2.5.3 Sulphuric Acid Plant

Sulphuric acid will be produced by burning elemental sulphur in a sulphur burner and converting the sulphur dioxide into sulphuric acid. Molten elemental sulphur will be purchased from Fort Nelson and trucked directly into the acid plant.

Alternative acid production processes such as bio-oxidation of agglomerated elemental sulfur are under study and will continue to be investigated.

2.6 HAUL ROADS

Haul roads within and around the open pit, WRSA and heap leach facility will have an overall width of approximately 26 m, including an allowance for ditches and safety berms.

2.7 ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

2.7.1 Access

Access to the project site area is by public highway with the last 33 km from Carmacks via the gravel, all-weather, government maintained, Freegold Road. Access to the mine property will be by a new 13 km road.

The responsibility for upgrading and maintaining the Freegold Road, which forms part of the Yukon highway system, belongs to the Yukon Government. YG initiated a program to upgrade the route to 80 km/hr secondary road standards in 1991.

Western Silver is responsible for 13 km of road, from the turnoff at the Freegold road to the project site, including the bridge crossing at Merrice Creek (km 7) and the culvert crossing at Williams Creek (km 11.5). The mine access roadway will be operated as a private controlled access road and maintained by mine personnel.

Bridges and Maintenance

The access road crosses two watercourses, one at Merrice Creek (km 7) and the other at Williams Creek (km 11.5). The Merrice Creek Bridge will be sized to convey peak flows from a 100-year return period event. Riprap and other erosion protection measures for culverts and bridges will be designed for the same event as the culvert or bridge. The proposed clear span bridge abutments are not expected to encroach on the creek wetted perimeter. A culvert crossing is planned for the upper Williams Creek road crossing.

2.7.2 Power Supply and Distribution

The primary source of electrical power for the project will be a diesel generating plant. The average electrical demand at a 0.9% power factor will be 7,860 kW in summer and 6,610 kW in winter. The winter demand is lower because the crushing plant will not be operating. There will be five diesel generating units, each with a minimum continuous operation rating of 1,650 kW. The generators will be equipped with waste heat recovery boilers to generate hot water (cogeneration). The process and laboratory will be serviced by the cogeneration system with back-up hot water boilers for building space heating diesel fired units.

Distribution

Direct buried cable will be installed between the diesel generator plant and 4.16 kV switchgear housed in the EW building electrical room.

2.7.3 Maintenance Shops and Warehouses

The mining maintenance shop together with the warehouse will be housed in a "Sprung" fabric covered, insulated aluminium structure to be located near the primary crusher. The shop will be equipped to handle routine maintenance and most repair work on mine, mobile and process equipment. .

Maintenance Shop

The drive-through mine vehicle service area has been sized to accommodate 86 tonne capacity trucks. A welding bay, a truck wash bay and an instrumentation/electrical bay have also been provided. An area adjacent to the drive-through heavy truck repair area has been designated light truck repair shop.

Warehousing and Storage

The warehouse will serve as the main distribution centre for the mine and process facilities. It will have 390 m² of inside floor space and include the company tool crib; 360 m² of yard area adjacent to the building will be available for outside storage. These facilities will be supplemented by reagent storage containers at the process plant, plus explosives storage magazines located near the pits. A separate fenced-in area for oxygen and acetylene gas bottles will also be provided.

2.7.4 Offices

Administration

The administration office will be a single story prefabricated trailer structure with a total area of 390 m², located in Carmacks.

2.7.5 Laboratory

The metallurgical laboratories will be located next to the SX/EW facilities in a single story, prefabricated trailer with a floor area of 71 m².

2.7.6 Mine Dry Offices

The dry offices will be a separate trailer complex in the southeast corner of the operations camp area, complete with separate women's dry offices and assembly areas.

2.7.7 Building Heating, Fuel Storage and Distribution

Heating fuel will be supplied from a central propane storage system. Propane will be delivered to site by tank truck to the independent facilities. Currently, it is planned that the facilities, including tanks, will be the property of the propane supplier. The tanks, at the estimated demand, will have a month's reserve when full.

2.7.8 Vehicle Fuel Storage and Distribution

Diesel fuel and gasoline will be delivered to the project site in tanker trucks for transfer to storage tanks. A permit under the Environment Act Storage Tank Regulations will be acquired for the fuel storage facilities.

The vehicle fuel storage compound will be constructed on the same graded pad as the truck wash facility, which will be located adjacent to the maintenance shop and warehouse.

2.7.9 Site Accommodation

Construction personnel will be accommodated in the prefabricated camp located at the project site.

2.7.10 Lighting

As all the pit equipment is equipped for night time operation, requirements for additional lighting is minimal. Areas that will require lighting are the digging areas and the active waste dump where trucks are dumping. Four portable self-contained lighting plants will be required.

2.7.11 Communications

An internal telephone network will serve the various facilities at the property, the cables being routed through conduit within the yard areas and along the overhead pole lines to the process plant and administration offices. Radios will also be installed in supervisor's vehicles and major items of mining equipment.

3.0 PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the project refers to the various components of the proposed undertaking or activities that will be considered as the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment.

Subsection 11(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) requires the Responsible Authorities (RAs) to determine the scope of the project in relation to which an environmental assessment is to be conducted. Subsection 11(3) of the EAA requires that where a project is in relation to a physical work:

“...an environmental assessment shall be conducted in respect of every construction, operation, modification, decommissioning, abandonment or other undertaking in relation to that physical work that is proposed by the proponent or that is, in the opinion of the responsible authority...likely to be carried out in relation to that physical work.”

For this project this includes:

- access;
- waste rock handling and storage (permanent and temporary);
- processing;
- heap pad management;
- fuel handling and storage;
- power generation and transmission facilities;
- explosives manufacturing and storage facilities and associated infrastructure;
- borrow pits;
- water sources, use and release, water control structures and treatment facilities;
- landfill;
- deposition of gaseous, solid and liquid wastes;
- ore storage areas, stockpiles and transfer pads;

- site facilities and infrastructure including camp and maintenance facilities, fuel and hazardous waste storage areas, solid waste and liquid domestic waste management facilities;
- Valued Ecosystem and Cultural Components (VECCs) potentially affected by the project;
- site transportation routes including access road, ore haul road, and all other roads and trails;
- off-site transportation routes including haul route (spills, safety and infrastructure requirements); and,
- decommissioning.

The scope of this project will include all undertakings involved with the physical works and activities related to the development, construction, operation, decommissioning, care and maintenance, closure and post closure of the proposed Carmacks Copper Mining Project.

4.0 OUTSIDE THE PROJECT SCOPE

In order to clearly state the scope of the project this section will layout components, mentioned in the company's project description, which will not be considered as part of the project for the purpose of this assessment.

The following components will **not** be considered in the scope:

- The proposed Freegold Road bypass
- Possible upgrade of the Freegold Road
- Proposed Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) transmission line to the site
- Socio-economic effects not related to an environmental effect (see section 5.0)

5.0 ASSESSMENT SCOPE

Subsection 12(1) of the EAA requires that environmental assessments consider the following factors:

(a) the environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;

(b) the significance of the effects referred to in paragraph (a);

(c) comments from the public that are received in accordance with this Act and the regulations;

(d) measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project; and

(e) any other matter relevant to the screening, comprehensive study, mediation, or assessment by a review panel, such as the need for the project and

alternatives to the project, that the responsible authority or, except in the case of a screening, the Minister after consulting with the responsible authority may require to be considered.

In relation to (e) above, the RAs have not included any additional matters within the scope of the assessment.

In addition to the factors set out in subsection (1) above, every comprehensive study of a project and every mediation or assessment by a review panel shall include a consideration of the following factors:

- (a) the purpose of the project;
- (b) alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means;
- (c) the need for, and the requirements of, any follow-up program in respect of the project; and
- (d) the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.

With respect to (c) above the RA has determined that there will be a requirement for follow-up programs in respect to this project.

6.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

A socio-economic effect as defined in the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) includes effects on economies, health, culture, traditions, lifestyles, and heritage resources. The scope of assessments under EAA do not consider socio-economic effects that do not result from changes in the environment. In the case of this project, the social and economic effects that result from changes to the environment (as described in EAA) will be considered in the scope of the assessment. Accordingly, changes to the local social and economic conditions, beyond those arising from environmental changes, are **not** included in the scope of this EAA assessment.

It should be noted that while socio-economic effects are not within the scope of this assessment beyond those resulting from changes in the environment, this project is also likely to require an assessment under YESAA given the anticipated date of the YESAA regulations coming into force. Any assessment under YESAA will require an examination of the direct socio-economic effects of a project.

The RAs recognize the efforts to date of the company to consider socio-economic effects of the project and it is understood by the RA that socio-economic effects of the project beyond the scope of the EAA assessment will be discussed in detail and concurrently with the EAA assessment. It is the RAs' opinion that this will greatly aid any assessment under YESAA.

7.0 DECOMMISSIONING

Subsection 11(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) requires the RAs to scope decommissioning and abandonment of a project into the assessment. In doing so the RAs must consider the technical and economic feasibility of the proposed decommissioning plan as it constitutes a measure to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects. Decommissioning of the site includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following components:

- Decommissioning of mine workings.
- Detoxification of the heap.
- Geochemical and physical stability of all waste rock piles.
- Decommissioning and removal of site infrastructure.
- Revegetation of the site.
- Measures to limit access to the site in post-closure period (includes discussion of 'gating' and closure of road from Freegold Road to mine site).
- Continued monitoring of the site through the post-closure period.
- Implementation of adaptive management plans as necessary during closure and post-closure period.

8.0 SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL BOUNDARIES

8.1 SPATIAL BOUNDARIES

The spatial boundaries for assessment will be based on the potential geographic extent of effect. This boundary will encompass all mine infrastructures including the access road and waterways in the downstream flow path from the mine. For purposes of spill response all road routes to the site, including highways, will be included in the spatial boundary. Wildlife species shall be assessed on a regional context outside the boundaries described here.

8.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

EAA requires the RAs to consider all cumulative effects associated with a project. Cumulative effects refer to those effects on the environment that result from effects of a project when combined with those of other past, existing, and imminent projects and activities. The spatial boundaries for assessing cumulative effects are the same as the boundaries proposed above for the environmental assessment.

8.3 TEMPORAL BOUNDARIES

The temporal boundaries of the assessment include the construction, operations, decommissioning and reclamation, closure, and post closure phases of the project. This includes an 8 year active mining phase and continuing for a timeframe until regulators determine that the site is stable and may be abandoned.

9.0 SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The public is invited to provide its views at this stage of the environmental assessment of the Project on the following areas:

- The project as proposed by the proponent
- The scope of the project, assessment and factors to be considered
- The ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the Project.

Persons wishing to submit comments may do so in writing or via email to the Yukon Government, Executive Council Office – DAP Branch. Comments must be received by **4:30, September 13, 2005**.

Comments may be sent to:

Shane Andre
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803 Fax: (867) 667-3216 or E-mail: shane.andre@gov.yk.ca

Please be as detailed as possible and clearly reference the Carmacks Copper Project on your submission. NOTE: All documents and/or responses received regarding this project are considered public and will become part of the public registry for the project.

As stated above the public will have other opportunity to participate in the assessment process. The format of this participation will depend on the “track” decision made by the Minister and the issues that are identified here through the present public consultation.

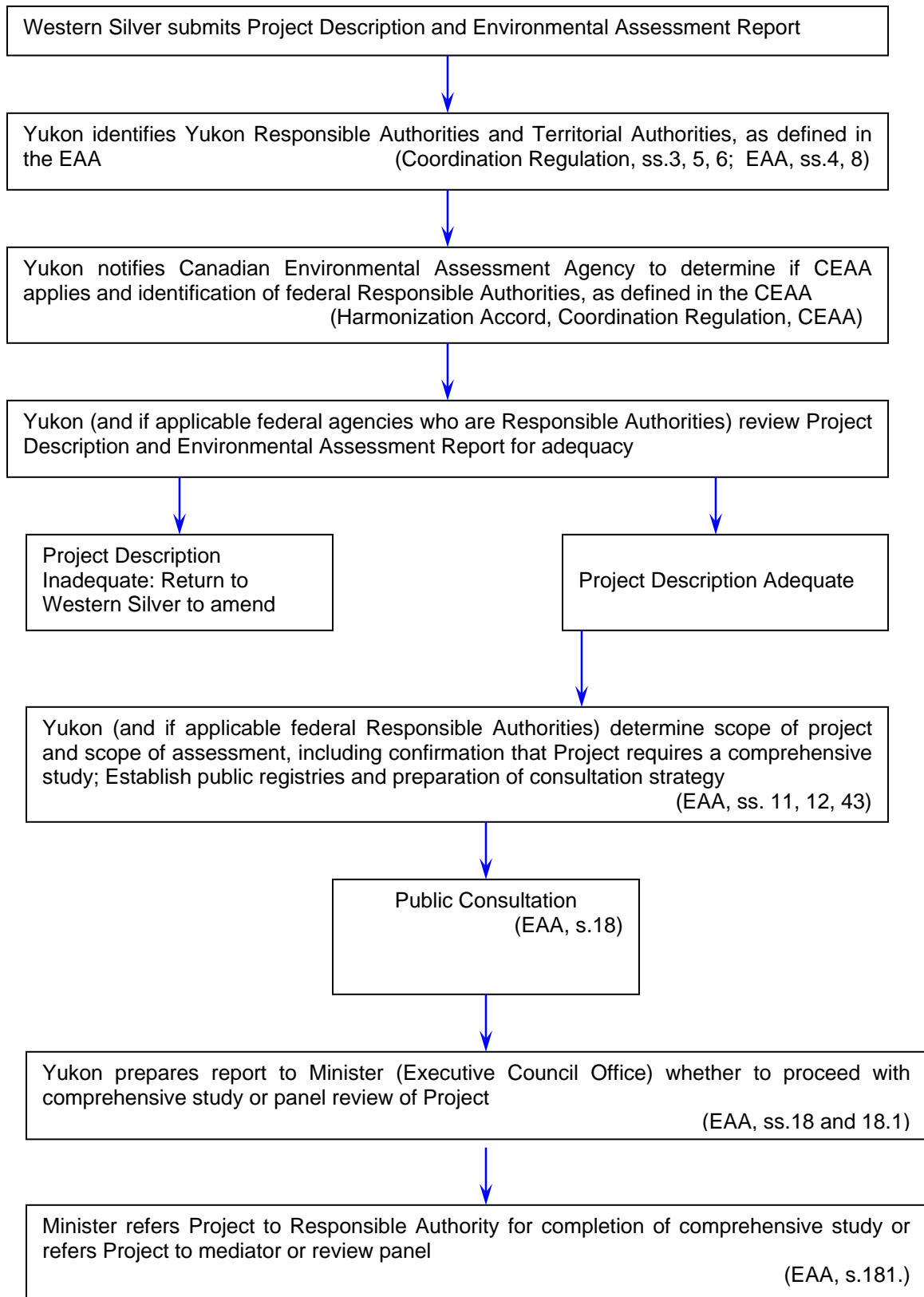
APPENDIX:
Maps and Figures

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY PUBLIC CONSULTATION
DOCUMENT

CARMACKS COPPER MINE

Note: The following Maps and figures were original created by the Access Consulting Group for the Western Silver Corporation – Carmacks Copper – Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report and modified by the ECO DAP Branch for the purpose of this document.

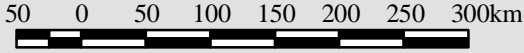
Figure 1.1 Environmental Assessment Process - Steps Leading to Determination of Comprehensive Study or Panel



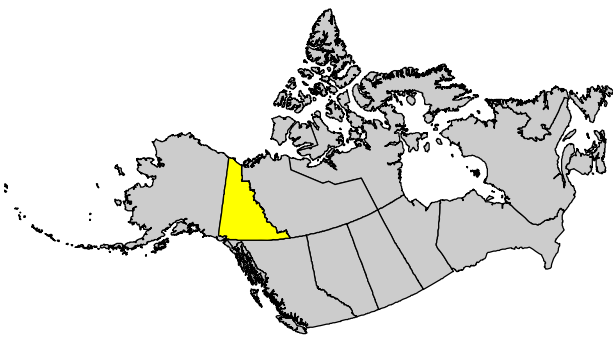


General Location Map of the Yukon Territory

Scale 1 : 6 000 000



Project Location



Carmacks Copper Project Yukon Territory

Figure 2-1

3



Carmacks Copper Project Yukon Territory

Legend:

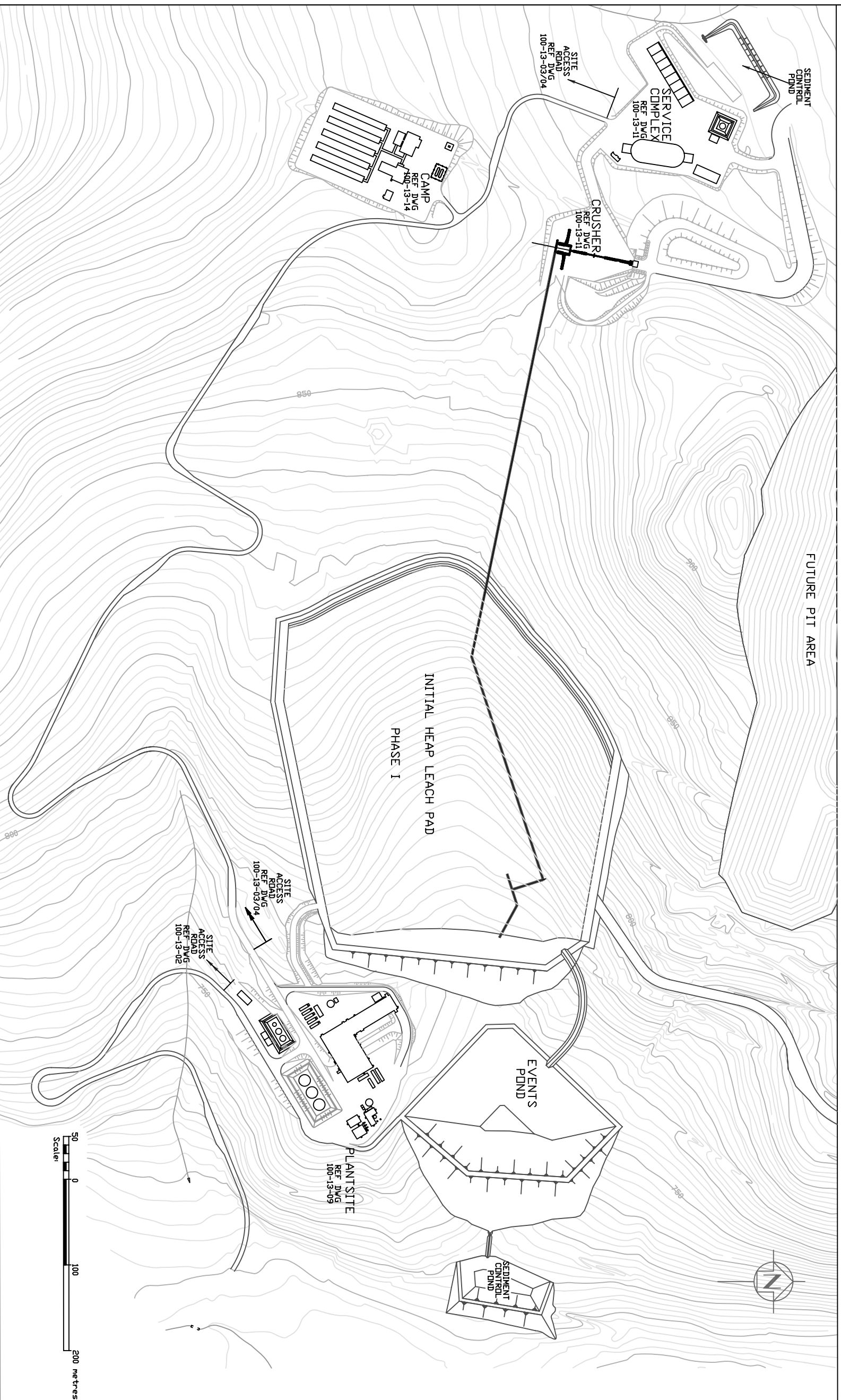
- Town
- Ore Deposit
- Water Course
- Proposed Access Road
- Exploration Road
- Limited-used Road
- Road
- Trail
- Contour
- Water Body

UTM Zone 8 NAD83 Meters

Project Area Overview

Figure Number:
2-2

Scale:
1:150,000



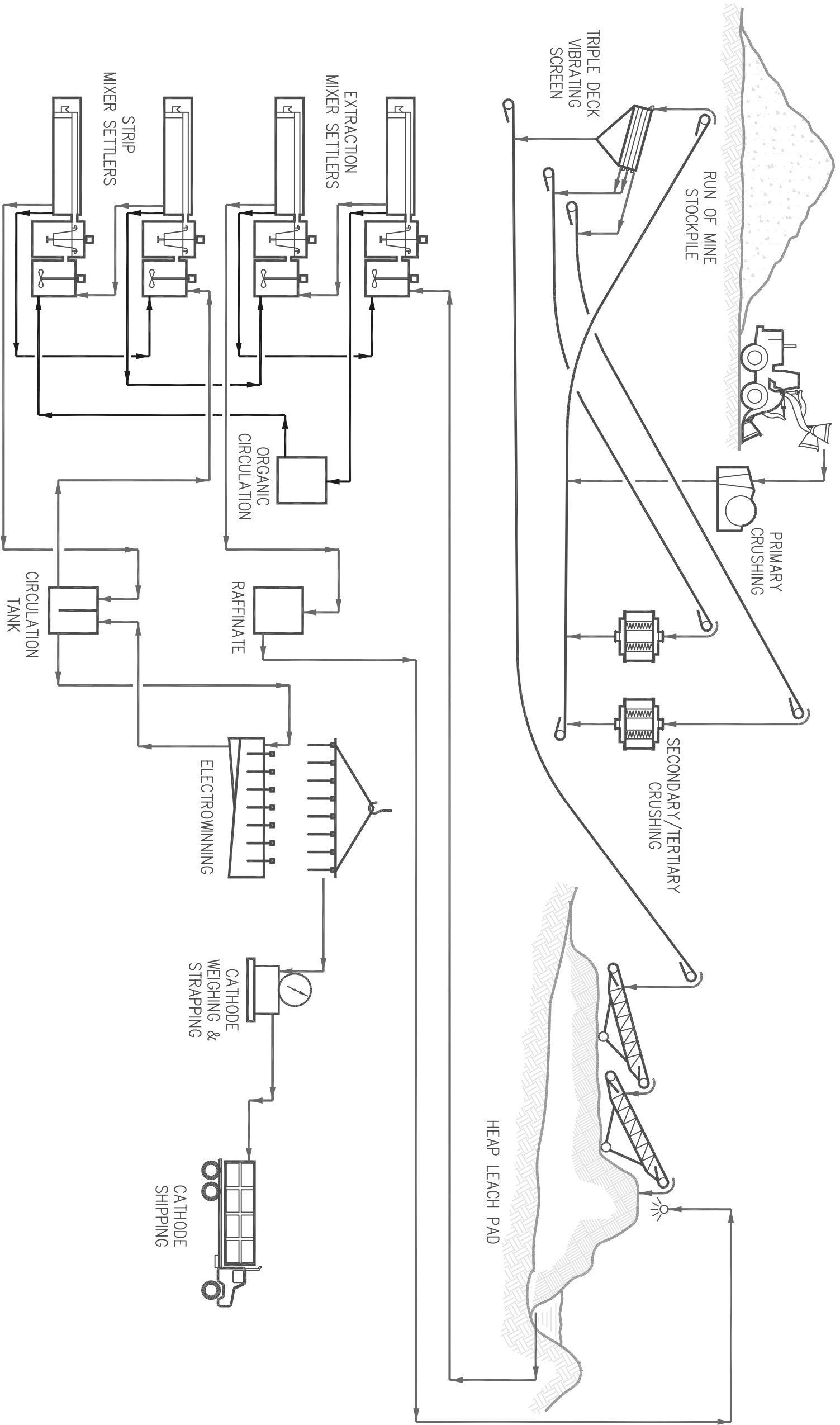
**Carmacks Copper
Project
Yukon Territory**

Note: Drawing is for illustrative purposes only,
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Original drawing from Kilbom.
The engineering data on this drawing is solely for the purpose and project for which this drawing is issued.
"Overall Site Plan Pre-Production",
Drawing #700-13-43, Rev C

**Overall Site Plan -
Facilities**

Figure Number:
2-3



Carmacks Copper Project Yukon Territory

Note: Drawing is for illustrative purposes only, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Original drawing from Kilborn, "Western Copper Holdings Limited Carmacks Copper Project Simplified Flowsheet", Drawing #100-10-02

Simplified Flowsheet of the Carmacks Copper Project Process

Figure Number: 2-4

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2005 4:38 PM
To: ywb@yukonwaterboard.ca; CHAMPAN@tc.gc.ca; benoit.godin@ec.gc.ca; PARKINC@tc.gc.ca; cyfn@yknet.ca; spicerl@inac.gc.ca; eskookum@lscfn.ca; OrbanS@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; scott.herron@ec.gc.ca; lmcginty@selkirkfn.com; carmacks@northwestel.net; Violet.VanHees; Al.Beaver; Allan.Nixon; Bonnie.Cooper; Bryony.McIntyre; Cathryn.Paish; Dan.Boyd; David.Murray; Diane.Brent; Eric.Magnuson; Fred.Jennex; Fred.Privett; Jeff.O'Farrell; Judy.St Amand; Karen.Pelletier; Ken.Galambos; Ken.Kiemele; Kevin.McDonnell; Laurie.Henderson; Marg.Crombie; Marg.White; Mark.Zrum; Myles.Thorp; Naresh.Prasad; Randy.Lamb; Richard.Corbet; Ruth.Gotthardt; Shane.Andre; Terry.Bidniak; Terry.Hayden
Subject: Carmacks Copper Consultation Document

The Yukon Government's Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch has received the Western Silver Project's Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for the proposed Carmacks Copper project.

The application has triggered an environmental assessment pursuant to the (Yukon) *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The Yukon Government departments of the Executive Council Office (ECO) and Energy Mines and Technical Surveys (EMR) have been identified as Responsible Authorities (RAs) pursuant to EAA for the assessment.

The DAP Branch has put together a "Consultation Document" that can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html. This document provides information on the proposed Carmacks Copper mining project and the proposed approach to the environmental assessment by the Yukon Government. It outlines information on the environmental assessment process as set out in EAA and is intended to assist stakeholders in preparing comments on this project.

At this time the Yukon Government is requesting your comments on the proposed project. Please review the "Consultation Document" and/or the "Integrated Environmental Assessment Report", which can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html. If you are unable to access this site and require a digital or paper copy please contact myself, Shane Andre at (867) 456-3803 for the provision of a CDROM containing the report or paper copies as required.

Comments must be received at the DAP Branch by **4:30 p.m. on September 13, 2005**. Comments would be accepted in electronic form. Please contact me at (867) 456-3803 or via email at shane.andre@gov.yk.ca if you have any questions pertaining to this review.

Sincerely,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 7:37 AM
To: jgraham@cyfn.net; rgrant@cyfn.net; simss@selkirkfn.com; info@lscfn.ca; bslater@whtvcable.com; susan.davis@lscfn.ca
Subject: Carmacks Copper Consultation Document

The Yukon Government's Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch has received the Western Silver Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for the proposed Carmacks Copper project.

The application has triggered an environmental assessment pursuant to the (Yukon) *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The Yukon Government departments of the Executive Council Office (ECO) and Energy Mines and Technical Surveys (EMTS) have been identified as Responsible Authorities (RAs) pursuant to EAA for the assessment.

The DAP Branch has put together a "Consultation Document" that can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html. This document provides information on the proposed Carmacks Copper mining project and the proposed approach to the environmental assessment by the Yukon Government. It outlines information on the environmental assessment process as set out in EAA and is intended to assist stakeholders in preparing comments on this project. A paper copy of this document is being sent to your office for review.

At this time the Yukon Government is requesting your comments on the proposed project. Please review the "Consultation Document" and/or the "Integrated Environmental Assessment Report", which can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html. If you are unable to access this site and require a digital or paper copy please contact myself, Shane Andre at (867) 456-3803 for the provision of a CDROM containing the report or paper copies as required.

Comments must be received at the DAP Branch by **4:30 p.m. on September 13, 2005**. Comments would be accepted in electronic form. Please contact me at (867) 456-3803 or via email at shane.andre@gov.yk.ca if you have any questions pertaining to this review.

rely,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 11:45 AM
To: Dan D. Cornett; Nichole Speiss; William.Dunn; Bill Klassen
Subject: FW: Carmacks Copper Consultation Document

The Yukon Government's Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch has received the Western Silver Company's Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for the proposed Carmacks Copper project.

The application has triggered an environmental assessment pursuant to the (Yukon) *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The Yukon Government departments of the Executive Council Office (ECO) and Energy Mines and Technical Surveys (EMTS) have been identified as Responsible Authorities (RAs) pursuant to EAA for the assessment.

The DAP Branch has put together a "Consultation Document" that can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html. This document provides information on the proposed Carmacks Copper mining project and the proposed approach to the environmental assessment by the Yukon Government. It outlines information on the environmental assessment process as set out in EAA and is intended to assist stakeholders in preparing comments on this project. A paper copy of this document is being sent to your office for review.

At this time the Yukon Government is requesting your comments on the proposed project. Please review the "Consultation Document" and/or the "Integrated Environmental Assessment Report", which can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html. If you are unable to access this site and require a digital or paper copy please contact myself, Shane Andre at (867) 456-3803 for the provision of a CDROM containing the report or paper copies as required.

Comments must be received at the DAP Branch by **4:30 p.m. on September 13, 2005**. Comments would be accepted in electronic form. Please contact me at (867) 456-3803 or via email at shane.andre@gov.yk.ca if you have any questions pertaining to this review.

rely,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

DRAFT Tourism Response for Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report
Western Silver Corporation, June 2005

DAP Contact: Shane Andre

General/Intro

- Thanks for the opportunity to respond
- These comments cover summer and winter tourism use and concerns, not including guided hunting
- Understand this is a Comprehensive Study Project, with further opportunity for consultation with the public – including tourism operators if required, LSCFN and the community.

5.4.0 Current Land Use

Section 5.4.1.3. – Recreation

- Tourism should be added to the heading.
- * Note that tourism and recreation are not the same thing. Tourism is an economic activity that needs to be taken into account.
- Information provided refers to guided and self guided tourists, and doesn't include Yukon resident use.

Current Tourism Activity

Current activity includes motorized and non-motorized boating/canoeing and rafting in the summer and dog mushing along the Yukon River in the winter.

Summer Yukon River trips:

The Yukon River is the most popular destination for guided and self guided river travelers to the Yukon.

- 2003 Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act data indicates 18 licensed operators guided approximately 300 clients on summer tours on Yukon River. There is one operator offering product between Carmacks and Yukon Crossing.
- The Yukon River Quest runs as an annual canoe/kayak race from Whitehorse to Dawson City.
- 1997 Yukon River Study estimated about 1300 self guided visitors traveled the river as indicated by equipment rentals, today this number is approximately 1500. 1000 rentals were reported in 2003. *Note: # of rentals do not necessarily indicate number of travelers.
- 2004 statistics being compiled for visitor use and can be provided shortly.
- Winter Use Along the Yukon Quest Trail
 - The Yukon Quest International office confirmed that the Quest Trail includes a portion of the Fregold Road and runs along Williams Creek. We strongly recommend that the proponent contact the Quest office directly to discuss impacts and mitigation.

- While a number of commercial dog mushers offer trips along the Quest Trail, we have not determine yet whether they use the Trail in the study area. We will try to provide this information as soon as possible.

Section 6.4 – Notification

The Yukon Quest International Office should be notified. We will forward a list of summer and winter operators shortly.

Section 7: Potential Environmental Effects and Proposed Mitigation

- Key concerns:
 - Visual (aesthetic) and noise impacts on Yukon River travelers.
 - Table 7-3 - add “Aesthetics” as an environmental component of the VECC
 - Ensure adequate visual buffers between mine activity and river. “No disturbance within 50 m of a watercourse” (p.7-31) is not enough for the Yukon River. Recommend minimum of 100 meters which is the standard setback for larger rivers; e.g Takhini River for agricultural land disposition or 300m – standard set back for residential applications.
 - Increased Access to east shore of Yukon River
 - If project results in improved access to river – by improving existing access or creating new access, how will non-mine employee use and impacts be addressed?
 - Impacts on water quality and fish from Williams Creek.
 - Impacts on winter use of the Quest Trail by tourism operators and the Yukon Quest event.

2005-2006

CURRENT LICENCED OPERATORS
MAY 1, 2005– APRIL 30, 2006

ALPHABETICAL LISTING
WILDERNESS TOURISM OPERATORS & LICENCE NUMBERS

Date: August 24, 2005

NAME OF COMPANY	LICENCE #
18628 Yukon Inc. c/o Frances Lake Wilderness Lodge	0069
Accessible Adventures	0179
Adventure Tours Yukon Wild Ltd.	0011
Alaska Discovery Inc./Mountain Travel Sobek	0184
Alaska Travel Adventures	0145
Ancient Voices Wilderness Camp	0071
Asi Shar Wilderness Safari Tours	0168
Aventure Arctique	0165
Bensen Creek Wilderness Adventures & Retreat	0150
Big Creek Enterprises (34842 Yukon Inc.)	0102
Bild-Archiv Glanzmann Inc	0042
Black Feather-The Wilderness Co.	0064
Blue Kennels & Dog Sled Trips	0072
Boreas Backcountry Adventures Ltd.	0188
CJ Link Service	0136
Camp Wanapitei Co-ed Camps Limited	0157
Canadian River Expeditions	0015
Canadian Wilderness Travel Ltd.	0024
Canoe North Adventures	0058
Cathers Wilderness Adventures	0027
Cedar & Canvas Adventures	0099
Chilkat Guides Ltd.	0185
Colorado River & Trail Expeditions	0183
Dalton Trail Lodge-Grayling Camp Enterprises Ltd.	0017
Echo Ranch Bible Camp	0137
End of Trail Adventures	0049
Fireweed Hikes & Bikes Adventure Tours	0107
Fishwheel Charter Services	0020
Gold Rush Float Tours	0138
Inconnu Lodge Limited	0086
James Henry River Journeys	0182
Jane & Trevor's Adventure Network	0035

Jordy McAuley Outfitting Ltd.	0056
Kean Expedition Rafting	0153
Klondike Canoeing Rentals	0164
Klondike Sun & Snow Recreation	0167
Kluane Adventures	0034
Kluane Ridin' Adventure Tours	0173
Log Cabin Adventures o/a Yukon Wide Adventures	0010
Lone Wolf Outfitting Ltd.	0039
Malamute Saloon Ltd. o/a High Country Inn o/a Yukon Adventures	0155
Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting	0053
Midnight Sun Outfitting Ltd.	0131
Minto Mountain Adventure Tours Ltd.	0178
Mount Joy Wilderness Adventures	0046
Nahanni River Adventures Ltd.	0060
National Outdoor Leadership School	0080
Nature Friends Outdoor Adventures	0163
Nature Tours of Yukon	0004
Nisutlin Outfitting	0022
Northern Wildlife Safaris – 34094 Yukon Inc.	0146
Northwind Outdoor Adventures	0170
Paddle/Wheel Adventures	0016
Pathways Canada Tour Co. Ltd.	0132
Pete Jensen Ltd.	0186
Porcupine Bed & Breakfast/ Porcupine Trucking	0140
Quark Expeditions Inc.	0077
Quill Creek's Adventure Wilderness Ltd.	0066
ReiseAgentur Brandner GBR	0032
Ronaghan's Yukon Guided & Fishing Adventure Trip	0177
Ruby Range Adventure Ltd	0029
Ruby Range Wilderness & Fishing Lodge	0171
Sea to Sky Expeditions	0014
Shadow Lake Expeditions	0143
Sierra Club Outings	0050
SIR North Country Holding Ltd.	0125
Spirit Lake Wilderness Resort	0159
Sweet River Enterprises	0044
Tatshenshini Expediting Ltd.	0062
The Bear's Den B&B and ATV Tours	0162
The Silver Spoke Adventures	0172
Tincup Wilderness Lodge	0036
Tintina Treks Wilderness Guiding	0098
Tlingit Tours	0181
Trails End Outfitting	0180
Two Fly Fishing Adventures	0007
Uncommon Journeys	0074
Up North Adventures Ltd.	0048
Walden's Guiding & Outfitting Ltd.	0002
Westmark Hotels of Canada Ltd.	0119

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2005 3:56 PM
To: selkirkrrc@yknet.ca
Subject: RE: Western Silver- Carmack Copper

Hi Dorothy,

The Carmacks Copper project is a proposed Copper Mine just outside of Carmacks (38km). The Project Description, Environmental Assessment report and any other information we have regarding this project can be found on our website at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html . Right now this project is going through a consultation period where we have asked stakeholders to comment on any concerns they may have regarding the project. The deadline for comments is September 13, 2005. The consultation package was sent to the Selkirk First Nation however it can also be found on our website. Give me a call if you need any further information.

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: selkirk Renewable Resources Council [mailto:selkirkrrc@yknet.ca]
Sent: August 30, 2005 2:44 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Subject: Western Silver- Carmack Copper

Hello Shane

Would it be possible for you to send more information about this Western Silver Project. Is this at Minto or somewhere else? What is happening here?

Dorothy Bradley
Executive Director
Selkirk Renewable Resources Council
Box 32
Pelly Crossing, Yukon
Y0B 1P0
selkirkrrc@yknet.ca

Note to File

Date: August 30, 2005

Subject: Yukon Government attempts to meet with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation regarding the Carmacks Copper Project.

Contact: Shane Andre, Project Manager, DAP Branch, ECO, 456-3803

The Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) have identified considerable concern regarding the Yukon Government's (YG) environmental assessment (EA) process for the Carmacks Copper project.

To date the Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch of the Executive Council Office has made the following attempts to meet with the LSCFN to discuss their concerns.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| July 21, 2005 | The DAP Branch met with the LSCFN in Whitehorse to discuss their concerns regarding the project agreement between YG and the Western Silver Corporation. |
| Sept. 8, 2005 | The DAP Branch attempted to meet with the LSCFN in Carmacks during a planned field trip to the site. The LSCFN representatives were not available to meet with YG staff at that time. |
| Sept. 14, 2005 | The DAP Branch agreed to participate in a proponent planned workshop with the LSCFN and speak to the EA process. This workshop was cancelled after the LSCFN stated that they would not attend as they were not prepared for a community based public consultation. |
| Sept. 15, 2005 | The DAP Branch agreed to attend a LSCFN planned meeting involving YG staff, LSCFN staff and chief and council, YESAA Board staff and the proponent. This proposal was subsequently rescinded by the LSCFN. |
| Sept. 19, 2005 | The DAP Branch proposes a bilateral meeting between the LSCFN and the DAP Branch Staff to discuss the LSCFN concerns and areas that YG can help the LSCFN participate in the EA process. The LSCFN representatives originally agreed to this meeting but cancelled the day of the meeting sighting an unforeseen scheduling conflict. |
| Sept. 22-30, 2005 | The DAP Branch, along with the project coordinator, have made numerous attempts to meet with the LSCFN to discuss their |

Note to File

concerns all of which have been unsuccessful. Via email, the LSCFN state that they will be putting together a comprehensive review of the process that will clearly articulate their concerns with the process and will provide a framework that will illustrate how they feel the project should move forward. Until this work is completed, they are not willing to meet with stakeholders to discuss the project. The First Nations predict that this work will take approximately 4 weeks to complete at which time the LSCFN will contact the appropriate individuals to arrange meetings.



- Access Mining Consultants Ltd.
- Access Field Services Ltd.
- Access Oil & Gas Services

3 Calcite Business Centre, 151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2V3
PHONE (867) 668-6463 FAX (867) 667-6680
www.accessconsulting.ca

MEMORANDUM

TO: William Dunn, Senior Minerals Development Advisor – Minerals Development Branch, Energy, Mines and Resources

CC: Jonathan Clegg, Project Manager – Western Silver Corporation
Brad Thrall – ALM Group

FROM: Dan Cornett, Principal – Access Consulting Group

RE: **Response to Comments on Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report**

DATE: September 1, 2005

Dear Mr. Dunn,

The following memorandum presents responses to your comments expressed in a meeting on August 8, 2005 with Access Consulting Group respecting the “Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report” (PD&EAR). Responses to the comments have been prepared by Access Consulting Group, Western Silver Corporation, and ALM Group.

Comment 1

Executive Summary, page v, last sentence of 2nd last paragraph: “Geochemical testing of the *waste ore* indicates that the material is non-acid generating.” Question: Is “waste ore” referring to “waste rock”?

Response 1

Yes – the reference should be waste rock. Access Consulting Group will prepare a short erratum for the project to provide notice of corrections to the PD&EAR.

Comment 2

Figure 2-2: Tatchun River is spelled wrong (Tatehun River).

Response 2

The correct spelling is Tatchun River and will be provided in the PD&EAR erratum.

Comment 3

Some references to permeability of the soil liner material state 10^{-8} m/s, while others state 10^{-6} cm/s.

Response 3

Noted. However, units are cm/s and m/s.

Comment 4

Page 3-27, Leakage Criteria. Question: In summary, what is this section trying to say? In the technical committee meeting, ACG indicated that the leakage criteria should be expressed in terms of area (m^3 /liner area) as opposed to volume/day. This is not clear in the report section.

Response 4

YG has provided guidance regarding design standards for liner design. These standards require a leak detection and recovery system (LDRS) with contingency plans. The EBA design (Appendix D of the PD&EAR) and summary on page 3-27 indicate that a LDRS is in place.

Comment 5

Page 3-36, last sentence. “The copper concentration of the rich electrolyte feeding the cells will be approximately 38 g/L and is reduced to approximately 35 g/L through electrowinning.” Comment: This reduction does not seem very efficient.

Response 5

The intent of this statement is to say that copper concentration will be reduced by approximately 35 g/L for an overall efficiency of 92% and a resulting effluent concentration of 3 g/L ($38 \text{ g/L} - 35 \text{ g/L}$).

Comment 6

Page 3-37, last paragraph. Question: What is the temperature of molten elemental sulphur being trucked from Fort Nelson?

Response 6

The temperature of molten sulfur in the truck is likely in the range of 250 – 275 degrees Fahrenheit.

Comment 7

Page 3-61, Table 3-6: Mining Manpower Complement. Comment: Table may need to be updated – concerns with having only 1 geologist/1 engineer etc. – what happens if staff gets sick?

Response 7

Mining manpower requirements will be reviewed and finalized at a later date.

Comment 8

Page 5-51, Environmental Effects Monitoring, second paragraph...”It is expected that existing baseline environmental data will be augmented with current data to confirm the understanding of environmental conditions in the area.” Question: Has current baseline data collection begun?

Response 8

Yes, water and sediment samples were collected as recently as August 11, 2005 during a site visit at selected monitoring stations. Further fieldwork is planned as project permitting proceeds.

Comment 9

Appendix C (Performance Standards and Design Criteria Parameters), page 16, Events Pond, Design Basis: “During subsequent years of operation, 48 hours of draindown at the full rate of solution application...” Comment: 48 hours does not seem like a lot of time; suggested that 21 days in year 2, followed by 18 days in year 3, and 14 days in year 4, etc. might be more reasonable.

Response 9

48 hours is a reasonable and conservative estimate for the anticipated response time to re-establish pumping. Since the system will have backup power and pumping capacity, loss of either of these systems can be re-established within 48 hours. More importantly, the full circulating flow rate in a draindown scenario does not remain steady state for 48 hours. Direct operating experience at another northern heap leach operation (i.e. Brewery Creek) has demonstrated that in a draindown event, only 25% of the initial heap flow rate is draining from the leach pad at 48 hours. In other words, if the full rate of solution application is 500 m³/hr, after 48 hours of draindown the actual flow rate draining from the heap would be on the order of 125 m³/hr. The duration of 48 hours at the full rate of solution application was proposed as means to accurately calculate the amount of pond capacity required without involving less certain parameters such as ore moisture levels. In actual fact, 48 hours of pond capacity at the full application rate would provide nearly 7 days of capacity.

Comment 10

Appendix C (Performance Standards and Design Criteria Parameters), page 16, Events Pond, Design Basis: “Detail of the leach pad water balance and the determination of design solution storage volumes will be presented in the Clearwater Consultants Ltd. Design Memorandum CCL-CC4. Question: Will this design memorandum be updated with current climate data?”

Response 10

Yes, at a later date as project permitting proceeds.

Comment 11

Appendix C (Performance Standards and Design Criteria Parameters), page 17, Leakage Criteria. Comment/Question: The leakage criteria is expressed in terms of L/day averaged over 12-month and 3-month periods. Should this be expressed in terms of area?

Response 11

No. The proposed criteria are as listed, but expected to be reviewing during final engineering design.

Comment 12

Appendix C (Performance Standards and Design Criteria Parameters), page 22, Heap Leach Facility: “Diversion channels will be designed to convey peak flows from a 100-year return period storm event of critical duration.” Question: Why design for the 100-year storm event? Why not 400-year storm event?

Response 12

Risks are negligible for the 100-year storm event for the heap diversion ditch.

Comment 13

Appendix D (EBA’s Heap Leach Pad Liner Design), page 18, Leach Pad Settlement: “The initial Knight-Piesold settlement estimates of up to 1.2 m under the heap leach pad have been reviewed and are considered reasonable at this time.” Question: Is this still considered reasonable? Has melting permafrost changed conditions?

Response 13

The estimate is *up to* 1.2 m, as noted in EBA’s design report, however this estimate is expected to be less as the heap leach pad has now been cleared for eight years and any permafrost is expected to be thawed.

Comment 14

Appendix F (Conceptual Closure and Reclamation Plan), Page 2-1, Closure Issues: “Based on recharge from precipitation alone, therefore, it is estimated that it will require over 300 years for the pit to fill.” Question: What studies have been done to support this statement?

Response 14

The following statement is from Knight Piesolds “Report on Detailed Design Criteria and Selected Design Parameters (Ref. No. 10178/6-1)”:

“Preliminary calculations estimate that it will take over 300 years to flood the open pit from direct precipitation alone and assuming no exfiltration to ground water. Based on additional understanding of the ground water regime, ground water contributions to mine water are expected to be negligible. Consequently it is unlikely that the open pit can be flooded.”

Comment 15

Appendix F (Conceptual Closure and Reclamation Plan), Page 3-4, last sentence: “Additional collection piping within the heap lifts should be considered.” Question: Is this necessary?

Response 15

Additional detoxification testwork is in progress to identify alternative rinsing processes and sources of alkalinity to reduce the potential for creating lower permeability zones. The use of additional collection piping within the heap is proposed for consideration as a contingency measure.

Comment 16

Appendix F (Conceptual Closure and Reclamation Plan), page 4-3, Remaining Issues and Investigations: “Remaining investigations for reclamation of the waste rock piles are: confirmation of drainage water chemistry for the waste rock.” Question: When will this confirmation of drainage water chemistry be conducted?

Response 16

It is anticipated that a waste rock management plan will be developed and submitted during the first year of operations. This plan would consist of both static and kinetic testwork as part of an ongoing management plan.

Comment 17

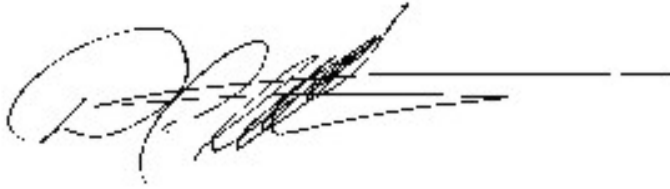
Appendix K (Summary of Potential Environmental Effects and Associated Mitigation Plan), page 38, Economic Impacts. Question: What are Project Components A and D?

Response 17

Each incidence of “A, D” under the heading “Project Component” should be replaced with “All”. This will be noted in the PD&EAR erratum.

Closure

We trust that the above responses adequately addresses the comments raised. Should you require further clarification please contact the undersigned at Tel: (867) 668-6463.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Cornett', is written over a solid horizontal line. Below the solid line, there are two dashed horizontal lines extending to the right.

Dan Cornett, B.Sc., P.Bio., CCEP
Principal, Access Consulting Group



September 13th, 2005

Shane Andre, A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch
Executive Council Office
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
BY EMAIL: shane.andre@gov.yk.ca

Re: Preliminary Comments on Comprehensive Study Public Consultation Document for the Western Silver Corporation Proposed Carmacks Copper Mine

Dear Shane,

The Yukon Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is concerned with the proposed project. Copper mining is known to cause irreversible ecological and environmental damage including: habitat destruction, fragmentation and alienation and water and air pollution. Since metal prices are highly cyclical significant negative community socio-economic impacts are experienced through all phases of both upswings and downswings of mining operations.

Project Economics Questionable

The potential success of the Carmacks Copper project is heavily reliant on highly favourable world prices for copper. Copper mining is highly competitive international industry. The Carmacks Copper project requires sustained copper prices above \$1.05 to be viable. By means of comparison, copper producers in Chile, a major copper producing nation, are able to produce copper in the \$0.50 to \$0.70 range.

The proponent acknowledges that the economics of the project are questionable in its Canadian securities disclosures. In its recent "Carmacks Property update" in "Management's Discussion and Analysis" accompanying "Western Silver Corporation Consolidated Financial Statements, June 30, 2005, (Unaudited)" Western Silver states the following:

The 100% owned Carmacks oxide copper project is located 192 kilometers north of Whitehorse in the Yukon, Canada. The deposit contains an open-pit mineable reserve of 15.5 million tonnes grading 1.01% copper. Basic engineering was completed on this project in 1997, suggesting an economic project above US\$1.05/lb. copper. *Other economic factors such as cost escalation over the past eight years and the current exchange rate will affect this figure. (emphasis added)*

Consequently, given the normal metals market cycle and the stated uncertainties associated with this project, before the socio-economic effects of this project are considered, it is imperative that a proper economic analysis be done of the project in order to determine its viability and whether or not the project can deliver on its promise.

Heap Leaching Technology Questionable

There is significant uncertainty regarding the technical viability of the proposed heap leaching operation. It is our understanding that the technology to be employed is as yet unproven at the scale and environment proposed in this project. Mining operations and the environment have suffered from the application of non-viable operational technologies. Consequently, the proponent needs to prove that technology it wishes to employ can reasonably be expected to perform to acceptable standards.

Reclamation Bonding Considerations

Western Silver does not have sufficient financial resources to carry out project as described

According to Western Silver Corporation's 40-F filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004, the company has acknowledged that it does not have the resources to carry out the proposed project:

- The Company does not have sufficient financial resources available to undertake development of the Company's projects. There can be no assurance that needed future financing will be available in a timely or economically advantageous manner, or at all. Failure to obtain sufficient financing may result in delaying or indefinite postponement of exploration, development or production on any or all of the Company's properties or even a loss of property interest, in which case, the Company's ability to operate would be adversely effected. Failure to obtain such additional financing could result in delay or postponement of future exploration or development of its properties.

The Company has no experience in placing properties into production

In the same filing referenced above, Western Silver Corporation acknowledges that it has no experience in carrying out the proposed project:

- The Company has no experience in placing properties into production.

Since the proponent does not have 1) sufficient funds to undertake the project; 2) a successful track record of developing a mine; 3) is relying heavily on favourable metal markets to undertake the proposed program, and; 4) is not using a well-proven technology, there is a high degree of uncertainty that the proponent can reclaim areas disturbed by its proposed and past activities.

In order to reduce the risk to the Yukon Government, the Yukon taxpayer, Yukon citizens and the proponent, it would be prudent and advisable for the Yukon Government to ensure that the proponent posts up front, a bond sufficient to cover the full cost of reclaiming lands affected by the activities it proposes to undertake and it has already undertaken.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours very truly,



Mac Hislop
Campaign Coordinator
CPAWS-Yukon

Nichole Speiss

From: Todd.Pinkess [Todd.Pinkess@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2005 10:33 AM
To: Shane.Andre
Cc: Violet.VanHees
Subject: Western Silver Co. - Carmacks Copper Mine Project

Hi Shane.

In furtherance of our conversation I offer a bit of public health insight into the above captioned project. It is likely that the applicant/proponent for this project is focusing on major environmental factors and less on things like camp sanitation and similar public health matters (as one of the requirements of YESAA includes a health and safety review). None the less, the paperwork, as it presently exists, is vague and lacking in the way of thorough documentation with regards to the following:

- source and provision of potable water (if a surface water source or shallow well then a treatment system is required),
- means of domestic waste water (black and grey water) disposal - acquisition of Permit To Install a Septic System,
- information on camp living quarters
- submission of proposal on food service supply including camp kitchen layout
- garbage disposal

Shane, I am wondering if the type of information we here at EHS are looking for could be forthcoming to applicants in their application submissions to your office?

We are always looking for housing, garbage, food, sewage and water info.

Thanks and I look forward to hearing back from you with regards to how we can improve the sharing of information.

Todd.

Todd Pinkess
Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Health Services
#2 Hospital Rd.
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 3H8
667-8387 ph.
667-8322 fax

Environmental Protection
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon,
Y1A 5B7

September 13, 2005

4484-37/W486

Shane Andre, DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, YTG
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Re: Western Silver – Carmacks Copper Project.

Thank you for providing information on the above project. We received a copy of the Carmacks Copper Project Agreement which constitutes the agreement between Yukon Government and Western Silver on how to conduct the assessment. We reviewed the proposal with the approved design standards in mind as set in Appendix A.

Spent Ore decommissioning

Our main concern with his project is the achievement of the Performance Objective on metal stability for the spent ore indicating the :No requirement for perpetual treatment (page 12 of the Agreement), and the ability to maintain the long term pH Standard as set in the Metal Mine Effluent Regulation at the last point of control.

While one can imagine a scenario whereby long-term stability is possible for this project – after some indeterminate period of time in which active closure measures are implemented – the proponent has not provided sufficient evidence within the present understanding that a long-term passive ‘walk-away’ solution is at hand. Indeed, in section 1.2 of Appendix F (Volume II) the proponent states that “...it is realized at this time that further testing and investigation would be required to demonstrate that ‘walk-away’ closure can be achieved...”, and “...there remain some questions about physical and chemical stability that require either more investigation or actual field data before detailed closure measures can be developed.”

The long-term chemical stability of the spent heap poses the most uncertainty for assessing the project for a ‘walk-away’ closure scenario in mind. Here again the proponent has suggested a number of possible directions and future investigations aimed at closing the current data gap and to gain some certainty in a final closure approach. While progress has been made (from earlier testing) to better understand heap neutralization and chemical stabilization: there needs to be additional investigations to build upon the present understanding and thus properly assess the likelihood for a long-term passive ‘walk-away’ closure scenario. Indeed the proponent suggests possible pathways and some of the investigations necessary to either accept or reject potential

components of a possible closure approach. Some of the uncertainties present with the current work, as reviewed, include:

- neutralization testing did not provide sufficient information to adequately understand what occurred within the spent heap material as sodium carbonate was added to that material. What the neutralization testing did provide was excess carbonate – well beyond what was required to simply neutralize the heap (eg. for column N1) – such that during the final rinse period (conducted also with the addition of sodium-carbonate solution) there was little or no opportunity to assess the geochemical stability of the amended heap materials (spent ore plus carbonate coatings and/or secondary minerals) under conditions reflective of meteoric water. Given that meteoric water could be expected to contain a different geochemical signature (ie. different buffering minerals and also weak acids) from that used in the rest and rinse (low-dose sodium carbonate) test: a clear understanding of the long-term stability of the heap under conditions expected from rainwater and near surface groundwater infiltration was not provided. Information which could have shed more light upon this could have included: mineralogic/XRD investigations of spent materials before and after neutralization; rest and rinse of heap with simulated meteoric waters; regular water quality testing of effluents; geochemical modeling and mass-balance calculations.
- Neutralization testing for column N1 resulted with the observation with the final rinses that despite influent pH of 7: there remained an effluent pH around 10.5 exiting the test column. What is suggested in this case is that there is long-term stability within the heap with an effluent pH around 10.5. Other interpretations are possible. The test program continued to add carbonate to a system which already had excess carbonate present through the intensive previous neutralization period. Under these conditions it is not unreasonable to expect buffering in the pH 10 range – there is excess carbonate available in addition to that already being provided to the rinse column. Unfortunately the test conditions for this column do not provide the reader with the proper insight regarding long-term implication once there is no longer intervention in terms of adding sodium carbonate to the neutralized materials. Certainly the less aggressively neutralized column N3 – although also rinsed with concurrent addition of sodium carbonate – suggests that acidity is present after rest and effluent waters may be adversely impacted as a result (with reversibility of the neutralization process suggested). Rinsing column N3 with water more reflective of that which may be expected to infiltrate the heap could have provided a better understanding of true long-term conditions. Irregardless: with each column there are elevated metals such as copper and other potential contaminants which report to effluent at the end-of-the day which must be accommodated.
- There is very little water quality data for effluent water quality during the neutralization period, and this information is generally absent for effluent taken during the rest and rinse period. This is an unfortunate limitation to the investigations which also results with limiting an understanding of what is occurring within the rinsed heap and thus reducing insight upon what the potential long-term implications may be. Mass-balance approaches to understanding fate and life-cycle of the various constituents is rendered impossible without this information, insight into the potential reversibility of mechanisms is not allowed, and a full accounting of drainage water quality is not presented.

- In general: missed opportunity to provide supportive information (water chemistry, mineralogy, etc.) combined with test regime choices (adjusted post-rest rinse waters, etcetera) makes it difficult to appreciate a full assessment for long-term stability of the heap materials. Additional investigation is necessary to demonstrate that these materials can be adequately neutralized and chemically stabilized such that a ‘walk-away’ condition can be realized. Further investigations are suggested by the proponent “...to define the specific rinsing and neutralization regime that will be used to decommission the spent heap...” as “...testing to date does not conclusively demonstrate that a ‘walk-away’ closure scenario can be achieved for the heap decommissioning” (vol. II, App. F, sec. 3.3). Alternately, other closure mitigation will be required to demonstrate long-term environmental stability for the heap / heap effluents.

Waste rock

There appears to be some uncertainty concerning water quality for seepage waters in contact with waste rock. In dealing with this uncertainty regarding potential for unacceptable metal contaminants, the proponent commits to collect and treat if necessary (section 3.6.3.4 Acid Base Accounting of Waste Rock and Ore). Additional effort is required to understand the potential for long-term release of metal contaminants from the waste rock dump, and its ability to meet the CCME guidelines for the protection of aquatic resources.

Open pit

It is suggested that water collecting in the open pit after closure will be benign due to excess pit water alkalinity; however the processes of release from the oxidized / secondary minerals in contact with rising pit waters may not bear this out. Release mechanisms and modeling for pit water quality at days end is required in order to assess the achievement of the Yukon Government Design standards on long term basis.

In closing: it is apparent from the current work presented that a positive determination for accepting long-term stability for the site is not possible. Thus, as the project presently stands: there is an unacceptable component of risk that a long-term passive ‘walk-away’ approach – one which does not envisage periodic attendance to the property in order to provide intervention and mitigation – can be considered realistic for the Carmacks Copper Project.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 667-3402.

Yours truly,
Benoit Godin, Head
Assessment and Contaminants

Comments and Clarifications on Carmacks Copper Project

Section 3.2.1 Open Pit

The document indicates that a significant portion of the subgrade material that must be removed from the pit will be sent to a low grade stockpile. Where is located the low grade stockpile on the maps provided in Appendix A or document? It also discusses that processing of that material will be dependent on economic conditions. What will be the provision for decommissioning for the low grade stockpile upon unfavourable decision?

Event Pond

Section 3.2.4

The Project Agreement indicates that the storage capacity is to contain: Normal operating levels, plus 10 year snowmelt plus 100 year 24 hours storm event plus sufficient drain down capacity. The agreement indicates that the proponent must substantiate their proposed draindown containment capacity based on sound reasoning and risk assessment utilizing accepted methodology.

The project is to provide drain down for normal operating solution volume, plus excess runoff from critical duration 100 year return event occurring at the most critical point in time plus an allowance for heap draindown: first year 100% drain down or subsequent years 48Hours drain down at full rate of solution and redundant pumping, power and spare parts.

We find that the company is deviating from the project agreement standard and is not substantiating those deviations in relation to the agreed standards.

Processing facilities

Section 3.2.5.3 Heap leaching

The primary design for leaching the ore is 120 days. The ore is leached in two cycles for a total of 240 days. The document indicates that in a 120 day cycle will result in 580,000 tonnes under active leaching. We are not sure how this number is derived. Since the ore placement is at an average rate of 7,228 tpd it is 120

Section 3.2.5.4 Solvent Extraction

What are the chemical in the pregnant solution, in addition to the kerosene? Is it alkyl-aryl-hydroxy oxine? The solid crude that results from the solvent extraction will be disposed in the heap. What is the chemical composition of the wasted organic chemical and chemical stability? What is the volume and rate of deposition?

Section 3.2.5.5 Electrowinning

?The extraction of copper is through a rich electrolyte solution of approximately 38 g/l and is reduced to 35g/l through electrowinning.

A lot of oxygen will be produced at the anode and be scrubbed. Various gases and acid mist will go through the scrubber system. Is there an air monitoring system for SO₂, Ph and other constituents?

How much water will be required to make-up for the electrolyte bleed?

Cobalt sulphate will be added to decrease the decomposition of lead anodes. There is 542 anode used in a year. How big are the anodes? What is the lead concentration of the electrolyte?

Section 3.3.4 Production mining

After year 8, any marginal, low grade material that has been stockpiled in the vicinity of the primary crusher will be crushed and leached. What will happen to the soluble metals in the 8 year interim?

Section 3.3.5 Decommissioning and reclamation

The company indicates that an evaporative soil cover will be placed over the re-sloped heap and the heap rinsed with water. The company needs to show the effectiveness of this approach.

The company indicated that feasibility was performed in 1997 for the mine no new feasibility has been since performed (to our knowledge). We are aware of the ups and downs of the industry and that the ability to operate for the full duration of the proposed plan is a risky business. There hasn't been any discussion on the financial instruments to make sure that there are adequate funds to cover liabilities. We find it a serious deficiency in both the project agreement and the government policy. Such policy would go a long way to ease the transition from proposal to operation.

Water Management

Section 3.5.1.1 General

The water management at the site is based on good input data and modeling. As we all well aware the input data used for the modelling are changing due to climate change. These considerations haven't been taken into consideration. We are in the process of modelling according to the Coupled Global Climate Model on regional basis the effect of such change on precipitation and temperatures and how these may change Probable Maximum Precipitation and Probable Maximum Flood in the Yukon. The report is imminent and will be made available.

Section 3.5.1.2 Heap leach pad

We could not find the original hydrology work from Clearwater consultants of March 12, 1998 and April 23 1998.

Sediment control pond

The document and the figure 1785.218 in appendix A differs in term of storage volume. The document indicated a dead storage of 10,000m³ while the figure indicated 2,000m³; the document indicates that a 1 in 10 year 24 hours storm event would be 10,000 m³ but the drawing indicates 14,000m³. The drawing indicates the spill way invert to contain a maximum of 16,000m³ and a crest at 22,000 m³. These values are in contrast to the document that indicates a volume of 65,000m³.

We find that the values indicated in the average condition for the water balance of the waste rock pile do not balance. We question the accuracy of the modeling and will need clarification.

Section 3.6.1.1 Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

The proposal indicates that the plant will be consistent with current regulations for effluent requirements. The adoption of Metal Mining Effluent Regulation is a National minimum standard. The company should not regard this as the optimum but looking at the best achievable technology.

Section 3.6.3.4 Acid Base Accounting of waste rock and ore

Data Analysis

The company indicates the spent ore are regarded as acid generating. We are glad to see the precautionary approach used here. We are not sure if the reason for acid generation classification is due only to the fact that the spent ore contains only residual sulphuric acid or because the metal sulphide are now in acidic condition (all carbonates been aggressively removed) leading the way to oxidation of the metal sulphide even though the amount are low.

Special Waste Extraction (SWEP) testing of ore and waste rock

Special waste Extraction procedures in 1994 used acetic acid as the extractant, which was originally developed for organic waste management. Revision of this procedure for mining consideration changed the extractant for hydrochloric acid 0.1 N as the extractant. We have some concerns that organic acid may not leach the metals as well as inorganic acid as the revised procedure, and therefore the results may not provide the appropriate advice.

Sequential extraction of waste rock

The company indicated that a sediment pond will be located downgradient of the waste rock pile. And will be monitored for metal content. The pond will have the ability to redirect the water for recycling for the mining operation as well as the ability to be treated using conventional lime treatment before release to the environment. Will this ability to monitor and treat be maintained during the decommissioning?

Rafinate Characterisation

See comment on SWEP test in section above. What are the values related to the decrease after the neutralisation process for nickel and selenium?

The result of the SWEP test indicate value of the leachate higher than the rafinate. Considering the presence and leaching capability what are the disposal option for the neutralise precipitates.

Section 5.2.1.3 Stream Sediment Quality

We notice that sediment monitoring stations on North William creek (W-3 and W-7) were not performed. We are concern that these stations have not been monitored since

they are located above and below the waste rock storage area on North William Creek. Collection of data need to be done for that area to determine impact from release of suspended solids and adsorbed metals.

Table 7-2

Summary of the assessment of potential environmental effects resulting from the proposed Carmacks Copper Project

We question the reversibility of the surface water quality from the heap leach pad. The description indicates high reversibility. We understand that reversibility is high only because of very aggressive intervention. During the post decommissioning, that reversibility may not be as high should some problem occur.

Section 7.3.3.2 Surface water quality

The company indicate that at decommissioning the copper value on William Creek (W10) near the Yukon River will go from a background of 2 µg/l to 5µg/l which is above the CCME water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life. What is the company proposing to do to protect the downstream resources? The same can be said for the zinc values.

Monitoring program

Section 8.2.4.1 Meteorological program and Hydrology

The company indicated that information will be collected in regard to precipitation and flows at the site. This information should be used to update the water balance model, and also be used, in conjunction with other regional data, to look at trend analysis in regard to climate change.

Nichole Speiss

From: Randy.Lamb [Randy.Lamb@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2005 5:19 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Subject: Review of the Carmacks Copper Project "Consultation Document" and "Integrated Environmental Assessment Report."

Shane, the Department of Environment has completed their adequacy review of the Carmacks Copper Project related documents provided and has the following comments to make.

Wildlife issues and Key Habitat:

Under section 5.2.2, wildlife parameters such as relative abundance and key habitat are discussed. As noted in Section 5.2.2.1, the wildlife inspections made in mid-August was not the best time to encounter wildlife, as reflected later where moose sign was stated to be relatively scarce. Section 5.2.2.4 notes the wildlife key area for moose, and shows it in figure 5-7, but in neither place does it mention that it is for late winter habitat. It would aid the review of this project if the surveys to date are checked for information on moose during that time of year as that is when it is of highest importance to the local moose populations. It is noted that the proposed new road will traverse this same key habitat and that mitigation will be required to minimize hunting pressures from that access route.

Under the related mitigation listed on page 7-31, the 6th point from the bottom states that the "Project avoids key habitat areas (raptors, moose) along Yukon River". The maps that I reviewed did show raptor polygons along the river, however no moose key habitat polygons were seen in that area except for near the project where they are bisected by the current and new proposed road. That statement should be reconfirmed, and corrected if necessary.

Access Road & Increased Hunting Pressure:

As described above, both the current exploration route and the proposed new access route between the mine site and the Freegold Road travel through approximately 7 kilometres of known late winter key habitat for moose. There are some concerns that increased hunting pressures on moose will occur with increased access to hunters. It is noted that this key habitat polygon is listed in the Project Description in figure 5-7, and some related mitigation is listed in Section 7.3.5 such as "no hunting on the project", and a "no-firearms policy", to address potential increases in hunting pressures from project staff. We would like to know if and how the impact of non-staff hunters is going to be addressed (i.e. restricted access or other mitigation measures?).

Financial Security:

Volume 1 of the Project Description document references the issue of Reclamation Security under Section 7.8, and states that the proponent intends to update and revise the security cost estimates.

On this same subject, the Department of Environment notes that the Water Board and possibly other regulatory authorities (such as the Chief under the Quartz Mining Act) set the amount of security that shall be provided by the proponent. In setting this amount it is suggested that these regulatory authorities consider the following:

- Adequate financial security must be provided by Western Silver Company for the Carmacks Copper Mine project to cover the costs of reclamation, including shutdown, closure and post-closure, related environmental monitoring, and reasonable contingent liability.
- Estimates of reclamation costs, for the purposes of financial security, should be based on the cost of having the necessary reclamation work done by a third party contractor. The estimates should also include contingency factors appropriate to the particular work to be undertaken.
- The security should be in place immediately following issuance of the water license. Security should be a term and condition of the water license.
- The amount of security should be reviewed periodically to ensure current outstanding liabilities are equal to the security held (the draft policy document mentions a review every 24 months or sooner; I suggest we leave this statement open for now.
- Government agencies should make reasonable efforts to ensure coordinated regulatory determinations in the weighing of factors, types, amounts and scheduling of security.

Hydrology Comments:

The following comments were received from J.R. Janowicz regarding his review of the hydrological components of the report.

3.5 Water Management

3.5.1.2 Heap Leach Pad

The water balance for the proposed heap leach facility was developed in 1998 and is summarized in Clearwater Consultants Ltd. (1998). The water balance was developed using a spreadsheet analysis using Microsoft Excel, with one month time steps over the eight year projected life of the project, plus five years to allow residual leaching and heap rinsing. The model includes user defined inputs of precipitation, rainfall, snowfall and evaporation for the leaching process. The input data was estimated using regional relationships to adjust Carmacks and Pelly Ranch measured data. It was necessary to estimate the data since the site meteorological station was recently established and had only limited data. Numerous discussions regarding the merits of various data estimation techniques took place in 1998, and independent estimates of the various input parameters suggested the proponent's values may be low. Upward adjustments were made; however, there is still some question regarding the conservatism of the data. The proponent's values are based on mean values of a regional relationship. At that time it was suggested that, because of the nature of the project, it would be prudent to use somewhat more conservative values provided by an upper confidence limit or envelope curve.

Approximately 10 years of data are now available for the site meteorological station and adjacent snow course. Though there is some missing data, it would be valuable to utilize site records to reassess the input parameters and thereby eliminate the uncertainty associated with transferring data from other locations.

3.5.1.3 Waste Rock Storage Area - Surface Drainage and Collection Ditches

Preliminary sizing of these ditches are based on conveying a 1:200 year 24 hour storm event. The design flows are estimated to be 1.25 m³/s for the outlet channel and 0.65 m³/s for the perimeter collection ditch. I am unable to find any information on these events. What is the estimation basis for both the design storm and runoff event?

Sediment Control Pond

Reference for the design features of the sediment control pond is made to drawing 1785.218 of Appendix A. There is a discrepancy between information provided in the main report and drawing 1785.218. Specifically the main report cites a value of 10,000m³ for the 1:10 year storm event, while a value of 14,000 m³ is provided in the drawing. Similarly the main report cites a value of 10,000 m³ for dead storage, while a value of 2000 m³ is provided in the drawing. This discrepancy should be addressed. In addition details of the calculation for the design storm event and surface runoff storage should be provided.

Water Balance

A water balance model was developed by Knight Piesold (1997) to estimate monthly inflows to the sediment control pond. Differing meteorological base conditions were used for the waste rock storage area and the sediment control pond, as compared to the heap leach pad. The data estimates developed by Clearwater Consultants for the heap leach pad are generally more conservative than similar estimates developed by Knight Piesold and used for the sediment control pond. The precipitation regime estimates used to develop waste rock storage and sediment control pond water balance should be reassessed.

References

Clearwater Consultants Ltd. 1998. Carmacks Copper Project – heap leach facility water balance design memorandum CCL-CC4.

Knight Piesold Ltd. 1997. Western Copper Holdings Limited – Carmacks Copper Project – Report on detailed design of waste rock storage area, Ref No 1785/2.

Western Silver Corporation – Project description and environmental assessment report – Carmacks Copper Project – Yukon Territory – Volume 1 – Main Report; Volume 2 – Appendices.

Water Quality Issues:

As mentioned previously, our Water Resources Section had contracted the services of Mr. Gerry Whitley to review this material and identify the water quality issues associated with the Carmacks Copper project for the purpose of an environmental review. The September 18, 2005 Memo to Bob Truelson is attached to this email, and includes comments, discussion and conclusions on:

- Water Quality,
- Solution Storage and Sizing of Events ponds
- Hydrology and Stream flow Assessment
- Groundwater Quality
- Water Quality Monitoring

I hope that these comments prove to be useful in this review of the reports. I also wanted to point out that overall, the project description acknowledges and mentions various permit requirements with respect to our Environment Act Regulations and the proponent appears aware of the general requirements related to our departmental programs (i.e. Fuel storage, Air Emissions permit, etc).

If there are any questions, or clarification required on the above comments, I can be reached at 667-5409.

Randy Lamb
Manager, Environmental Affairs Section
Department of Environment (V-8)
Yukon Government
667-5409

Nichole Speiss

From: Randy.Lamb [Randy.Lamb@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2005 9:13 AM
To: Shane.Andre
Subject: RE: Review of the Carmacks Copper Project "Consultation Document" and "Integrated Environmental Assessment Report."

Yes those were Whitley's comments attached. I was having some trouble pasting his file between emails yesterday, and have now noticed that it ended up in some odd format, sorry about that. Here is the text pasted below. Randy

18 September 2005

Memo to: Bob Truelson

From: Gerry Whitley

Carmacks Copper Project

I was asked to identify the water quality issues associated with the Carmacks Copper project for the purpose of an environmental review. A more detailed review of water quality issues would be required after an application for a Water licence. I have read the relevant sections of the Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report, Volume 1 and Volume 2 that you provided (References are to this report).

The Comprehensive Study Public Consultation Document and the Issues Report (DIAND 1999) that you provided was used to identify issues that arose during the environmental assessment of this project. The Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report document does not reference the DIAND review.

The project description states that Western Copper and Yukon Government officials discussed this project in August 2004 and came to a mutual understanding on design standards subsequent to the devolution of DIAND programs to Yukon (Section 6.2.1). The Yukon Government Performance Standards for the Carmacks Copper Project (presented in Appendix A) were used to review the project. The Yukon Government Performance Standards are not referenced in the relevant sections of the Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report.

Water Quality Review of the Western Silver Corporation Carmacks Copper Project

Issue 1: Solution Storage and Sizing of Events ponds

The project description outlines the operation of the events ponds in the following text.

Section 3.2.4 Events Pond

Normally, solution will flow directly from the heap to the plant. When there is a high rainfall or precipitation event or when the plant cannot accept solution, the flow can be directed from the heap to the events pond. The events pond will have a capacity of approximately 160,000 m³ to store the following combinations of events.

- *The operating solution volume, plus*
- *Excess runoff inflows from the critical duration 100-yr return period event occurring at the most critical point in time, plus,*
- *An allowance for heap draindown as follows:*
 - *During the first year of operation, 100% of the potential heap draindown volume, or*
 - *During subsequent years of operation, 48 hours of draindown at the full rate of solution application. For a solution*

12/7/2005

- application rate of 540 m³/hr this volume is 26 000 m³; and
- Redundant systems (i.e. pumps, power, spare parts).

The DIAND Issues Report in Section 12.5 Heap Leach Pad and Water Management stated that “No rationale or analysis of the environmental and technical factors which support the adequacy of the current proposal was provided.” DIAND determined that “The inability to provide 100% solution storage and lack of rationale means that the risk of a loss of process solution to the environment from an operational upset either cannot be evaluated with certainty, or could be conservatively assumed to be high.” DIAND preferred that Western Copper provide 100% solution storage including extreme hydrological events or show that the risk from not having 100% draindown was equivalent to having 100% draindown in place.

The Yukon Government set the performance standard to prevent discharge of noncompliant waters as “Provide storage capacity to contain normal operating levels + 10 year snow melt + 100 year 24hr storm event + sufficient draindown capacity. (Proponent must substantiate their proposed draindown containment based on sound reasoning and a risk assessment utilizing accepted methodology)” (Appendix C-Appendix A).

Appendix K-Summary of Potential Environmental Effects and Associated Mitigation Plan in Volume 2 of the Project Description states “Risk characterization low to moderate with low to moderate hazard assessment; low exposure assessment; and low to moderate consequence assessment. Ecological sensitivity considered moderate. Headwaters streams drain to important rivers downstream. Effects to aquatic resources are not considered significant with implementation of identified mitigation measures. Mitigation measure designed to protect local watercourses.”

Discussion

The proponent has not addressed the findings of the DIAND Issues Report nor provided the rationale required by the Yukon Government for the Events Pond design standard. The low to moderate consequence assessment of the loss of copper sulfate solution to Williams Creek seems inappropriate, as a spill of even moderate size would eliminate fish from Williams Creek. A large spill could effect the aquatic resources of the adjacent Yukon River. A more detailed discussion of the risk assessment should be provided for review. Water Resources should consider that any loss of copper sulphate solution to Williams Creek could have serious consequences for water quality and downstream aquatic resources.

Issue 2: Hydrology and Streamflow Assessment

The DIAND Issues Report noted that “The methodology used to estimate Williams Creek flows based on regional data has not been described” The Issues report also notes that the mean annual flow of Williams Creek is variously 0.6 and 0.3 m³/s”. DIAND recommended that the proponent describe the methodology and determine the mean annual flow of Williams Creek.

Discussion

The estimated flows are essential to the modeling of water quality and predicting downstream impacts.

Issue 3: Groundwater Quality

Section 5.1.3.3 Hydrogeology presents the information on piezometers. The data for DH96-14 and 15 provided in ‘Table 5-10 Summary of Stand Pipe Piezometers at the Process Plant Site’ gives water levels but footnote 2 states that “No ground water was intersected. The water level measurements were monitoring drilling induced water.”

The DIAND Issues Report was critical of the ground water quality work and recommended that the groundwater sampling methodology including field quality assurance/quality control be provided and be consistent with generally accepted sampling practices. “All groundwater quality data should be reviewed to ensure that it is appropriate and valid data presented.”

Discussion

Baseline ground water quality documents the pre-operation site conditions. Water Resources should consider it essential that the data be collected and documented using standard methods so that the data can be analyzed.

Water Quality Monitoring

Water Quality Data is presented for W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4, W-5, W-6, W-7, W-9 and W-10 (Appendix H). However the data is sparse with 6 to 9 samples representing 11 years from 1989 to 1999. Flow data is not presented with the chemistry data although it is referenced to the IEE Addendum June 1995 and Baseline Data Compilation Report by Access Consulting Group 1997 which was not available to me. The chemistry results are discussed in 5.1.3.2 'Surface Water Quality' pages 5-13 to 23.

Section 8.2.4.3 Surface and Ground Water Quality Monitoring (pages 8-8 and 9) lists the receiving and effluent water stations. Receiving stations are Williams Creek above operations W-7, North Williams Creek W-9, Williams Creek below operations W-2, North Williams Creek below operations W-3, Williams Creek outflow from water storage reservoir W-4, Williams Creek below Nancy Lee W-10 and Yukon River above and below Williams Creek. It is not clear which station will be the receiving water station that is to meet CCME guidelines. That station should be as far down Williams Creek as possible but above Reach 1, which provides fish habitat. (Reach descriptions are provided in Figure 5-5 page 5-30). There is no data presented for W-13 Williams Creek above Nancy-Lee Creek however it is listed for water quality and benthic data collection during mine operation.

Some samples collected at station W-10, Williams Creek above Yukon River, did not meet CCME guidelines for arsenic, chromium, copper, iron and zinc. Many of the upstream stations failed to meet CCME guidelines during at least one of the collections. It is not clear how the project will meet CCME guidelines in downstream receiving waters during operation when the guidelines were exceeded in the period 1989-1992.

Discussion

The Yukon Government Guideline/Standard (Appendix C-Appendix A) for the project is to meet CCME guidelines in fish bearing waters. This implies that the CCME receiving water station should be either W13 Williams Creek above Nancy Lee or W10 Williams Creek above Yukon River. Since some W10 samples were above CCME guidelines for copper and other parameters associated with the ore deposit it is likely that W13 is also sometimes above CCME (no data were presented). The proponent does not appear to have selected the final receiving water station. The Yukon River below Williams Creek would not be appropriate, as the river is far too large to demonstrate compliance. Williams Creek below operations W2 is too close to the mining activity and that reach of the stream is not fish bearing. Selection should be based on fish presence and access as well as providing protection to the aquatic resources.

The project will not meet the Yukon Government performance standard for receiving waters according to the data presented in the project description. The CCME guidelines are derived by taking the species most sensitive to the parameter and applying a safety factor (usually 0.1 or 0.2). The data presented shows that the lower reach (reach I) provides fish habitat which is already marginal due to high metal concentrations. Effluent standards based on MMER may not be suitable to protect the aquatic resources in the lower reach of Williams Creek. A water quality model would be required to calculate maximum effluent concentrations and flows to protect Williams Creek.

Conclusion

The proponent has not addressed the issues raised in the DIAND environmental review of this project and summarized in the DIAND Issues Report. The proponent has not met the Yukon Government Guideline presented in Appendix C in respect to the events pond and receiving waters.

The proponent has not demonstrated that the aquatic resources of Williams Creek would be sustainable during the development, operation and closure of the Carmacks Copper project.

-----Original Message-----

From: Shane.Andre

Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2005 7:22 AM

To: Randy.Lamb

Subject: RE: Review of the Carmacks Copper Project "Consultation Document" and "Integrated Environmental Assessment Report."

Thanks for this Randy. I know how busy Environment is these days and I appreciate all your hard work on these comments.

I couldn't open the attachment you sent but I'm assuming it's just Mr. Whitley's comments which I already have, if not let me know.

Cheers,

Shane Andre

A/DAP Manager

DAP Branch (A-310)

Executive Council Office, Yukon Government

Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 456-3803

Fax: (867) 667-3216

Shane Andre,
Project Officer
Development Assessment Process Branch
By email September 20, 2005

I talked to Bob Truelson today about the Water Resources submission on the Western Silver Carmacks Copper Project that you received Monday morning. We had not discussed the heap detoxification as a water quality issue. I am preparing this note from memory without accesses to the documents so please excuse the incomplete references.

This is an aspect of the project that is an indirect water quality issue as the length of time during which the heap is detoxified is mitigated by operation of the wastewater treatment plant. The Yukon Government Standard presented in the proponent's report is 'no perpetual treatment' (Appendix C). The DIAND Issue Report considered required further that the proponent complete further studies on this matter. The Western Silver document does not address the DIAND issues. However a report by Beatty (?) in the Appendix may be dated after the DIAND Issues Report and may present new information. It is unfortunate that the proponent has chosen not to discuss the issue in detail.

The heap detoxification issue is important because operation of the wastewater treatment plant is a significant closure cost. It also represents a significant cost for security deposit calculations.

I would recommend that a professional expert in this field be asked to review the heap chemistry and detoxification proposal to ensure that the appropriate standards will be met and the value of the security deposit can be calculated.

Gerry Whitley
668-2903

email copy to Bob Truelson

September 19, 2005

Shane Andre
Development Assessment Process
Box 2703
Whitehorse YT Y1A 2C6
Via e-mail

Re: YCS Comments on the *Comprehensive Study Document (CSD) for the Carmacks Copper Mine*

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above document.

Future development of this deposit could have long-lasting effects on the environment in the Carmacks area, therefore adequate and up to date information is required to minimize risk. The company should take on a leadership role. They are ultimately responsible and accountable to the public for any impacts to the environment and communities that they allow to occur.

Environmental concerns in mining are primarily related to the mechanical damage of the landscape and the potential for acid mine drainage. These can cause impacts on wildlife, traditional ways of life and human health. In the past there has been a net loss in the total value of natural resources in mining areas due to the disturbance caused by mining exploration and development. Valuable aquatic resources downstream of the mine include overall water quality, the benthic and pelagic communities associated with each water body, as well as the fish populations in the immediate vicinity and downstream of the mine site. The economic and cultural needs of nearly all Yukoners depend upon the health of our watersheds. We believe that the need for an independent assessment of the mine's impacts is great enough to require a panel review

Important concerns regarding the proposed project include:

1) There have been numerous technological advances and modifications to sampling techniques and instruments since the majority of data was collected (1989-1999). Decision making simply cannot be based on this outdated data, therefore we recommend that the company perform more detailed studies in areas suggested in the following pages.

2) The presence of iron sulphides such as pyrite and calcopyrite, which are acid generating when oxidized is of concern. With the presence of potential problematic

contaminants within the ore samples including trace metals that come from sulphide minerals, mitigation measures to treat acid rock drainage (ARD) are necessary. Continual testing should include a humidity cell test.

3) Mining consumes great amounts of water at all stages of production. The amount of water available within the aquifer is a concern. It is important not to threaten the ability of the local drainage to support life, by removing more water than it can sustain.

4) Providing the community with unrealistic expectations of the economic benefits the mine will bring is unacceptable. Realistic discussions with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and the Carmacks community need to be conducted to ensure that the local community benefits if this project goes ahead.

5) The draft closure plan that is included in this document is not ready for comment, since it may change depending on the results of the environmental assessment. A full environmental review of the closure plan, and a commitment to posting a bond for the closure are essential before approval of this plan can be considered.

Please find below The Yukon Conservation Society's detailed comments on the Comprehensive Study Document (CSD) regarding the Carmacks Copper Mine. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tracy Boyes
YCS Watershed health Coordinator

Section 1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The project description states that the mining of copper is feasible if prices are U.S.\$1.10/lb. How have these numbers been determined? Was the cost of oil, diesel, shipping and fuel costs incorporated? With recent fuel cost increases it is possible that the copper price necessary for feasibility of operation is higher than projected in June when the description was produced.

Will the increase of operation costs determine the sequences of mining high or low grade ore? The majority of the ore is low grade ore. The price of inputs has gone up and although prices of copper are high it may not be feasible to mine.

The company wants to take advantage of favorable economic conditions and believes that their shareholders, local First Nations and communities and the Yukon Territory will benefit from the projects development. More detail specifying how these stakeholders will benefit should be addressed. With the present lack of information it is hard to agree with this statement.

Section 3.1.3.3 MINERALIZATION

Although the upper 250m of the No.1 zone has been classified as being oxidized any additional depth gained during operation may cause oxidization and redox issues that have not been addressed. More technical research is required to determine the mitigation measures necessary to deal with the possibility of generating acid rock.

Pyrite, calcopyrite, and molybdenite are primary minerals within Zone 1 which when oxidized is a major contributor to acid rock drainage (ARD). ARD has major adverse implications to the environment that haven't been addressed within this document.

Section 3.2.2 WASTE ROCK

The "Waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report" was prepared in June 1997. There have been numerous technological advances since that time which should be taken into consideration. Throughout the past 8 years there have been numerous mining operations that could be used as a template when designing a more advanced review.

The waste dump should have a compacted till layer underneath it so water can be collected and it can't penetrate the ground water; keeping the sites high and dry would be the best scenario.

Separation of the waste rock should be considered. There should be detailed records as to rock type and distribution of the rock so that if problems arise with waste rock all areas can be addressed. Maintaining a detailed description of rock type and storage can benefit future site use.

What maintenance is planned for the collection system? Ice and snow removal is necessary prior to runoff so ditches perform to the design capacity. Even if they were designed to handle a 1 in 200 year 24 hour storm event, without ice and snow removal to prevent build up, the design capacity may not even be able handle a 1in10 year event (Price, 2005).

It is important to design the ditches and spillway using the correct storm event. Storm events can vary from rain events, snow events, to rain on snow events. Each event will provide a different result; which event was used in this case? A rain on snow event should also be considered, as covering all areas is best when dealing with water contamination. Hydrological data shown in Table 5.1 suggest that there is a possibility to have a rain on snow event. At the Equity Silver Mine in May 1997, large snow pack and high temperatures caused a 1:30 year flood. Pumps could not keep up with input and had to release poor quality water into the environment (Price 2005).

Section 3.2.3 HEAP LEACH OPERATION

All solutions from the heap leach pad will be collected and conveyed to the events pond. What is the likelihood that within that solution there will be other minerals? Is it not possible that these minerals in the events pond can create a variety of environmental concerns?

Section 3.2.3.4 LINER SYSTEM

Most often the weak plane leading to potential stability concerns is the underlying soil/clay. What mitigation measures have been designed to address stability concerns?

Liners are prone to leaking, it is only a matter of time, therefore it is essential for the company to build redundant multiple liner systems to provide a back-up protective shield to prevent leaching contaminants from migrating into the environment. (Da Rosa, 1997, Pg 100)

Section 3.2.4 EVENTS POND

Recycling of the liquids from the tailings pond through the mill is a concern. These liquids contain some reagents and it is difficult to monitor reagent concentration in the milling process.

What steps are being taken to remove toxic substances in the tailings stream prior to storage in the impoundment?

Natural water flow and pond location – how does the company propose to prevent contact of surface water with mining?

Section 3.2.5.3 HEAP LEACHING

The company plans to use sulphuric acid as the leaching reagent. Why has sulphuric acid been chosen? Is there a less toxic method of extraction? Why have they chosen this method?

Section 3.2.5.6 SULPHURIC ACID PLANT

Trucking one load per day of molten elemental sulphur from Fort Nelson raises concern regarding road maintenance. A study to determine the accident rate from Fort Nelson to Carmacks would be beneficial. It would provide information on the occurrence of spills that the Yukon Territory may be looking at.

What mitigation measures are in place regarding spillage?

Regarding the burning of molten sulfur to make sulphuric acid:
It is unacceptable that no emission limits are provided. If there are no territorial standards, federal standards or standards from other jurisdictions must be researched, justified and proposed. What are the expected emission rates for the type of plant that they will be using?

What control and monitor systems will be in place to ensure that emission standards will be met?

Who will be doing the monitoring i.e. Will there be third person monitoring and inspections? There need to be.

Section 4.0 ALTERNATIVE MEANS AND ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROJECT

This section covers other process options for producing elemental sulphur. How is it that the company has made a decision regarding the burning of molten sulphur when tests are still being analyzed regarding alternative means? Having the ability to compare these results would be beneficial for the decision making process.

Section 3.2.5.7 REAGENTS AND MATERIALS

What happens if lime is needed to neutralize ARD? Is a 75 tonne silo going to be very practical? Equity Silver Mine used 3000 tonnes at its lowest peak in 1985 (Price 2005).

Section 3.2.6 HAUL ROADS

Road design: what will the roads be made of? If the roads are made with waste rock material trucks traveling on the roads will fracture the rock, exposing minerals. It is imperative that the company be certain that the rock is nonacid generating before using waste rock for structures. The information regarding the granular surfacing material from the Burrow Pit must be valid. Duplicate results should be presented. If the rock is potentially acid generating (PAG) material and is used as surfacing material for roads, the impact from the trucks it will cause the minerals to fracture, releasing NP from stones.

The company proposes that culverts are designed for a 25-year return period event. In order to prevent severe damage considering the extreme 100-year return event is a more responsible role to take not only at critical road sections but all road sections.

Section 3.2.7.2 ACCESS

The company expects the YG to completely upgrade the two bridges and a portion of Freegold road that connects to the project site access road upon production decision.

This access will almost certainly lead to increased hunting, which will impact wildlife populations and therefore affect hunting and trapping in the area.

Culvert maintenance

The document states that maintenance personnel will be trained to identify environmentally sensitive situations. What does the company consider environmentally sensitive, by whom will they be trained? It is important that the company be aware that they are ultimately responsible and accountable to the public for any pollution problems that they allow to occur.

A checklist is a good initiative but proper training is required to prevent degradation of the riparian zone and fish habitat downstream of the culverts.

Bridges and Maintenance

Annual inspections after peak flows must not be limited to spring freshet.

YCS highly recommends that an environmental consultant specializing in bridge construction be consulted during the development of the Merrice Creek Bridge. DFO should also be consulted during the development of the bridge to prevent adverse effects of fish and fish habitat.

Section 3.4 MINE STAFFING

The community of Carmacks has very limited prior experience with mining industry jobs. The descriptions for mining staff are job specific and experienced based. How does Western Silver plan to incorporate the community of Carmacks?

3.5.1.1 SITE DRAINAGE AND DIVERSION

Williams Creek is a tributary to the Yukon River. Potentially contaminated runoff from the mine and processing facilities is proposed to be collected and directed to settlement ponds adjacent to Williams Creek. This raises concerns as there is a possibility for water contamination as the mine is only 9km from the Yukon River, which is the home of commercially viable salmon stocks also used for subsistence fishing. Any problems, spills etc. will contaminate the Yukon River, home to Pacific Salmon.

Presence of juvenile Chinook salmon and/or arctic grayling in the tributaries presents concerns regarding the Yukon River Salmon Treaty, which states that:

“Recognizing that protection and restoration of salmon habitat and maintenance of adequate water quality and quantity are vital to achieving improved spawning success, safe passage of adult and juvenile salmon, and, therefore, optimum production of important naturally spawning stocks”

Even temporary contamination of surface water and or of the groundwater can be detrimental therefore more detailed work needs to be done to protect salmon populations in the Yukon River.

Fish populations and habitat could be adversely affected not only by the water quality but by the quantity. Erosion related to the new road, could be an issue. Development of ditches and culverts should consider the high waters. Proper construction is necessary to reduce the likelihood that drainages or culverts will become blocked. Flooding and/or blockage will increase sedimentation in the water which has adverse effects on fish and aquatic species. Because the suspended solids values were low (pg 5-17) during all sampling and a high measure was attributed to temporary site disturbance it is imperative that extreme care is taken to ensure that the total suspended solids **don't** increase with development.

Section 3.5.1.3 WASTE ROCK STORAGE

Sediment Control Pond

Why was a 1 in 10 year, 24 hour storm event used? It seems more prudent to use a 1 in 100 year, 24 hour storm event. It is important to design the sediment control pond using the correct storm event. Storm events can vary from rain events, snow events, to rain on snow events. Each event will provide a different result, which event was used in this case? A rain on snow event should also be considered, as covering all possibilities is essential when dealing with potential water contamination. Hydrological data shown in Table 5.1 suggest that there is a possibility to have a rain on snow event.

Sediment Control Ponds are located at the lowest point of the area; will the water in the ponds be below the natural water table?

Physical stability – Have the ground conditions under the waste rock dump been considered?

What are the plans for the low grade ore in case it is not processed?

Section 3.5.2.2 WATER SOURCES

Water Wells

Water use from the wells as well as mining activities can waste vast quantities of surface and groundwater, making it unavailable for other uses. What is the state of the aquifers, how much water is there under LSCFN traditional territory?

Water supply plans

Do they have the capacity to store all the water from rainfall as well as production? The issue of which storm event was used is a factor at this stage as well.

Water treatment Facility

Table 7-12 states the likelihood of occurrence that the equipment will fail, discharging contaminants into the water, is rated moderate. Metals from the acid heap will permanently destroy vegetation, soil and the water quality. Mitigation measures are unsatisfactory. This mine must not be allowed to go ahead unless the company can prove that the likelihood of contamination is non-existent.

Section 3.6.3.3 MULTIELEMENTAL SCAN OF WASTE ROCK

Unit of measure is not consistent (% to ppm) and causes confusion. The waste rock may not have ARD, but there will be a discharge of arsenic, cadmium and copper into the settling pond. These minerals have lasting, detrimental effects to the environment, fish and fish habitat. Considerable thought must be taken when determining the water balance, and in construction of both the settling pond and the catchment areas down stream. The current document does not provide a satisfactory plan to ensure that toxins will be safely contained.

Section 3.6.3.4 ACID BASE ACCOUNTING AND WASTE ROCK ORE

If residues of sulphuric acid are contained within the ore after being stripped of their sulphides and are “obviously non-acid generating” then why are they regarded as potentially acid generating? Having the potential of acid rock generation is enough for mitigation measures to be developed. This should include more data collection with monitoring occurring before, during and after mining production.

Although the ore is characterized as “oxidized”, leaching will last well after sulphide minerals are oxidized. It is therefore important to store waste rock high and dry and not to use it for structures such as dams or roads since spent ore samples (leach tailings) are regarded as potentially acid generating.

Presence of coal, mudstone, and peat or plant material indicating the presence of organic sulphur was not discussed. The company needs to provide information about this.

It is recommended that field test pads be designed. They are useful to check on the influence of site conditions on material weathering.

Kinetic Test Program

Absence of ARD does not prove that it will not occur in the future. Depletion of NP may take 10s to 100s of years. Until a ratio of NP and ABA is done there is still a

probability of potential acid generating (PAG). A humidity cell coupled with ABA results provides a **rough** estimate. The statement regarding the uselessness of data produced by a humidity cell is false. All data is relevant since it provides data on the rates of metal leaching, acid generation and acid neutralization. These rates provide important information needed to predict drainage chemistry. Both waste rock and tailings can be sampled. Having this information is very valid and important since there are examples of mines that have suggested, as does Western Silver, that they will not be acid generating, to only find out later that there is acid being generated. If this company is acting in good faith they will want to have humidity cell tests to insure that acid generation is not occurring on their site. As stated in the document there is a potential to generate acid since both pyrite and calcopyrite are present in the ore body. Particularly because of uncertainty and associated risks, some mines have continued kinetic tests for up to five years.

There are many examples of mines that have had kinetic tests resulting in a non-ARD but then there was ARD. (e.g. Ekati Diamond Mine, Yellowknife, Sturgen Lake, Ontario) How does the company plan to mitigate for potentially acid generating rock?. It is important to set up field test pads ASAP and check field weathering in materials at site.

Sequential Extraction of Waste Rock

Results presented in Appendix G, Table 5-7 provide numbers that have been generalized as less than the accepted output. This is unacceptable, accurate numbers are required and should be presented that way to maintain water quality and accurate records. Having reference numbers allows for comparisons to be made.

Section 5.1.2.3 PERMAFROST

The information provided regarding permafrost is inadequate. What does a permafrost classification of “warm” mean? There are a multitude of issues concerning permafrost. In order to understand the site specific issues of Carmacks copper more detailed information is required including definitions of permafrost classifications.

Section 5.2.3.1 SURFACE HYDROLOGY

The “Baseline Data Compilation Report” prepared in 1997 should be in addition to recent data collection. The most recent site hydrology data used for project design purposes are those collected in 1998. In order to provide an accurate representation of hydrological data current data is necessary.

Section 5.1.3.2 SURFACE WATER QUALITY

Although water quality data for the 11 sampling stations have been monitored through 1989-1999, there is a discrepancy as to the sampling regime. Because the operation is located 50m from watercourses that drain to important rivers downstream a more stringent water quality testing regime must be in place during the mine operation. What does the mining company purpose in terms of a water quality sampling regime? The analysis of baseline data must take into consideration the temporal and spatial sampling techniques used. Misrepresentation of the data may occur without this information.

Water flow changes annually, and with it nutrient load, sediment load and temperatures change, therefore it is important to maintain valid /relevant data in order to effectively monitor water quality. Maintaining the data allows for comparisons regarding parameters exceeding CCME guidelines for Freshwater Aquatic Life before and after mine activity. In addition post mining water quality monitoring to ensure that AMD does not develop over time is also relevant.

Discharge rates can be developed with more ease if relevant up to date data is available.

Section 5.2.1.1 FISHERIES

Data collected during the “Initial Assessment of Aquatic Resources in Williams Creek” has not been updated since 1992, and in order to make responsible decisions it is imperative to know the populations within the drainage of the mine site. As stated prior, water flows change annually, and with that nutrient load, sediment load and temperatures change, therefore it is important to maintain valid /relevant data in order to effectively monitor fish populations. It is possible that the fish population has changed since the “Initial Assessment of Aquatic Resources in Williams Creek” was done in 1992.

There is a possibility for over fishing to occur by new residents. What mitigation measures are there to prevent that from happening?

Mitigation measures for physical damage to fish habitat and spawning sites are weak (pg 14 Apenndix K Volume II).

Section 5.2.1.2 BENTHIC INVERTEBRATES

It is imperative to collect more recent data, as data collected in 1991 and 1992 are not representative of present day populations. At the lowest level of the food chain organisms such as algae supply nutrition for stream insects which are often very susceptible to the toxic effects of acid and metal leaching (Da Rosa and Lyon 1997).

They are an indicator of watershed health monitoring on only an annual basis will decrease the effectiveness of the assessment. Monitoring must be more frequent.

Annual Biological Assessment of biological factors that determine health of the watershed should be done more regularly.

Section 5.2.2.1 WILDLIFE

The project description states that there is no key wildlife or habitat. In order to fully understand the statement, a definition as to key wildlife and habitat is requested. The wildlife study was performed during an unsuitable time for sightings. It is important to determine the populations and habitat prior to construction. Base line data is necessary to maintain populations, as well as to develop management techniques. Understanding the impacts of mining involves before and after comparisons. There are entire communities who rely on wildlife populations for sustenance. It is unacceptable to present data that is misrepresentative of the specific species in the area. Therefore, it is imperative that accurate studies be performed before any decisions are made. In addition to more studies, reference to the YTG Key Wildlife Habitat Data-base for bench-marks and discussions with TYG Habitat staff is recommended. Clearly, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation must be Consulted regarding wildlife in the area.

Beaver populations should also be determined as they can change the water balance, block the spillway, flood dam foundation and create an upstream tsunami. What type of strategies for managing beaver dams are in place?

TRAPPING

The company states that the area has important ecological or cultural attributes but they can be dismissed because they foresee the magnitude of potential effects as low with most effects being highly reversible. YCS does not believe that any LSCFN elders who may have trap lines within the proposed area will agree that the total 20 year project life will not cause irreversible effects. A majority of mining associated impacts will destroy trapping. Mining can decrease numbers of otter and mink-those dependent on aquatic environment for food.

Archaeological and heritage sites have been recognized but no detail pertaining to these areas are within the document. It is important to fully understand the severity of the mine and the potential loss of either of these kinds of sites.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Although the company believes that there will be a long term demand for copper and that many will benefit realistically

1) The local population has little or no prior experience with mining employment. The company needs to provide the community with realistic expectations of the economic benefits the mine will bring.

2) A drop in copper prices to below U.S.\$ 1.10/pound will cease operation. What mitigation measures are in place for the community members once the mine is non-operational?

3) The company states that there will be social and economic effects both positive and negative to the local communities. However they believe that overall the impacts are thought to be mitigatable and the mine will provide benefits to community members and Yukoners. In this regard I believe that new data must be collected regarding the community and its concerns. Since the community was last surveyed there has been a rise and fall of the BYG Mt. Nanson open-pit gold mine and cyanide heap leach site. This site has changed the views of many community members and Yukoners.

USE OF CALCIUM CHLORIDE

The use of calcium chloride has significant environmental impacts, such as:

- Salts can accumulate in the soil, inhibiting the plants' ability to absorb water and nutrients and impedes long term plant growth.
- Can also reduce the ability of these areas to act as buffers to slow runoff of contaminants into the watershed.
- Salts carried by runoff into aquatic ecosystems can build up to concentrations sufficient to effect plants and other organisms. Fish species vary widely in their tolerance to salt levels.

Can the company suggest another means of deicing?

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

EMS should be completed and available for review prior to project approval

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE MONITORING

What measures are being taken to ensure that site personnel are doing their regular environmental surveillance?

What type of training will be given to site personnel regarding environmental monitoring?

Tonnage

How much ore tonnage do you extract to get a profitable amount of copper?

14,300 tonnes of copper will be produced per year,. The company states that there is a potential for value added local industries using the product. Please provide a more detailed outline as to what local industries will benefit and how.

Cadmium and mercury effluent is not measured under MMER EEM although it is a major contributor to fish mortality and to the health of the watershed. This is unacceptable.

What assets does the company have? If there is an accident, what could be returned on?

Table 7-12 pg 7-52 suggests that there is a high likelihood of occurrence of seepage through waste rock. With a moderate risk of groundwater seepage, considering we are discussing the potential contamination of the 3,185 kms of the Yukon River a moderate a high risk assessment is unacceptable.

References

Da Rosa, D., and Lyon, J.S. Golden Dreams and Poisoned Streams. 1997

Price, W.A. Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage. Mining and Mineral Sciences Lab, Natural Resources Canada. 2005

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2005 2:41 PM
To: Dan D. Cornett
Cc: Jeff.O'Farrell; Bill Klassen; William.Dunn; Randy.Lamb
 Hi Dan,

I'm sending this email to follow up on the DAP Branch's August 4th request for further information regarding the proposed heap detoxification. As I'm sure you are aware, section 14.0 of the Project Agreement, established between the Western Silver Corporation and Yukon Government (YG), clearly states that the submission of responses by Western Silver to questions or comments raised by YG will be received within 20 working days from the date of request.

I've now received several comments on the Project Description/EAR which I've attached to this email. These comments express the DAP Branch's concern regarding the lack of information relating to the proposed heap detoxification proposed by the proponent. In fact, within the EAR, the proponent identifies the requirement for further information to be supplied to assessors by stating in section 1.2 of Appendix F

"... it is realized at this time that further testing and investigation would be required to demonstrate that 'walk-away' closure can be achieved..." and "...there remain some questions about physical and chemical stability that require either more investigation or actual field data before detailed closure measures can be developed..."

While a detailed closure plan is not required for the assessment, the proponent must be able to demonstrate that closure can be achieved through their proposed conceptual closure plan and that treatment in perpetuity will not be a requirement on site. As this is a crucial component to the project's decommissioning and no known examples of the proponent's proposed detoxification technique exist, it is essential that adequate information is available for an assessment to be conducted.

I believe both YG and the Western Silver Corporation share the mutual goal of seeing the assessment completed in an efficient manner while facilitating the consideration of all necessary information. If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the Environmental Assessment please feel free to contact me. I look forward to continuing to working with yourself and the Western Silver Corporation on this project.

Sincerely,

Shane Andre
 A/DAP Manager
 DAP Branch (A-310)
 Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
 Y1A 2C6
 Phone: (867) 456-3803
 Fax: (867) 667-3216

-----Original Message-----

From: Shane.Andre
Sent: August 4, 2005 11:17 AM
To: 'Dan D. Cornett'; 'jonathan.clegg@telus.net'
Cc: William.Dunn; 'Bill Klassen'; Randy.Lamb; Jeff.O'Farrell
Subject: Carmacks Copper Heap Detoxification test work

Hi Dan,

Just as a follow up to our technical meeting last week the DAP Branch has the following request.

The Carmacks Copper conceptual abandonment and restoration plan for the detoxification of the heap is to achieve a "walk-away" closure condition. Within the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) the company has explained that "further column test work is planned to finalize heap detoxification

methods”. At this time we feel that additional information, including the results of this test work, is required to demonstrate that “walk-away” closure of the site can be achieved.

We recognize that Western Silver is in the process of conducting this test work on the conceptual heap detoxification plan and is working towards providing further information to stakeholders on this issue. In hopes of expediting the Environmental Assessment process we would ask that the proponent ensures all required information is received by the RAs as soon as possible to ensure that we have adequate time to review and consult on all aspects of the project. As it will likely affect our work plan, we would appreciate any information the company could give as to when this additional information will be available for review.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the Environmental Assessment please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to continuing to working with the Western Silver Corporation on this project.

Sincerely,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2005 8:05 AM
To: susan.davis@lscfn.ca
Subject: Meeting

Hi Susan,

Are you still coming into Whitehorse today (Thursday)? If so let me know when we would be able to meet.

I'm curious if you know the status of the workshop that Dan was planning for the 27th. From our last conversation I was assuming that it was cancelled but Bill Dunn just sent me a tentative schedule. I know that Dan is out of town so maybe Bill is just not informed as to what is going on. If Dan is going ahead with a workshop will the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation be attending?

Thanks,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

Nichole Speiss

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2005 4:05 PM
To: Jeff.O'Farrell
Subject: Carmacks Copper LSCFN Workshop Cancellation

Hi Jeff,

I'm sending this email to update you on the cancellation of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations (LSCFN) Workshop that was planned for September 27 and the present status of the First Nations consultation for the proposed Carmacks Copper mining project.

This workshop was being proposed and paid for by the proponent (Western Silver) and planned by the First Nation. The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate meaningful consultation with the First Nations regarding the proposed Carmacks Copper mining project.

Early last week Susan Davis, the director of LSCFN – Lands Branch, wrote an email to the proponent stating that the First Nation were not ready to participate in a community based consultation at this time. She stated that they had concerns about the project and questions regarding the regulatory process. The First Nations are particularly concerned with the proponent's consultation requirements under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) process. Susan suggested that, instead of the proposed workshop, a meeting be set between all the parties (LSCFN, Yukon Government, Western Silver and the YESAA board) to discuss these issues and to allow an opportunity for the First Nation to express their concerns and the difficulties associated with consultation in a community such as theirs. She proposed to continue with the proponent's plan to take members of the First Nations up to the site on the following day of the meeting.

In response, the proponent stated that the workshop should go ahead and that if the First Nations had concerns regarding the process that he would arrange for someone from the Yukon Government to speak at the workshop to the process.

As a response to this email Susan wrote back that the proponent did not fully understand the First Nation concerns. The First Nations then decided that they would not participate in the workshop or field trip to the site and instead requested a bilateral meeting between the DAP Branch and LSCFN to discuss the process. I scheduled that meeting for Thursday, September 22. Unfortunately the First Nation cancelled our meeting due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict. LSCFN were unable to reschedule the meeting for this week however Susan is in Whitehorse next week (October 3 to October 7) and we plan to get together at that time.

While I'm comfortable meeting with the First Nations to discuss the process, I was hoping that you would attend and provide input as to how the Yukon Government may be able to help the First Nations participate in the environmental assessment process.

Thanks,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216



Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Together today for our children tomorrow.

September 28, 2005

Shane Andre
Project Officer
Development and Assessment Process Branch
Executive Council Office
Yukon Government
Whitehorse, YT

Re: LSCFN preliminary response to Carmacks Copper Project Description and EAR

Dear Mr. Andre

This letter constitutes the preliminary response from LSCFN to the Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report filed by Western Silver to YEA.

The attached analysis, performed for LSCFN by Bill Slater Consulting, concludes that outdated information, data gaps, incomplete descriptions and erroneous methodologies make it impossible to render an accurate assessment of the project until further information is provided. It is for these reasons that we are only submitting preliminary comments at this time, so that the proponent may be given an extension to produce the required information for us to complete our response.

Notwithstanding the deficiencies of the Carmacks Copper Project itself, coming as it does during the transition from YEA to YFSAA, this proposal is raising a number of fundamental concerns regarding roles, responsibilities and relationships which we intend to explore and include in subsequent submissions.

Some of these are

1. The unnecessary confusions arising from the project proceeding during the transition from YEA to YESAA
2. The relationship of the proponent to the YEA authority resulting from the separate agreement between Western Silver and YTG and how this relates to the 'arms-length' principle of both YEA and YESAA. Other concerns here include agreement on a separate technical advisor and the bilateral nature of the agreement which excludes LSCFN

Post Office Box 135, Carmacks, YK, Y0B 1C0
Phone (867)863-5576 Fax (867)863-5710

3. Roles and relationships, expectations and guidelines regarding "consultation" both by YESAB and any proponent with respect to LSCFN and separately with its citizens
4. Relationships among YTG, YESAB and First Nations according to the land base of the application, especially for large scale projects
5. Guidelines for Socio-economic Impact Assessments regarding content, public disclosure and consultation


From the above, it is apparent that many significant areas of YESAA administration remain to be resolved. In the absence of clearer understandings and procedures, we find it extremely difficult to participate in any large project review. Most of our concerns are generic in nature and would profit from a broader discussion involving all governments, UFA boards and councils and YESAB. We should learn the lesson from the DFA which, a couple of years after implementation, nearly ground to a halt due to such confusions.

We suggest, therefore, that YESAB consider hosting a series of workshops during the period which will be required for the Western Silver project to repair its submission. In fact, this proposal could be an ideal case study for a workshop to explore.

The YESAA legislation has been an extremely long and highly charged process. During the course of its formulation, many concerns and questions were not completely addressed, and perhaps could not be, until some practical application was made. This time has now arrived. It would be a shame to stumble through the Carmacks Copper Project, establishing dangerous precedents, when this could be taken as an opportunity to provide clear and coherent direction for the years to come.

LSCFN, therefore, recommends, in view of the Project Report and EAR deficiencies, that the proponent be given a timeframe to upgrade its submission, and that this winter be spent by YESAB and all governments on resolving roles, responsibilities and relationships to improve administration of YESA in the future.

Sincerely,


Chief Eddie Skookum
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

REVIEW OF
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
CARMACKS COPPER PROJECT

Prepared by
Bill Slater Environmental Consulting

For
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

September 12, 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	CLARIFICATIONS	1
2.1	Liner type	2
2.2	Effluent Discharge	2
3.	NEED FOR UP-TO-DATE DATA AND ANALYSES	2
3.1	Water Balance Analyses	2
3.2	Socio-Economic Information.....	3
3.3	Heap Leach Pad Subgrade Conditions.....	3
3.4	Wildlife and Fish.....	4
4.	HEAP LEACH SPENT ORE - CONCEPTUAL CLOSURE PLAN	4
5.	WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES	6
6.	LINER DESIGN	7
7.	HEAP LEACH PAD EMBANKMENT DESIGN	8
8.	HEAP LEACH PAD LOADING	9
9.	LOW GRADE ORE STOCKPILE	9
10.	WASTE ROCK DISPOSAL – DESIGN	9
11.	WATER QUALITY MODELLING	11
12.	CONCLUSIONS	11

1. INTRODUCTION

As requested by the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Bill Slater of Bill Slater Environmental Consulting has completed a review of Western Silver Corporation's "Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report, Carmacks Copper Project" dated June 2005 (the EAR). In completing this review, Bill Slater Environmental Consulting has reviewed the following documents:

- Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report, Carmacks Copper Project, Yukon Territory, Volume I, Main Report, June 2005
- Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report, Carmacks Copper Project, Yukon Territory, Volume II, Supporting Appendices, June 2005
- Supporting Documentation provided on the CD "Western Silver Corporation, Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report, Carmacks Copper Project, Yukon Territory," as follows:
 - Description of Water Treatment Process for Emergency Raffinate Treatment, Kilborn Engineering Pacific Ltd.
 - Design Memorandum CCL-CC2 – Draft, Clearwater Consultants Ltd., Carmacks Copper Project – Site Hydrology Revisions, March 12, 1998
 - Design Memorandum CCL-CC4, Clearwater Consultants Ltd., Carmacks Copper Project – Heap Leach Facility Water Balance, December 4, 1998
 - Waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report, Western Copper Holdings Ltd., June 30, 1997

These documents describe Western Silver Corporation's proposed plan to develop an open pit copper mine in the vicinity of Williams Creek, relying on sulphuric acid leaching on a lined leach pad to recover copper. Western Silver submitted these documents to the government of Yukon to initiate the environmental assessment of the proposed project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). Government of Yukon is carrying out a comprehensive study under the EAA.

At the request of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, the purposes of Bill Slater's review were to complete a technical evaluation of Western Silver's proposal, and to advise on the proposal's practicality and feasibility, and on its effectiveness in preventing unacceptable environmental effects in the First Nation's traditional territory.

This report presents the results of that review.

2. CLARIFICATIONS

For two concepts, the project documentation contains frequent references that do not accurately reflect the actual proposal. These relate to: 1) the liner type and, 2) the discharge of effluent from the heap leach facility. For certainty about the concepts that appear to be contained in the proposal, clarifications are provided below.

2.1 Liner type

The EAR and Appendix D, the “EBA Engineering Consultants Carmacks Copper Mine Heap Leach Pad Liner Design Report” consistently refer to the liner system for the heap leach pad as a “double composite liner.” It is my understanding that a composite liner generally entails a synthetic liner (plastic) in intimate contact with a low permeability material (i.e. clay or silt). This type of liner is generally quite effective in minimizing leakage because the plastic liner generally provide a complete barrier to fluid flow, except at locations where there are imperfections or leaks. The underlying low permeability material effectively slows the flow from any imperfections or leaks in the plastic liner. A “double composite liner” would have two plastic liners, each in intimate contact with a low permeability material. This is not the type of liner proposed for any portion of the heap at the Williams Creek project.

2.2 Effluent Discharge

The EAR frequently refers to the project as having no liquid discharge from process facilities and the company’s commitment to construct a “contingency” water treatment system. This is not a zero discharge facility and the water treatment system will be needed – it is not a contingency. While the water balance shows that the facility won’t likely require discharge under average climatic conditions up to year seven, it is certain that the process fluids will have to be treated and discharged from the facility during draindown of the heap. The water balance for average conditions identifies a total treat and release volume of almost 1,000,000 m³ by the end of year 15.

3. NEED FOR UP-TO-DATE DATA AND ANALYSES

The EAR generally relies on data collected in the 1990’s, and analyses carried out in support of previous project proposals for the Williams Creek project. As a result, there are some significant gaps and inconsistencies in the EAR. Until these are addressed, it is difficult to get a full understanding of the potential effects and performance of the proposed project. Even in cases where the analyses are supported by good data sets, it is important to collect current data to confirm that conditions have not changed. This does not appear to have been done.

Several areas where data need to be updated are described below, but this may not be a complete list and data in general need to be updated to reflect current conditions.

3.1 Water Balance Analyses

The facility design relies on water balance and hydrology analyses presented in the Supporting Documentation as “Carmacks Copper Project – Heap Leach Facility Water Balance,” Clearwater Consultants Ltd, December 4, 1998, and draft “Carmacks Copper Project – Site Hydrology Revisions,” Clearwater Consultants Ltd., March 12, 1998. A

later update (April 1998) of the March 12, 1998 document is referenced in the December 4, 1998 document, but was not provided as part of the Supporting Documentation.

Clearwater Consultants' work relies heavily on weather data to determine key design parameters for the heap leach facility. At the time that Clearwater completed its work, there were only three years (1995 to 1997) of data available from the weather station at Williams Creek. The work has not been updated to include weather data collected by DIAND and Government of Yukon after 1997. The short data record for this site means that the additional data could have a significant effect on the results of the analyses.

The water balance carried out by Clearwater also considered run-of-mine ore, which has substantially different moisture holding capacity than the crushed ore that is currently proposed to be placed on the pad. Clearwater assumed that draindown moisture content from the ore was approximately 2%. The Beattie test work presented in Appendix E of the EAR suggests that while 2% may have been reasonable for run-of-mine ore, the draindown moisture of the crushed ore appears to be approximately 3.5%. This may have a substantial effect on the adequacy of the proposed event storage facilities.

Without an up-to-date water balance that reflects current mine plans, and the most recent climatic data, it is difficult to evaluate the adequacy of the proposed heap leach water management facilities.

3.2 Socio-Economic Information

In evaluating socio-economic conditions and potential effects, the EAR relies almost entirely on data collected in the early to mid-1990s. This information is now out-of-date and not relevant to the evaluation of Western Silver's proposed project.

Some significant changes have taken place both within the community of Carmacks and for the LSCFN since social and economic data were collected and considered for previous project proposals. Most significantly, the LSCFN is a self-governing First Nations that has reached land claims and self-government agreements with the federal and territorial governments. Also, the activities at the Mt. Nansen mine have affected community members' views about the potential impacts of development activities.

The socio-economic analyses presented in the EAR should not be considered further until more up-to-date information and community input are considered.

3.3 Heap Leach Pad Subgrade Conditions

In Appendix D, the liner design report, EBA notes that the leach pad area was stripped several years ago and that permafrost conditions in this area have likely changed. Additional information and analyses will be required to determine what differential settlement conditions may occur on the pad site, though differential settlement issues will most likely have decreased. Mitigation suggests the use of more flexible PVC liners

based on the results of the additional site assessment. A change in liner material may result in some significant changes to the facility design, the impacts of which may need to be evaluated further. Updated information should be collected, and the design reconsidered to support further review.

3.4 Wildlife and Fish

The data on wildlife and fish are very outdated, with much of the information having been collected in the 1980s and early 1990s. These data need to be updated to gain an understanding of the current wildlife and fish habitat in the area.

4. HEAP LEACH SPENT ORE - CONCEPTUAL CLOSURE PLAN

Section 7.7 of the EAR provides a summary of the Conceptual Closure Plan. Western Silver states that its long-term objective is to achieve a passive walk-away closure condition. It contends that experience at copper leaching operations indicates that walk-away closure can be a realistic option but has not presented any examples to support this contention. There are several areas of uncertainty about the effectiveness of the concepts presented for closure.

Western Silver acknowledges that walk-away closure is not currently possible for the Williams Creek heap and proposes a plan that includes ongoing water treatment activities for an unknown time period which could be very long. The proposed water treatment concepts have not been tested, and information about application or performance at other comparable facilities has not been provided. In addition, the longevity of some components of the program remains uncertain.

In Section 3.3 of the Conceptual Closure Plan (Appendix F of the EAR), Western Silver describes the proposed heap detoxification as “active care technology followed by a passive care system.” The Conceptual Closure Plan describes the following steps for heap detoxification:

1. Rinsing of the heap with re-circulated water from which copper is recovered at each cycle using the SX/EW plant;
2. Neutralization and precipitation for treatment of rinse water in the latter cycles of rinsing;
3. Carbohydrate nutrient addition to stabilize metals within the heap;
4. After heap rinsing is completed, contouring and capping of the heap to promote runoff and reduce infiltration;
5. Collection and water treatment of any surface water drainage from the heap prior to discharge into the environment; and
6. Long-term release of heap effluent through an infiltration gallery.

The documentation including with the EAR does not contain evidence to support the performance of this closure procedure. The most recent heap detoxification test work program was carried out by Beattie Consulting Ltd., and is presented in a report dated

February 28, 2001, attached as Appendix E of the EAR. In its report, Beattie suggests that the following procedure may be effective for neutralizing the heap:

- Recirculation of the leach solution until the free acid is consumed and the copper concentration in the solution becomes uneconomic to recover (equivalent to Step 1 above);
- Treatment and release of the leach solution.
- Rinsing of the heap with pH 7 groundwater in a series of pulses, alternating with rest periods to allow dissolved sulphate, copper, etc. to diffuse from the rock particles.
- Addition of base to the heap – sodium carbonate added as a pH 10.5 solution appears to be the most effective addition.

Except for the first step, the procedure proposed in the conceptual closure plan does not seem to reflect the recommendations contained in the Beattie Report.

Instead of releasing leach solutions and using fresh groundwater for rinsing, Western Silver proposes to retain the leach solutions, and continue to use them to rinse the heap, after neutralization and treatment in a water treatment plant. While this approach may work for some contaminants, it should be recognized that water treatment will not remove all contaminants. As a result, some contaminants will remain in the heap because the concentration gradient will not lead to removal by the rinsing. Section 3.3.1 of the Conceptual Closure Plan references the use of fresh water for rinsing, and the potential need for water treatment to maintain the water balance under these circumstances, but this approach is not reflected in the water balance presented in the Supporting Documentation as “Carmacks Copper Project – Heap Leach Facility Water Balance,” Clearwater Consultants Ltd., December 1998. This water balance does not show any fresh water make-up requirements after year 8. Rinsing with fresh water would require make-up water.

The test work presented in the Beattie report indicates that rest periods between rinse cycles will be quite important in ensuring that sulphate and “other impurities” are rinsed out before adding neutralization chemicals. Since Western Silver has not proposed to add neutralizing chemicals, it has also not proposed any rest periods.

The results from several test programs, including those reported in Appendix E, confirm that without an aggressive addition of base, the spent ore at Williams Creek will likely stabilize at pH 4. The concepts presented in Section 3.3 of the Conceptual Closure Plan do not appear to include an aggressive neutralization program, and heap effluent at the end of the above Step 2 will likely be at approximately pH 4. Section 3.3.1 acknowledges that addition of a base, possibly sodium carbonate, will be required to raise pH to near 7, but the plan does not make a clear commitment to carry this out.

Following rinsing, Western Silver proposes, in Section 3.3, to add carbohydrates (nutrients) to “stabilize metals within the heap.” This proposal is based on the experience at Brewery Creek Mine, where the addition of nutrients has been successful in reducing

metal concentrations in the heap effluent for several years. Western Silver argues that “given the similar climate conditions and the size of the heap, the actual commercial application of biological heap detoxification at this northern heap leach operation provides considerable performance data for use at the Carmacks Copper project.”

While the performance of this detoxification procedure at Brewery Creek does confirm that it can perform in northern climates, the example is not particularly relevant to the Carmacks Copper project. The Brewery Creek project relied on cyanide leaching at high pH for gold recovery. The Carmacks Copper project proposes a sulphuric acid leach at low pH. As a result, the heap chemistry is substantially different at the two sites and the performance of in-situ biological treatment at Brewery Creek should not be seen as confirmation that it will work at Williams Creek.

In Section 3.3.1, for example, Western Silver suggests that the intention of the introduction of nutrients into the heap pore waters is not to actually immobilize the metals in the heap, although this is the mechanism that ALM contends is functioning at Brewery Creek. Rather, Western Silver suggests that the nutrients will “amend the heap pore waters so that, if and when any of these waters migrate, they will cause the mineralization of contaminants within these pore waters onto solids through which they pass.” This statement is completely opposite to the mechanism suggested in Section 3.3, whereby the nutrients were to “stabilize metals within the heap.”

Overall, the heap detoxification concepts presented in the Conceptual Closure Plan are not supported by sufficient documentation to confirm that they will be effective in achieving acceptable closure conditions, let alone a walk-away solution. The Conceptual Closure plan fails to provide a clear description of what procedure is proposed for heap detoxification. The heap detoxification proposal relies on technology that has not been tested with Williams Creek ore, and for which the company does not provide any documentation of its application or performance for any other acid heap leach facilities.

5. WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Western Silver proposes the construction of two water treatment facilities – as clarified by Dan Cornett at the meeting on July 28, though not clearly stated in the EAR.

The first water treatment facility is to be built early in mine life, and Western Silver expects this to be used for “emergency” water treatment, and probably for treatment and release of process solutions at the conclusion of mining (though this is not explicitly identified). “Emergency” water treatment may result from higher than average precipitation conditions during operations, especially near the end of mining activities. The second water treatment facility is to be built after the processing plant is no longer required. The water treatment facility is intended to provide treatment for effluent from the heap after the heap cover has been installed.

The first water treatment facility is not described in the EAR, and it is not identified on site drawings. The only description is provided in the Supplementary Documentation – Appendix # of the Initial Environmental Evaluation, Addendum #4, “Description of Water Treatment Process for Emergency Raffinate Treatment,” Kilborn Engineering Ltd. The report proposes conventional lime treatment for neutralizing excess water from the heap leach facility, and precipitating metals prior to discharge. While this treatment method is proven, the practicality of the proposed treatment system is questionable.

The proposal suggests that the treatment system will rely on the events pond and sediment control pond as polishing ponds for the water treatment system. Lime treatment usually requires ponds for settling and polishing. For this facility, the availability of an emergency water treatment system will be most critical when there are water management issues at the site – when the events pond is most likely to be full of contaminated water. As a result, the events pond will not be available as a polishing pond under the most critical circumstances. The water treatment proposal for operations needs to be reconsidered to ensure that it will function practically at this facility.

6. LINER DESIGN

The liner design for the Williams Creek project is presented in Appendix D, the “EBA Engineering Consultants Carmacks Copper Mine Heap Leach Pad Liner Design Report.” The design does not appear to meet the guideline specified by the Government of Yukon in their April 2005 “Performance Standards for the Carmacks Copper Project” as presented in Appendix C of the EAR.

Government of Yukon’s guidelines require that the liner system achieve a permeability at least equivalent to a synthetic liner over a 12 inch soil liner with a permeability of 10^{-6} cm/sec. The liner design proposed by EBA meets this requirement in the lower portion of the heap leach pad, but fails to meet it in the upper portion.

In the lower portion, EBA proposes a liner that includes 12 inches of soil liner material with a permeability of 10^{-6} cm/sec as its lowermost component. It is not clear whether the permeability specified is a lab or field permeability, but if it is a field permeability, then the liner appears to meet the Government of Yukon Guideline.

In the upper portion of the heap leach pad, EBA proposes that the lowermost component of the liner will be compacted subgrade described as random fill with a maximum particle size equal to 75% of the approved layer thickness (likely 225 mm in this case). This material has no permeability specification and is not likely to meet the Government of Yukon Guideline.

The upper liner for all portions of the heap is a plastic liner underlain by a high transmissivity material that will serve as a leak detection and recovery system. Because the upper liner does not include a low permeability layer in contact with the plastic, the leakage rate through any imperfections will be relatively high.

The liner for the trenches includes a solution collection system below the upper liner, but above the leak detection and recovery system. It is not clear what the purpose of this solution recovery system is.

EBA identifies some leakage criteria in Section 10.11 of Appendix D, and states that a large number of cells would have to be constructed in order to meet the criteria, which specify leakage rates on a per cell basis. The leakage rates identified are the same as those that were applied at the Brewery Creek mine. At that facility, leakage rates were almost always lower than the criteria, and exceedences were generally not associated with process fluids.

The liner design report does not identify whether the proposed design will meet the leakage criteria, or what the leakage rates could be. Additional details in this area would be useful in order to determine the adequacy of the proposed liner design. Also, the Brewery Creek mine constructed the liner with “cells” but operationally, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to separate flows between the cells. The Western Silver proposal suggests that remedial actions could be taken for specific cells. If this proposal is retained, additional construction details will need to be provided about how the cells will be segregated in the pad/liner design.

In Section 10.11 of Appendix D, EBA notes that the permeability of soil liners can be adversely affected by acidic fluids. As a result, EBA states that it has completed its analyses on the basis of increased permeabilities: the increases are not reflected in the numbers presented in Section 10.11. What analyses were completed with increased permeabilities and what values were used?

In order to protect the liner from differential settlement caused by permafrost degradation below the leach pad, EBA proposes excavation of frozen, high moisture soil materials identified within 5 metres of ground surface. For such materials located at greater depths, EBA proposes to subexcavate the area and construct “rafts” of heavily compacted durable rock, potentially reinforced with geogrid or high strength geotextile. If these measures are to be used, their performance for preventing unacceptable differential settlement under the liner materials should be demonstrated by providing evidence of effective performance in similar ground and loading conditions at other locations. In addition to these measures, the EAR, Section 3.2.3.4 suggests that differential settlement will be addressed by providing pipe joints will be capable of sustaining settlement induced tensions without separation. This will likely be difficult to achieve in practice and should not be seen as a practical solution to issues of differential settlement.

7. HEAP LEACH PAD EMBANKMENT DESIGN

The EAR contains only very limited information about the embankment design. Appendix D, the liner design report references the seismic design criteria, but does not provide any details about the proposed design. The Conceptual Closure Plan references a

decision to utilize a low level pipe for solution drainage, but no details are provided. Additional details need to be provided in order to evaluate the performance of the proposed embankment. If a low-level pipe is going to be used, the long-term performance needs to be confirmed because this facility will have to remain in place in perpetuity.

8. HEAP LEACH PAD LOADING

Western Silver generally proposes to load the pad using a conveyor system. This will not likely be effective for loading the cushion layer on the liner. The EAR does not provide details about how the cushion material will be loaded, especially in the upper areas of the pad where slopes are apparently as high as 7:1. Loading of cushion layers at these slopes will likely be very challenging and additional details about methodology should be provided to ensure the integrity of the liner system.

9. LOW GRADE ORE STOCKPILE

Western Silver proposes to create a low-grade ore stockpile that will apparently be crushed and leached after year 8. Such stockpiles are common at mine sites, and often are never added to the production stream. Instead, they often remain as stockpiles and become waste piles at mine closure. Because they are almost ore material, they often result in significant metal leaching issues. The presence of any stockpiles should be considered in establishing conditions and developing plans related to temporary closure and security bonding.

10. WASTE ROCK DISPOSAL – DESIGN

Western Silver's proposal for waste rock disposal relies on placement of rock on ground that contains potentially thaw unstable soils. The proposal is not described in detail in the EAR, but additional information is provided with the Supplementary Information, as the "Waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report," June 30, 1997.

Permafrost in the area apparently varies in depth from approximately 5 to 15 metres. Monitoring of soil temperatures at the site indicated that the active layer (the thickness of soil that thaws each summer and freezes each winter) is approximately 3 m thick on north facing slopes and 5 m thick on south facing slopes.

Western Silver considered several options for waste rock disposal, but decided on an option that entails the following:

- stripping the area immediately north of the open pit of its vegetative cover, allowing thaw to begin and providing ditches to transport melt water,
- providing a contingency buffer area around the toe of the dump, and
- if necessary, constructing a stabilizing berm at the toe of the dump, keyed into thaw stable material.

The “Waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report” recognizes uncertainties about constructing a waste rock dump in the proposed location:

“It is acknowledged that . . . thaw of soils below the waste dump is likely. It is further recognized that investigations in the area report significant ground ice locally. Thaw of this material is expected . . .”

Thawing of permafrost in fine grained soils with high moisture content can lead to very low soil strengths. The construction of structures, including waste rock dumps, on these types of materials when thawing may occur is not standard engineering practice. The “Waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report” includes analysis of expected pore pressure conditions in foundation materials, but the analysis has been carried out for thaw periods of only six months. With placement of waste rock on this area, the heat from the waste rock will likely lead to extended thaw periods. This should likely be taken into account.

Regardless of the level of analysis completed, there will be remaining uncertainty about foundation performance in this area, as acknowledged by Western Silver. This uncertainty is to be addressed by the initial clearing of the site to allow thawing and allotment of a ‘contingency buffer’ below the waste rock storage area.

Section 3 of the “Waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report” states:

“Before final closure of the waste dump, Western Copper Holding Ltd. would carry out a site investigation program to confirm the stability of the waste rock. If the design criteria is [sic] not met, the buffer zone would provide sufficient clearance to excavate and construct a waste rock key trench to stabilize slopes, or to flatten slopes if necessary.”

The design drawings included in the appendix to the same report (Drawing 1784-303) suggest that the contingency buffer will be filled with waste rock during year 4. Thus, it probably won’t be available at closure. The buffer area appears to only be intended as a contingency until the end of year 3. The area is required in order for the waste rock dump to have adequate capacity for the expected waste rock production. Also, it should be recognized that the flattening of slopes by using the contingency buffer area will decrease the waste storage capacity of the area. If the buffer were still in place at the end of mine life, and slopes were flattened into this area, it likely would not allow sufficient slope flattening to reach stable slopes. Also, though Western Silver states that actions will be taken if the design criteria are not met, no specific design criteria have been specified.

It appears that the buffer will only be in place for three years. If this is the case, the thawing within the foundation may not be complete, and uncertainty about performance may continue after the buffer is filled with waste rock. Once the area is covered with rock, the options for addressing stability issues are severely constrained.

Application of mitigation measures within the buffer area could be expensive, and won’t be undertaken until at least year four. Given the uncertainty about the need for mitigation, security bonding levels should take into account the cost of these measures. It should also be recognized that the mine plan currently appears to rely on placement of waste

rock within the buffer in year 4. If this is not possible because of the need to construct mitigation measures, there could be substantial operational disruption for the mine.

From a closure perspective, Western Silver proposes that the dump slopes will not be re-graded at closure. Rather, the proposed final overall slope of 2.25:1 is to be maintained during construction by the following:

- end dumping waste (at slopes as steep as 1:1) in lifts up to 25 metres (30 metres in one case),
- re-grading slopes during construction, to a slope of 2:1, and
- providing benches of 7 m between lifts.

The lift slopes of 2:1 are likely too steep to allow effective placement of growth media, and establishment of vegetation at closure. Also, it should be recognized that during operations, re-grading of waste rock will not be a priority for equipment use. As a result, this activity may not get completed under many circumstances, and re-grading at closure may be required. If operational re-grading does not occur, larger bench widths to allow the future re-grading will have to be maintained. Also, it may be prudent to ensure that security bonding levels consider the need for re-grading at closure, until the activity is actually completed.

Overall, the waste rock dump proposal relies on uncertain technology, and delays application of potentially expensive mitigation until well into mine life. Also, the proposed waste rock disposal methods will be operationally challenging, and their practical application will need to be carefully monitored. All of these issues will need to be considered very carefully in establishing appropriate security bond levels.

11. WATER QUALITY MODELLING

Section 7.3.3.2 of the EAR includes modelling to predict receiving water quality as a result of the proposed mine. The modelling makes assumptions about effluent water quality from various sources. The quality assumes contaminant concentrations that are substantially lower than the discharge standards that are also discussed. In the same section, Western Silver proposes that actions would be taken to address effluent discharges that exceed discharge standards. Unfortunately, waiting until concentrations reach these levels would lead to effects that are beyond those anticipated according to the modelling. In order to prevent unacceptable effects, actions may have to be taken prior to reaching effluent discharge standards. This regime for addressing receiving water quality issues should be described in more detail, and developed as an adaptive management program for the purposes of the environmental assessment.

12. CONCLUSIONS

Western Silver's proposal for the Carmacks Copper Project has two main areas of outstanding uncertainty that the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation should consider carefully before providing its support for the project: heap leach spent ore detoxification

and waste rock dump design. There are also several areas in which the project proposal as presented requires additional clarification: in these areas, there are technically feasible solutions available to address concerns, but the EAR does not demonstrate that the current proposal includes effective solutions. Aside from these issues, the overall proposal is based on data, including social and economic data, that are outdated.

Most significantly, the technical feasibility of the detoxification proposal for the spent ore on the heap leach pad has not been demonstrated by the test work presented to-date. Should the detoxification proposal be unsuccessful, there could be significant long-term costs and/or effects associated with ongoing metal release from the spent ore. The test work that has been completed suggests that some mechanism for detoxification may be possible, but it will likely be expensive. Additional demonstration of specific methodology will be required to demonstrate practicality, feasibility and cost effectiveness.

The long-term performance of waste rock storage facilities remains uncertain because of permafrost conditions in the proposed waste rock storage area. Western Silver has acknowledged some uncertainty about the stability of the waste rock dumps, and has proposed that this will be addressed by providing buffer areas so that structural failures will not lead to unacceptable environmental impacts. From a closure perspective, this scenario presents ongoing uncertainty about the medium to long-term performance of waste rock reclamation facilities including covers and revegetation.

With the outstanding uncertainties about heap detoxification and waste rock dump stability, it would be difficult to confirm that the project as currently proposed is not likely to have significant adverse environmental effects within the traditional territory of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation in the long-term.

Nichole Speiss

From: Susan Davis [susan.davis@lscfn.ca]
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 12:33 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Subject: RE: Western Silver

Hi,

Andrea will fax the letter and technical report after lunch. She will put her e-mail address on the fax header and could you please e-mail her and confirm that you have received it. This should be enough for you to do what you need to do. As the letter indicates we will be completing a more comprehensive review and creating a framework on how to move forward from a LSCFN perspective.

As you can see the letter is signed by Chief Skookum. We will not be able to have any meetings until our work is done within the next 4 weeks. Then we will contact the appropriate people to arrange meetings.

I have attached a digital copy of the report.

Thank you for your patience. It is much appreciated.

Susan

From: Shane.Andre [mailto:Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 7:14 AM
To: Susan Davis
Subject: RE: Western Silver

Thanks Susan, I appreciate the update.
Cheers,

Shane

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Davis [mailto:susan.davis@lscfn.ca]
Sent: September 28, 2005 5:14 PM
To: Shane.Andre
Subject: Western Silver

Hi,

Our technical report and cover letter will be approved and signed tonight at the Chief and Council meeting if all goes as planned. I will forward the signed copies to you by fax tomorrow and then put the originals in the mail on Friday.

I will call you if for some reason it does not get signed.

Susan

Note: This message is for the named person's use only. It may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mistransmission. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. You must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient. **LS/CFN** and any of its subsidiaries each reserve the right to monitor all e-mail communications through its networks.

From: Shane.Andre [Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2005 3:30 PM
To: eddie.skookum@lscfn.ca
Cc: Dan D. Cornett; Susan Davis; William.Dunn; Travis.Ritchie
Subject: Carmacks Copper Mining project
Dear Chief Skookum,

Thank you for your letter of September 28, 2005 and attached LSCFN preliminary response to the Carmacks Copper Integrated Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report. Please consider this e-mail as an interim response with a more comprehensive response to follow.

Many of the observations of the LSCFN are similar to those of other parties having offered comments. A request for additional information on the project is being developed.

The YG Development Assessment Process Branch values the participation of the LSCFN in the assessment of the project. LSCFN comments in relation to the proposed project will be considered in detail during the course of Yukon government's assessment.

Respectfully,

Shane Andre
A/DAP Manager
DAP Branch (A-310)
Executive Council Office, Yukon Government
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 456-3803
Fax: (867) 667-3216

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TRACK REPORT

**WESTERN SILVER CORPORATION'S
PROPOSED
CARMACKS COPPER MINING PROJECT**

**SUBMITTED TO THE
MINISTER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE**

BY

**DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (DAP) BRANCH, EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL OFFICE**

**ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES
AS RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES FOR THE PROJECT**

NOVEMBER 14, 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION 3

 1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT 3

 1.2 LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT..... 3

 1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS..... 3

 1.4 YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT ACT (YESAA) 4

2.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW..... 4

3.0 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT 5

4.0 FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ASSESSMENT 5

5.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS..... 6

6.0 DECOMMISSIONING..... 7

7.0 PUBLIC CONCERNS IN RELATION TO THE PROJECT 7

8.0 POTENTIAL OF THE PROJECT TO CAUSE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS 9

9.0 ABILITY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO ADDRESS PROJECT ISSUES 10

APPENDIX A: CARMACKS COPPER MINING PROJECT COMPREHENSIVE STUDY SCOPING DOCUMENT 11

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Carmacks Copper mining project, as proposed by the Western Silver Corporation, has triggered an environmental assessment under the Yukon *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and requires, at minimum, a Comprehensive study-level assessment. Under EAA, other assessment options could include a Panel Review or Mediation.

The intent of this document is to assist the Minister of the Executive Council Office (the Minister) to determine the appropriate path for this environmental assessment. This document represents the report required under section 67 of EAA.

1.2 LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Executive Council Office, Development Assessment Process Branch (DAP), as lead Responsible Authority (RA) on behalf of the Minister, and Energy Mines and Resources (EMR), in its role as an RA, have determined that the Carmacks Copper Project is subject to either a Comprehensive Study, Panel Review or Mediation under EAA, pursuant to paragraph 10 (a) of the Comprehensive Study List Regulation, which reads:

10(a) The proposed construction, decommissioning or abandonment of a metal mine, other than a gold mine, with an ore production capacity of 3,000 t/d or more

The Carmacks Copper project will exceed the threshold of 3000 t/d.

Projects are typically reviewed on a panel review/mediation level when it is determined that the activities proposed may contribute to a significant adverse environmental effect and have a high level of uncertainty as to the practicality of the proposed mitigation and/or are likely to cause significant public concern.

This project will also be assessed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB). The EAA and YESAA assessments will be harmonized to the extent possible and further to the Yukon Government and YESAB transition strategy. The Minister's track decision under EAA will not affect YESAB's decision on how to proceed with the YESAA assessment of this project.

1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Pursuant to subsection 67(a) of EAA, the RAs must submit a report to the Minister which includes the following:

- The scope of the project, the factors to be considered in the environmental assessment and the scope of those factors;
- The public concerns in relation to the project;
- The project's potential to cause adverse environmental effects; and
- The ability of the Comprehensive Study to address issues relating to the project.

Pursuant to section 67 (subsection 18.1(1)) of EAA, after considering the report and recommendation, the Minister must decide whether to refer the project back to the RAs to continue with the Comprehensive Study process, or refer the project to a Mediator or Review Panel. If the Minister decides that the project should continue as a Comprehensive Study, the project cannot be referred to a Mediator or Review Panel at a later date.

Pursuant to section 25 of EAA, if, after considering the report and recommendation, the Minister refers the project to a Mediator or Review Panel, the project would no longer be subject to a Comprehensive Study under EAA. In such an instance the Minister, after consulting other RAs and appropriate parties, would set the terms of reference for the review, and appoint the Mediator or Review Panel members.

Pursuant to section 67 (subsection 18.1(1)a) of EAA, the Minister determines that the environmental assessment will continue as a Comprehensive Study, an environmental assessment will be undertaken and a Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) will be prepared and submitted to the Minister.

Pursuant to section 18 (1) of EAA, following drafting of the CSR, the RAs would invite the public to comment on the report prior to the Minister making his final determination. The Minister may request additional information or require that public concerns be further addressed before issuing the environmental assessment decision statement. Once the environmental assessment decision statement is issued, the Minister will refer the project back to the RAs for action, including the issuance of authorizations to allow the project to proceed.

1.4 YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT ACT (YESAA)

Environmental assessments in Yukon are currently being conducted under EAA, and/or the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). On November 13, 2004 the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) came into effect. However the regulations which accompany this legislation are not expected to come into force until late 2005. Until such time, assessments will continue to be conducted under EAA/CEAA.

2.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Carmacks Copper Project is a proposed open pit, acid copper heap leach mine and solvent extraction/electro winning (SX/EW) processing facility being developed by the Western Silver Corporation (Western Silver). The orebody is located approximately 38 km northwest of the Village of Carmacks, or 192 km north of Whitehorse. The deposit contains an open pit mineable reserve of 13.3 million tonnes at an average grade of 0.97% total copper. The project will include the following main components and associated activities:

- 1. Open Pit;**
- 2. Waste Rock Storage Area;**
- 3. Heap Leach Operation;**

4. Events Pond;
5. Processing Facilities;
6. Haul road; and
7. Ancillary facilities and Services.

For further information regarding this project please refer to the Project Description/Environmental Assessment Report which can be accessed online at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/projects/western_silver/index.html.

3.0 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The scope of the project refers to the various components of the proposed undertaking or activities that will be considered as the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment.

Subsection 11(1) of EAA requires the RAs to determine the scope of the project in relation to which an environmental assessment is to be conducted. Subsection 11(3) of EAA requires that where a project is in relation to a physical work:

“...an environmental assessment shall be conducted in respect of every construction, operation, modification, decommissioning, abandonment or other undertaking in relation to that physical work that is proposed by the proponent or that is, in the opinion of the responsible authority...likely to be carried out in relation to that physical work.”

The scope of this project will include all undertakings involved with the physical works and activities related to the development, construction, operation, decommissioning, care and maintenance, closure and post closure of the proposed Carmacks Copper Mining Project. (See “Scoping Document” Appendix A)

4.0 FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ASSESSMENT

Subsection 12(1) of the EAA requires that environmental assessments consider the following factors:

- (a) the environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- (b) the significance of the effects referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) comments from the public that are received in accordance with this Act and the regulations;
- (d) measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project; and
- (e) any other matter relevant to the screening, Comprehensive Study, Mediation, or assessment by a Review Panel, such as the need for the project and

alternatives to the project, that the responsible authority or, except in the case of a screening, the Minister after consulting with the responsible authority may require to be considered.

In relation to (e) above, the RAs have not included any additional matters within the scope of the assessment.

In addition to the factors set out in subsection 12(1) above, every Comprehensive Study of a project and every Mediation or assessment by a Review Panel shall include a consideration of the following factors:

- (a) the purpose of the project;
- (b) alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means;
- (c) the need for, and the requirements of, any follow-up program in respect of the project; and
- (d) the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.

With respect to (c) above the RA has determined that there will be a requirement for follow-up programs in respect to this project.

5.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

A socio-economic effect as defined in YESAA includes effects on economies, health, culture, traditions, lifestyles, and heritage resources. The scope of assessment under EAA requires consideration of socio-economic effects that result from changes in the environment. In the case of this project, therefore, the social and economic effects that result from changes to the environment (as described in EAA) will be considered in the scope of the assessment. Accordingly, changes to the local social and economic conditions, beyond those arising from environmental changes, are **not** included in the scope of this EAA assessment.

It should be noted that while socio-economic effects are not within the scope of this assessment beyond those resulting from changes in the environment, this project is also likely to require an assessment under YESAA given the anticipated date of the YESAA regulations coming into force. Any assessment under YESAA will require an examination of the direct socio-economic effects of a project.

The RAs recognize the efforts to date of the company to consider socio-economic effects of the project and it is understood by the RAs that socio-economic effects of the project beyond the scope of the EAA assessment will be discussed in detail and concurrently with the EAA assessment. It is the RAs' opinion that this will aid any assessment under YESAA.

6.0 DECOMMISSIONING

Subsection 11(1) of EAA requires the RAs to scope decommissioning and abandonment of a project into the assessment. In doing so the RAs must consider the technical and economic feasibility of the proposed decommissioning plan as it constitutes a measure to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects. Decommissioning of the site includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following components:

- Detoxification of the heap.
- Decommissioning of mine workings.
- Geochemical and physical stability of all waste rock piles.
- Decommissioning and removal of site infrastructure.
- Revegetation of the site.
- Measures to limit access to the site in post-closure period (includes discussion of ‘gating’ and closure of road from Freegold Road to mine site).
- Continued monitoring of the site through the post-closure period.
- Implementation of adaptive management plans as necessary during closure and post-closure period.

7.0 PUBLIC CONCERNS IN RELATION TO THE PROJECT

On August 17, 2005, as per EAA, the public was invited to provide their comments and concerns regarding the Project as proposed. Specifically, stakeholders were asked to comment on the following areas:

- The project as proposed by the proponent
- The scope of the project, assessment and factors to be considered
- The ability of the Comprehensive Study to address issues relating to the Project.

The following is a summary of the most significant comments/concerns raised in relation to the assessment and factors to be considered, which are relevant to the Minister’s track decision. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of the public concerns raised. Concerns about the technical feasibility of the heap decommissioning are discussed in section 8.0 below.

Department or Organization	Contact person	Comments/Concerns
Department of Environment – Gov. of Canada	Benoit Godin, Head of Environmental Contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proponent has not provided sufficient evidence within the present information to prove the technical feasibility of their decommissioning plan. Specifically the proponent has not provided evidence to show that chemical neutralization of the heap is stable. More information regarding the proposed heap detoxification is required. • There appears to be some uncertainty concerning water quality for seepage waters in contact with waste rock. In dealing with this uncertainty regarding potential for unacceptable metal contaminants, the proponent commits to collect and treat if necessary. Additional effort is required to understand the potential for long-term release of metal contaminants from the waste rock dump, and its ability to meet CCME guidelines. • The proponent does not substantiate why 100% drain down is not

		<p>required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the current work presented additional investigation is necessary to demonstrate that long-term stability can be achieved for the site.
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	Susan Davis, Director of Lands and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The technical feasibility of the heap detoxification has not been demonstrated by the test work presented. The long-term performance of waste rock storage facilities remains uncertain because of permafrost conditions in the proposed waste rock storage area. The EAR generally relies on data collected in the 1990's. As a result, there are some significant gaps and inconsistencies in the EAR. The liner design proposed by the company does not appear to meet the guidelines specified by the Government of Yukon in their Performance Standards.
Yukon Government – Environment Department	Randy Lamb, Manager of Environmental Affairs Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information regarding the proposed heap detoxification is required. A more detailed discussion of the risk assessment should be provided for review of the events pond sizing. Any loss of copper sulphate solution to Williams Creek could have serious consequences on water quality and downstream aquatic resources. The proposed project does not provide 100% drain down solution storage capacity for the lifetime of the project and the proponent does not substantiate their proposed drain down containment based on sound reasoning and a risk assessment utilizing accepted methodology. The proposed project will traverse known key moose habitat. The survey for wildlife abundance and key habitat were not completed during the late winter period. The data used to calculate the water balance should be updated as the data used originally was limited. No information is given on the approach taken to estimate design storm and runoff events, the water balance is calculated using 1998 approximations and has not been updated using the data collected since 1998. The methodology used to estimate creek flows is not described.
Yukon Conservation Society	Tracy Boyes, Watershed Health Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information is required regarding the potential impact of the heap. In order to provide more information it is recommended that field test pads be designed to study the potential impacts of the heap. A significant portion of the data presented by the proponent is outdated and insufficient. Information provided regarding permafrost is inadequate. Further research is required on the potential for the waste rock dumps to release toxins into the receiving environment. As a tributary of the Yukon River, any contamination of Williams Creek could have significant adverse effects on salmon stocks and other aquatic life important to the Yukon. The proponent has suggested that further study may lead to an alternate means of applying acid to the heap. More information is required on this option. Increased access to this site will increase hunting pressures on wildlife. The proponent should have further explored other options of mineral extraction for this project.
Yukon Government – Tourism	Cathryn Paish, Tourism Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current tourist activities in the area include non-motorized boating/canoeing and rafting in the summer and dog mushing along the Yukon River in the winter. Concerns exist surrounding the possible

Department	Coordinator	<p>visual and noise impacts on the Yukon River travellers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yukon Quest trail includes a portion of the Freegold Road and runs along Williams Creek. This project may affect winter use of the Quest Trail by tourism operators and the Yukon Quest event. • A number of commercial dog mushers offer trips along the Quest Trail that may include the area proposed for the mine use.
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)	Mac Hislop, Campaign Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is significant uncertainty regarding the technical viability of the proposed heap leaching operation. The technology to be employed is as yet unproven at the scale and environment proposed in this project. • Copper mining is known to cause irreversible ecological and environmental damage including: habitat destruction, fragmentation and alienation and water and air pollution. • According to Western Silver Corporation's 40-F filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004, the company does not have any experience in placing properties into production. • High degree of uncertainty that the proponent can reclaim areas disturbed by its proposed and past activities.

8.0 POTENTIAL OF THE PROJECT TO CAUSE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

It is the RAs' view that this project has the potential to cause significant adverse environmental effects, unless the environmental assessment process can identify appropriate mitigative measure to be applied by the proponent. While the majority of these effects can be mitigated using known means there is an element of uncertainty regarding the mitigation being proposed to decommission the spent ore within the heap. The effectiveness of this proposed technique is as of yet unknown. The proponent is conducting tests to demonstrate the viability of this approach.

While cyanide heap leach mining techniques have been used in the Yukon at Brewery Creek, examples of sulphuric acid heap leaching techniques, as proposed by Western Silver, are unknown in Canada due to the geological conditions which allow the oxide ore bodies to develop being rare in Canada. There are a few examples of acid heap leach operations being successfully decommissioned in North America and those are located in warm dry areas of the United States that have an arid climate which make complete neutralization of the heap unnecessary.

The proponent has identified that the higher precipitation, in the Yukon, makes the neutralization of the heap necessary for closure of this site. The proponent is proposing a bicarbonate rinse of the heap to bring the pH back to a neutral level and is conducting column cell test to demonstrate the process. The extent to which this approach to heap detoxification has been attempted is unknown and to date results of column tests have not been provided. The proponent has committed to provide this information once the test results are available.

9.0 ABILITY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO ADDRESS PROJECT ISSUES

It is the opinion of the responsible authorities that the Comprehensive Study will fully address the issues related to the project. It is recommended by the RAs that (pursuant to section 67, subsection 18.1(1)a) of EAA) the Minister should determine that the environmental assessment will continue as a Comprehensive Study. The project should be referred back to the RAs to continue with the comprehensive study process.

It is the RAs' view that the scale of the project and potential environmental effects is in line with similar projects that have undergone comprehensive study assessments in the past. The Comprehensive Study approach to project assessment has been successfully applied to northern Canadian mining projects in recent years and there have been no significant public concern raised regarding the track that the assessment of this project should proceed on.

The responsible authorities will ensure that the public is provided with an opportunity to participate in the comprehensive study. The comprehensive study process will utilize a technical advisory subcommittee and socio-economic subcommittee as well as a Public Registry to gather public input.

It is the opinion of the RAs that the Comprehensive Study process will afford the opportunity to harmonize the EAA review with the YESAB assessment process.

**Appendix A: Carmacks Copper Mining Project
Comprehensive Study Scoping Document**

NOTICE OF DECISION
to Continue as a Comprehensive Study

Carmacks Copper Mining Project

Carmacks, Yukon

November 21, 2005 – The Minister of the Executive Council Office (ECO) has determined that a comprehensive study is the most appropriate level of environmental assessment for the proposed Carmacks Copper Mining Project.

The Minister based his decision on the report and recommendation submitted by the responsible authorities, Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch – ECO and the Department Energy Mines and Resources (EMR). The report contains information on the scope of the proposed Carmacks Copper Project, the factors to be considered by the environmental assessment, public comments submitted to the authority, the potential of the project to cause adverse environmental effects and the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

The DAP Branch and EMR will now continue the comprehensive study and submit their final report to the Minister of ECO. At that time, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations of the report before the Minister renders his decision.

Nichole Speiss

Subject: FW: Carmacks Copper Additional Information Requirements

From: Shane.Andre [mailto:Shane.Andre@gov.yk.ca]
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2005 12:22 PM
To: Dan D. Cornett
Cc: Jonathan Clegg; William.Dunn; Robert.Holmes; Jeff.O'Farrell; Lindsay.Dehart
Subject: Carmacks Copper Additional Information Requirements

Hi Dan,

Please find attached a copy of the Yukon Governments Additional Information Requirements for the Carmacks Copper environmental assessment (EA).

Along with this email, copies of this document and covering letter have been sent to yourself and Jonathan Clegg in the mail. Information regarding the purpose of this document is given within the attached cover letter and the document itself.

<<Carmacks Copper EA Additional Information Requirements Final.pdf>> <<Cover Letter Carmacks Copper EA Additional Information Requirements Final.pdf>>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document please do not hesitate to contact my office at the contact information provided below.

Thanks,

Shane Andre

Project Manager

DAP Branch (A-310)

Executive Council Office, Yukon Government

Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 456-3803

Fax: (867) 667-3216



Executive Council Office
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

December 16, 2005

Jonathan Clegg
Project Manager
Western Silver Corporation
#1550-1185 West Georgia
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6F 4E6

Dear Mr. Clegg

Re: Carmacks Copper Environmental Assessment

As you are aware, the Yukon Government is in the process of conducting an environmental assessment (EA) of the Carmacks Copper project under the Yukon *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA).

In order for the Yukon Government Responsible Authorities (RAs) to ensure that a project is not likely to contribute to a significant adverse environmental effect on the Yukon environment, the proponent is required to provide sufficient information and analysis to allow for the evaluation of the potential adverse effects of the proposed project.

Since the Western Silver Corporation's submission of the Carmacks Copper Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report (PEAR) in June of 2005, the environmental assessment has progressed smoothly and benefited from review of the project by federal, territorial and First Nation government officials along with other interested parties and the general public.

Based on the public and government review of this project, a number of additional information and clarification requirements within the Project Description and PEAR have been identified. Through this review process and subsequent meetings and discussions between the proponent, government agencies and interested parties, it has been recognized by both the RAs and the proponent that further information should be provided for review. As evident from the Western Silver's "Strategic Response to Project Description" document presented to Yukon Government on November 28, 2005, the Western Silver Corporation has taken the initiative to address many of the information requirements raised during this review.

On this basis and in order to provide guidance to the Western Silver Corporation regarding the additional information required by the RAs we have produced the attached additional document to formalize additional information requirements necessary to complete the Carmacks Copper EA under FAA. With receipt of this information, we would not foresee any need for Western Silver to provide additional information in the future.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this document please contact me at (867) 456-3803

Yours truly,



Shane Andre
Project Manager,
Development Assessment Process Branch

cc D. Cornett, Access Consulting Ltd

PROPOSED CARMACKS COPPER MINING PROJECT:
YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (EAA)
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Prepared by:

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (DAP) BRANCH, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE
&
ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES
AS RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES FOR THE PROJECT

December 16, 2005



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.0	PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT	3
3.0	<i>YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT ACT</i> (YESAA)	4
4.0	SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS	5
5.0	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.....	5
5.1	UPDATE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA.....	5
5.1.1	<i>Water Balance/Hydrology</i>	<i>5</i>
5.1.2	<i>Socio-economic Conditions</i>	<i>5</i>
5.1.3	<i>Liner Design</i>	<i>6</i>
5.1.4	<i>Fish and Wildlife.....</i>	<i>6</i>
5.2	HEAP DETOXIFICATION	6
5.3	SITE HYDROLOGY/WATER BALANCE.....	7
5.4	SOLUTION STORAGE/ EVENTS POND SIZING.....	8
5.5	WATER TREATMENT PLANT/QUALITY MODEL	9
5.6	HEAP LEACH PAD PLAN AND OPERATION	9
5.6.1	<i>Heap Liner Design.....</i>	<i>9</i>
5.6.2	<i>Heap Embankment Design.....</i>	<i>10</i>
5.6.3	<i>Heap Loading</i>	<i>10</i>
5.7	LOW GRADE ORE STOCKPILE.....	10
5.8	WASTE ROCK DISPOSAL DESIGN.....	10
5.9	WASTE ROCK AND OPEN PIT GEOCHEMICAL ASSESSMENT.....	10
5.10	SOLVENT EXTRACTION AND ELECTRO WINNING	11
6.0	ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT	11
7.0	CONCLUSION	12

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In early June 2005, the Western Silver Corporation submitted a Project Description and Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) to the Yukon Government for the proposed Carmacks Copper mining project.

The Carmacks Copper Project is a proposed open pit, acid copper heap leach mine and solvent extraction/electro winning (SX/EW) processing facility being developed by the Western Silver Corporation. The orebody is located approximately 38 km northwest of the Village of Carmacks, or 192 km north of Whitehorse.

The Carmacks Copper Project triggers an environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the Yukon *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The project is designed to have a daily tonnage processing rate of greater than 3,000 tonnes and as such is required to undergo a comprehensive study level assessment under EAA. Upon receipt of the Project Description and EAR, the Yukon Government undertook a review as laid out in EAA's *Coordination of Environmental Assessment Procedures and Requirements Regulation*, to determine which territorial and federal departments were Responsible Authorities (RAs). The Yukon Government departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Executive Council Office, have identified themselves as RAs. The Project Description and EAR also underwent a broad public and government review during which comments were received and subsequently forwarded to the Western Silver Corporation.

2.0 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

In order for RAs to ensure that a project is not likely to contribute to a significant adverse environmental effect, the proponent must provide sufficient information and analysis to allow for the evaluation of the potential adverse effects of the proposed project. The proponent must demonstrate that they have: identified the issues relevant to the assessment of the project; have an understanding of and a respect for the physical, biological and social and economic environments into which the project will be introduced; and understands the ways in which the project will affect these environments.

The EAR should demonstrate that the proponent has assessed the significance of the effects likely to be caused by the project; has identified measures to mitigate adverse effects; is committed to the implementation of identified mitigations; and has identified a program to monitor effects and to refine mitigation over the life of the project.

Section 12.2(b) of EAA states that, for projects requiring a comprehensive study level assessment, there are additional requirements for the proponent to consider including: alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible; the need for, and requirement of any follow-up program in respect of the project; and the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.

Based on the public and government review of this project, a number of additional information and clarification requirements within the Project Description and EAR have been identified. Through this review process and subsequent meetings and discussions between the proponent, government agencies and other interested parties, it has been recognized both by the RAs and the proponent that further information should be provided for review. As such the proponent has taken the initiative to address many of the deficiencies listed within this document.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to the Western Silver Corporation regarding the additional information required, by the RAs, in order to complete the EA of this project.

The document is a formal request by the RAs to the proponent for additional information in the areas described.

3.0 YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT ACT (YESAA)

The Government of Canada enacted the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) on November 13, 2004. The regulations which support this legislation; known as the Assessable Activities, Exceptions, and Executive Committee Projects Regulations; were enacted November 28, 2005 thus bringing this new development assessment process into full effect.

Yukon Government received a project description and Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) along with a Water Use License and Quartz Mining License applications for the proposed Carmacks Copper project on June 3, 2005 and began an environmental assessment of this project under the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). As these applications were submitted after the November 13, 2004 enactment of YESAA, the proposed Carmacks Copper project will require an assessment under YESAA along with the previously initiated EAA assessment.

Yukon Government has been working closely with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) to harmonize the EAA and YESAA processes for proposed projects spanning the transition from EAA to YESAA. In order to facilitate a smooth and efficient transition between the EAA and YESAA assessment of the proposed Carmacks Copper project, the Yukon Government has, with Western Silver's concurrence, implemented measures that include the sharing of project information with YESAB and the "shadowing" of the EAA assessment by a YESAB observer. This has enabled YESAB to become familiar with the Carmacks Copper project and, undertake preliminary preparations for an assessment of the project under YESAA.

It should be noted that the additional information requirements listed here are requirements made by the Yukon Government and that YESAB may have further information requirements separate from this document.

4.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS

A socio-economic effect, as defined in YESAA, includes “*effects on economies, health, culture, traditions, lifestyles, and heritage resources*”. The scope of an assessment under EAA requires consideration of socio-economic effects that result from changes in the environment. In the case of the assessment of this project under EAA, the social and economic effects that result from changes to the environment will be considered in the scope of the assessment. Accordingly, changes to the local social and economic conditions, beyond those arising from environmental changes, are not included in the scope of this EAA assessment.

It should be noted that while socio-economic effects are not within the scope of this assessment beyond those resulting from changes in the environment, this project will require an assessment under YESAA. Assessment under YESAA will require an examination of socio-economic effects directly related to the proposed project in addition to those resulting from environmental effects.

5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The following are specific additional information requirements for the environmental assessment under EAA.

5.1 UPDATE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

A significant portion of the EAR relies on data that was collected during the 1990s. As such, many of the comments received have asked that portions of this data be updated to allow the analysis to benefit from additional data collected since that time.

The RAs request that the following data be updated for environmental assessment purposes:

5.1.1 Water Balance/Hydrology

The facility design relies on water balance and hydrology analyses completed by Clearwater consultants in the 1990's. This work was completed using the limited amount of data available at the time and has not been updated.

As more recent data could have a significant effect on the results of the analyses, the RA's request that this data be updated using the existing data collected on site since originally compiled. The proponent should use this updated work to re-evaluate any elements of the project design that could be affected by any change in the water balance.

5.1.2 Socio-economic Conditions

The EAR relies on socio-economic data collected in the early to mid 1990's. Significant changes have taken place both within the community of Carmacks and

for the LSCFN since this data was collected and as such should be updated to reflect current realities.

5.1.3 Liner Design

The EAR states that the leach pad area was stripped several years ago and that permafrost conditions in this area have likely changed. Additional clarification will be required to determine that acceptable design methods are met.

5.1.4 Fish and Wildlife

As the proposed new access road will traverse key moose habitat, mitigation will likely be required to minimize the hunting pressures from that access road. The fish and wildlife data for this area should be updated and improved. As noted in Section 5.2.2.1 of the Project Description, the wildlife inspections made in mid-August was not the best time to encounter wildlife. It would aid the review of this project if up to date surveys are undertaken to check for information on moose during the time of year for which this area is a key moose habitat area (late winter) as that is when this area is of highest importance to the local moose populations.

5.2 HEAP DETOXIFICATION

The proponent has not provided sufficient evidence to support the technical feasibility of the proposed heap detoxification.

It is clearly stated within Appendix A: Performance Standards section of the Project Agreement between Yukon Government (YG) and the Western Silver Corporation (Western Silver) that the performance objective for the heap would be “no requirement for perpetual treatment”. The RAs consider the heap detoxification as a crucial mitigation in order to ensure that there is no requirement for long-term active water treatment on site.

Under section 12(1)d of the Yukon *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA), the RAs must consider “*measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project*”. The RAs require sufficient evidence to support the technical feasibility of the proposed heap detoxification. This evidence should be based on examples where this technique has been or is being successfully employed in a similar situation or extensive, defensible test work that shows the practicality of the proponent’s proposal.

It is recommended that the proponent prepare supporting documentation on the proposed conceptual heap decommissioning plan for submission to the RA’s for review. This work should include, but is not limited to, the following considerations:

1. Discussion of the methods of testing done on the spent ore;
2. Presentation of all data generated from the tests;

3. Interpretation of test results, geochemical modelling, and discussion of the feasibility of detoxification of the spent ore, time estimates for how long it will take to detoxify the heap and implications of precipitate formation;
4. Details of leach rinsing and detoxification procedures including volumes, scheduling, duration, and factors that indicate when rinsing and detoxification will cease;
5. Design criteria and preliminary design for the closure treatment system;
6. Discharge effluent quality that protects the aquatic resources in the surrounding environment, and sludge disposal;
7. A discussion of the risks and uncertainties associated with the conceptual plan;
8. A evaluation of possible failure modes, contingencies in place, and an evaluation of any risks or uncertainties;
9. Description of ongoing or planned studies, objectives, and scheduling; and how study results will be incorporated into the heap decommissioning plan; and
10. Activities to be implemented in the case of a temporary closure including criteria to define when temporary closure constitutes permanent closure and final reclamation measures are to be implemented.

5.3 SITE HYDROLOGY/WATER BALANCE

A number of comments have been received regarding the site hydrology and water balance information presented in the EAR. As mentioned previously, the RAs feel that this area requires updates and/or further details for assessment purposes.

The RAs request that the methodology used to estimate the Williams Creek flows be described; these estimates are essential to the modeling of water quality and predicting downstream impacts.

Further information is required on the estimation used to calculate the storm event used in the flow design for surface drainage and collection ditches. This calculation is essential to design parameters and the RA's must be confident in the validity of the methodology.

Comments received have noted discrepancies within the EAR regarding the storage volume for the sediment control pond. This volume should be clarified for assessment purposes.

Differing meteorological base conditions were used for the waste rock storage area and the sediment control pond, as compared to the heap leach pad. Comments have been received that raise questions on the precipitation regime estimates used to develop the waste rock storage and sediment control pond water balance.

Due to the concerns identified regarding the site water balance, the RA's request that this information be reassessed and a consistent set of data used in relevant components of the project design.

5.4 SOLUTION STORAGE/ EVENTS POND SIZING

The Yukon Government guideline, as described in the Project Agreement, state that the heap solution storage shall *“provide storage capacity to contain normal operating levels + 10 year snowmelt + 100 year 24 hour storm event + sufficient draindown capacity. (Proponent must substantiate their proposed draindown containment capacity based on sound reasoning and a risk assessment utilizing accepted methodology)”*.

It is the RAs' view that the EAR does not substantiate the proposed draindown capacity as required by the Project Agreement. To this end the RA's are requesting that the proponent substantiate their proposed draindown capacity as suggested in the project agreement.

The following points should be considered in the supporting documentation to justify the projects draindown capacity:

1. An evaluation of the water balance model and assessment of the confidence in the input parameters (hydrology, flowrates, ore moisture contents).
2. Consideration of the temporary storage of make-up water.
3. Likelihood of extreme hydrological events occurring and implications to solution management.
4. List and discuss the likelihood of events that could lead to primary solution management system failure.
5. Evaluate the time required to bring backup systems online and the risk that primary system failure would affect backup systems.
6. Evaluate the time required to repair various problems to primary system that may occur singly or together.
7. List and discuss likelihood of events that would lead to backup system failure.
8. Evaluate the likelihood of overtopping of available storage.
9. Discuss what contingency measures would be taken if overtopping was imminent.
10. Complete an evaluation of the environmental impacts from system solution loss.
11. A full description of operational redundancies built into the systems.

12. How operational changes to the project might affect the water balance.
13. Monitoring how additional hydrological data gathered over time will be incorporated into the solution management plan.
14. How some of the operational inputs (ie. Ore moisture content) will be verified during operations.
15. Provide justification for inputs into the environmental impact assessment (ie. Leach solution chemistry and quantities).
16. Ensure the risk assessment analysis includes the draindown capacity during the detoxification stage of the operation.

5.5 WATER TREATMENT PLANT/QUALITY MODEL

The proponent's regime for addressing receiving water quality issues should be described in more detail and developed as an adaptive management program to prevent unacceptable effects associated with effluent discharges that exceed discharge standards. The proponent should make clear how the project will meet CCME Guidelines for downstream receiving waters during operation.

Clarification is required regarding the proposed water treatment plans for the project. At this time, the RAs understand there will be two separate treatment plants used for this site; one for emergency situations during mine operations and one for decommissioning of the heap. As the separate operation of these two plants is not clearly stated within the EAR, the RAs request that the function and proposed operation regime of these two water treatment plants be clarified.

It has been identified that some clarification is required regarding "emergency" water treatment operations. In particular, concerns exist surrounding the proponent's plans to use the events pond and sediment control pond as polishing ponds for water treatment during emergency situations.

Section 12(1)a of EAA clearly states that every comprehensive study shall include a consideration of "*the environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur*". As such the RA's request that the proponent clearly state their contingency operating plans during emergency draindown water treatment/solution storage.

5.6 HEAP LEACH PAD PLAN AND OPERATION

5.6.1 HEAP LINER DESIGN

The Yukon's guidelines, as described in the Project Agreement, require that the liner system achieve permeability at least equivalent to a synthetic liner over a 12 inch soil liner with a permeability of 10^{-6} cm/s. The RA's request that the

company clearly demonstrate how their proposed liner design shall meet or exceed the guidelines proposed in the Project Agreement.

5.6.2 HEAP EMBANKMENT DESIGN

The EAR contains limited information regarding the heap leach pad embankment design. As this embankment will have to remain in perpetuity, it is important that the long-term performance of the design is confirmed. In order to evaluate the performance of the proposed embankment, the RA's request that additional information be provided.

5.6.3 HEAP LOADING

The EAR does not provide details about how the cushion material will be loaded onto the liner. Additional details about the methodology should be provided to ensure the integrity of the liner system.

5.7 LOW GRADE ORE STOCKPILE

No information is provided in the EAR regarding the storage of proposed low grade stockpiles. The presence of any stockpiles should be considered for establishing conditions and developing plans related to decommissioning or temporary closure. The RA's request further information be provided on the proponent's plans regarding these proposed stockpiles.

5.8 WASTE ROCK DISPOSAL DESIGN

The proponent's proposal for waste rock disposal relies on placement of rock on ground that contains potentially thaw unstable soils. The EAR identifies uncertainties about constructing a waste rock dump in the proposed location due to this instability. Should the proponent choose to use this location for waste rock disposal, further information is required regarding their plans for managing the potential instability of this site.

The EAR suggests that the waste rock dump will include a buffer zone that provides sufficient clearance to excavate and construct a waste rock key trench to stabilize slopes, or flatten slopes if necessary. However, it appears that this buffer will be filled with waste rock during year 4 of operations and could therefore not be used for the purposed described. Clarification is required as to the practicality of this approach to stabilizing the heap as required.

The EAR references design criteria for the waste dump. Clarification is required as to what set of design criteria will be used for this portion of the project.

5.9 WASTE ROCK AND OPEN PIT GEOCHEMICAL ASSESSMENT

There is some uncertainty, within the EAR, regarding water quality for seepage waters in contact with waste rock. While the proponent has committed to treat this seepage if necessary, additional effort is required to understand the potential for long-term release of

metal contaminants from the waste rock dump. The RAs request appropriate geochemical assessment of the waste rock dump in order to add some certainty to this issue.

The RAs also request that sediment monitoring take place on North Williams Creek at W-3 and W-7 or other appropriate sites located above and below the waste rock storage area. This monitoring may shed light on any potential impact from a potential release of suspended solids and absorbed metals from the waste rock dump.

5.10 SOLVENT EXTRACTION AND ELECTRO WINNING

The RAs understand the Solvent Extraction and Electro-winning process is in common practice; however, further information about this process is required to assess any possible environmental impacts that may be associated. Particularly, the RAs require further information on the basic chemistry of the process; any potential for the production of contaminants of concern from this process; and the potential for adverse environmental effect associated with the release of any such materials.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT

As the Carmacks Copper Project requires a Comprehensive Study level assessment, the proponent is required to have considered alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible.

Within the EAR, a number of alternative means of carrying out the project are discussed including: processing alternatives, location of the mine, mine waste rock storage area alternatives, heap leach site alternatives, selection of the heap solution storage system, selection of site infrastructure, heap stacking alternatives, mine accommodation alternatives, and alternative power supply source.

Within section 4.1, “Processing Capacity and Processing Alternatives”, the EAR describes the considerations which led to the heap leach process being favoured over conventional milling operation. While this section clearly states the company’s rationale for choosing a heap leach process over conventional milling, no consideration is provided as to why the **valley** leach method was chosen. The RAs are aware of three heap leaching methods that may be appropriate for this project: the reusable pad method, the expanding pad method, and the valley leach method.

The RAs request that the proponent report on the technical and economic feasibility of these, or other, alternative means of carrying out the heap leach operation and how these alternative means may act to mitigate the potential adverse environmental effects of the project. The RAs ask that the proponent provide information that supports the proponent’s choice in heap leach process.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the public and government review, the RAs have developed this document to request that additional information be provided in order to facilitate the completion of the EA.

The RAs wish to recognize the proponent's efforts to date to fulfil many of these information requirements and welcome their efforts in responding to stakeholder concerns.

The Yukon Government is working with other governments, stakeholders and the proponent to complete the assessment of this project in a timely and efficient manner. In order to expedite completion of this work, the RAs request that the proponent promptly address these outstanding issues presented in this document.

Department or Organization	Contact person	Comments/Concerns
Department of Environment – Gov. of Canada	Benoit Godin, Head of Environmental Contaminants	<p><u>Spent Ore Decommissioning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proponent has not provided sufficient evidence to support the possibility of a 'walk-away' solution. Additional investigation is necessary to demonstrate that these materials can be adequately neutralized and chemically stabilized such that a 'walk-away' condition can be realized. The proponent has identified further testing and investigation is required to demonstrate that 'walk-away' closure can be achieved. Neutralization testing did not provide sufficient information to adequately understand what occurred within the spent heap as sodium carbonate was added to the material. Given that meteoric water could be expected to contain a different geochemical signature from that used in the rest and rinse test: a clear understanding of the long-term stability of the heap under conditions expected from rainwater and near surface groundwater infiltration was not provided. Information which could have shed more light upon this could have included: mineralogical/XRD investigations of spent materials before and after neutralization; rest and rinse of heap with simulated meteoric waters; regular water quality testing of effluents; geochemical modeling and mass-balance calculations. There is very little data for effluent water quality during the neutralization period. <p><u>Waste Rock</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There appears to be some uncertainty concerning water quality for seepage waters in contact with waste rock. In dealing with this uncertainty regarding potential for unacceptable metal contaminants, the proponent commits to collect and treat if necessary. Additional effort is required to understand the potential for long-term release of metal contaminants from the waste rock dump, and its ability to meet CCME guidelines. <p><u>Open Pit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is suggested that water collecting in the open pit after closure will be benign due to excess pit water alkalinity; however, the processes of release from the oxidized/secondary minerals in contact with rising pit waters may not bear this out. Release mechanisms and modeling for pit water quality at days end is required in order to assess the achievement of the Yukon Government Design standards on long term basis. More information is required regarding the low grad stockpile. No information is given on where this stockpile will be stored and how it will be decommissioned if not processed. What will happen to the soluble metals during the 8 years that this material is stockpiled? <p><u>Events Pond</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EAR does not substantiate why the proponents proposed drain down containment capacity is less than 100% for the lifetime of the project. <p><u>Solvent Extraction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information is required regarding the chemistry of the solvent extraction process. <p><u>Electro winning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information is required regarding the Electro winning process. Is there an air monitoring system for SO₂, Ph and other constituents? How much water will be required to make-up for the electrolyte bleed? How big are the anodes? What is the lead concentration of the electrolyte?

		<p><u>Decommissioning and Reclamation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There hasn't been any discussion on the financial instruments to make sure that there are adequate funds to cover liabilities. <p><u>Water Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water management plan should take into account the effects of climate change. <p><u>Sediment Control Pond</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are discrepancies within the EAR regarding the storage volume for the sediment control pond. <p><u>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company should not regard Metal Mining Effluent Regulation as the optimum as this is a minimum standard in Canada. <p><u>Acid Base Accounting of Waste Rock and Ore</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company indicates the spent ore are regarded as acid generating. We are not sure if the reason for acid generation classification is due only to the fact that the spent ore contains only residual sulphuric acid or because the metal sulphide are now in acidic condition leading the way to oxidation of the metal sulphide even though the amount are low. <p><u>Stream Sediment Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediment monitoring on North William Creek (W-3 and W-7) where not performed. We are concerned that these stations have not been monitored as they are located above and below the waste rock storage area on North William Creek. Collection of data need to be done for that area to determine the impact from a potential release of suspended solids and absorbed metals. <p><u>Surface Water Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company indicates that at decommissioning both the copper and zinc values will be above the CCME water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life. What is the company proposing to do to protect the downstream resources?
<p>Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation</p>	<p>Susan Davis, Director of Lands and Resources</p>	<p><u>Clarifications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The liner system proposed by the proponent is not a "double composite liner". A "double composite liner" would have two plastic liners, each in contact with a low permeability material. The EAR is incorrect in referring to the project as having no liquid discharge. It is certain that the process fluids will have to be treated and discharged from the facility during drain down of the heap. <p><u>Need for Up-to-Date Data and Analyses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EAR generally relies on data collected in the 1990's. As a result, there are some significant gaps and inconsistencies in the EAR. The facility design relies on water balance and hydrology analyses presented in Clearwater consultants documentation. This work was produced with only three years (1995 to 1997) of data available and this work has not been updated. Updated data could have a significant effect on the results of the analyses. The water balance completed by Clearwater for this site considered run-of-mine ore, which has substantially different moisture holding capacity than the crushed ore that is currently proposed to be placed on the pad. This may have a substantial effect on the adequacy of the proposed event storage facility. In evaluating Socio-economic conditions and potential effects, the EAR relies almost entirely on data collected in the early to mid 1990s. This information is now out-of-date and no longer relevant. Significant changes have taken place both within the community of Carmacks and for the LSCFN since this data was

		<p>collected. (ie. LSCFN is a self-governing First nation, activities at Mt. Nansen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The liner design report (EBA) notes that the leach pad area was stripped several years ago and that permafrost conditions in this area have likely changed. Additional information and analyses will be required to determine what differential settlement conditions may occur on the pad site. • Mitigations suggests the use of more flexible PVC liners on the Heap leach Pad may be used based on the results of additional site assessment. A change in liner material may result in some significant changes to the facility design, the impact of which may need to be evaluated further. Updated information should be collected and the design reconsidered to support further review. • The fish and wildlife data is very outdated. This data needs to be updated. <p><u>Heap Leach Spent Ore – Conceptual Closure Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EAR contends that experience at copper leaching operations indicates that walk-away closure can be a realistic option but has not presented any examples to support this contention. • There are several areas of uncertainty about the effectiveness of the concepts presented for closure. • The company acknowledges that walk-away closure is not currently possible and proposes a plan that includes ongoing water treatment activities for an unknown time period which could be very long. • The proposed water treatment concepts have not been tested, and information about application or performance at other comparable facilities has not been provided. In addition, the longevity of some components of the program remains uncertain. • The EAR and supporting documentation does not contain evidence to support the performance of the proposed closure procedure. • The most recent heap detoxification test work presented is dated February 2001. The procedure proposed in the conceptual closure plan does not reflect the recommendations contained in the Beattie Report. • The company proposes to retain the leach solutions and continue to use them to rinse the heap, after neutralization and treatment in a water treatment plant rather than using fresh groundwater. As water treatment will not remove all contaminants rinsing in this way will result in some contaminants remaining in the heap. • The Conceptual Closure Plan water balance is inconsistent with the water balance supporting documentation with regards to water treatment and make-up water. • The companies plan does not clearly commit to the addition of a base to raise the pH to a neutral level. • The company proposes to “stabilize metals within the heap” by additional of carbohydrates as this has proven successful at Brewery Creek. The example of Brewery Creek is not particularly relevant to the Carmacks Copper Project as Brewery Creek relied on a cyanide leaching process at high pH while the Carmacks Copper project proposes a sulphuric acid leach at a low pH. The heap chemistry is substantially different at the two sites. • Overall the heap detoxification concepts are not supported by sufficient documentation to confirm that they will be effective in achieving acceptable closure conditions. • The closure plan fails to provide a clear description of what procedure is proposed for heap detoxification. • The heap detoxification proposal relies on technology that has not been tested with Williams Creek ore, and for which the company does not provide any documentation of its application or performance for any other acid heap leach
--	--	--

		<p>facilities.</p> <p><u>Water Treatment Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not clearly stated, within the EAR that two water treatment facilities will be constructed. • The first water treatment facility, built early on in the mine life to deal with emergency situations, is not described in the EAR and is not identified on the site drawings. • Addendum 4, "Description of Water Treatment Process for Emergency Raffinate Treatment," proposes conventional lime treatment for neutralizing excess water from the heap leach facility and precipitating metals prior to discharge. The practicality of the proposed treatment system is questionable. • The proposal suggests that the treatment system will rely on the events pond and sediment control pond as polishing ponds for the water treatment system. The availability of an emergency water treatment system will be most critical when there are water management issues at the site – when the events pond is most likely to be full of contaminated waters. As a result the events pond will not be available as a polishing pond under the most critical circumstances. <p><u>Liner Design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The liner design proposed by the company does not appear to meet the guidelines specified by the Government of Yukon in their Performance Standards as presented in Appendix C of the EAR. Yukon's guidelines require that the liner system achieve a permeability at least equivalent to a synthetic liner over a 12 inch soil liner with a permeability of 10^{-6} cm/s. The liner proposed by the company fails to meet this requirement in the upper portion of the heap leach pad. • Because the upper liner does not include a low permeability layer in contact with the plastic layer, the leakage rate through any imperfections will be relatively high. • It is not clear what the purpose of the solution recovery system is. • The liner design report does not identify whether the proposed design will meet the leakage criteria, or what the leakage rates could be. • The company's proposal suggests that remedial actions could be taken for specific cells. If this proposal is retained, additional construction details will need to be provided about how the cells will be segregated in the Pad/liner design. • EBA notes that the permeability of soil liners can be adversely affected by acidic fluids. As a result, EBA states that it has completed its analyses on the basis of increased perm abilities: the increases are not reflected in the numbers presented in Section 10.11. What analyses were completed with increased permeability and what values were used? • The EAR suggests that differential settlement will be addressed by providing pipe joints that will be capable of sustaining settlement induced tensions without separation. This will likely be difficult to achieve in practice and should not be seen as a practical solution to issues of differential settlement. <p><u>Heap Leach Pad Embankment Design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EAR contains limited information about the embankment design. Additional details need to be provided in order to evaluate the performance of the proposed embankment. • If a low-level pipe is going to be used, the long-term performance needs to be confirmed because this facility will have to remain in place in perpetuity. <p><u>Heap Leach Pad Loading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EAR does not provide details about how the cushion material will be loaded onto the liner. Additional details about the methodology should be provided to ensure the integrity of the liner system.
--	--	---

		<p><u>Low Grade Ore Stockpile</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence of any stockpiles should be considered in establishing conditions and developing plans related to temporary closure and security bonding. <p><u>Waste Rock Disposal - Design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company's proposal for waste rock disposal relies on placement of rock on ground that contains potentially thaw unstable soils. The "Waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report" recognizes uncertainties about constructing a waste rock dump in the proposed location. Thawing of permafrost in fine grained soils with high moisture content can lead to very low soil strengths. The construction of structures, including waste rock dumps, on these types of materials when thawing may occur is not standard engineering practice. Placement of waste rock on this area will likely lead to extended thaw periods due to the heat from the waste rock. The proponent states that "If the design criteria is not met, the buffer zone would provide sufficient clearance to excavate and construct a waste rock key trench to stabilize slopes, or flatten slopes if necessary". But the design drawings included suggest that the contingency buffer will be filled with waste rock during year 4. The company states that actions will be taken if the design criteria are not met however no specific design criteria have been specified. It appears that the buffer will only be in place for three years. The thawing within the foundation may not be complete, and uncertainty about performance may continue after the buffer is filled with waste rock. Once the area is covered with rock, the options for addressing stability issues are severely constrained. Security bonding level should reflect expense of mitigation measures within the buffer area. The proposed lift slopes of 2:1 are likely too steep to allow for effective placement of growth media, and establishment of vegetation at closure. It should be recognized that, during operations, re-grading of waste rock will not be a priority for equipment use. As a result re-grading at closure may be required. This would require larger bench widths to allow for the future re-grading to be maintained. Security bonding should reflect the possibility of re-grading at closure. Overall the waste rock dump proposal relies on uncertain technology. Proposed waste rock disposal methods will be operationally challenging. <p><u>Water Quality Modelling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proponents water modelling makes assumptions about effluent water quality from various sources. The quality assumes contaminant concentrations that are substantially lower than the discharge standards that are also discussed. In the same section, the company proposes that actions would be taken to address effluent discharges that exceed discharge standards. Unfortunately, waiting until concentrations reach these levels would lead to effects that are beyond those anticipated according to the modelling. In order to prevent unacceptable effects, actions may have to be taken prior to reaching effluent discharge standards. This regime for addressing receiving water quality issues should be described in more detail, and developed as an adaptive management program.
Yukon Government –	Randy Lamb, Manager of	<p><u>Wildlife Issues and Key Habitat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wildlife inspections made in mid-August was not the best time to

<p>Environment Department</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Section</p>	<p>encounter wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed new road will traverse key moose habitat. Mitigation will be required to minimize the hunting pressures from that access road. <p><u>Water Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data used to calculate the water balance should be updated as the data used originally was limited. Further information is required regarding the estimation used to calculate the 1:200 year 24 hour storm event used in the design of flows for surface drainage and collection ditches. There are discrepancies within the EAR regarding the storage volume for the sediment control pond. Differing meteorological base conditions were used for the waste rock storage area and the sediment control pond, as compared to the heap leach pad. The precipitation regime estimates used to develop waste rock storage and sediment control pond water balance should be reassessed. <p><u>Solution Storage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proponent has not provided rationale required by the Yukon Government for the Events Pond design standard. The low to moderate consequence assessment, within the EAR, for the loss of copper sulphate solution to Williams Creek seems inappropriate as a spill of even moderate size would eliminate fish from Williams Creek. A large spill could effect the aquatic resources of the adjacent Yukon River. A more detailed discussion of the risk assessment should be provided for review. <p><u>Hydrology and Streamflow Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The methodology used to estimate Williams Creek flows should be described. The estimated flows are essential to the modeling of water quality and predicting downstream impacts. <p><u>Groundwater Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater sampling methodology including field quality assurance/quality control be provided and be consistent with generally accepted sampling practices. All groundwater quality data should be reviewed to ensure that it is appropriate and valid data presented. <p><u>Water Quality Monitoring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water quality data is sparse with 6 to 9 samples representing 11 years. It is not clear which station will be the receiving water station that is to meet CCME guidelines. Some samples collected did not meet CCME guidelines for arsenic, chromium, copper, iron and zinc. It is not clear how the project will meet CCME guidelines in downstream receiving waters during operation. <p><u>Heap Detoxification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Yukon Government Standards is no perpetual treatment. A professional expert in this field should be asked to review the heap chemistry and detoxification proposed to ensure that the appropriate standards will be met.
<p>Yukon Conservation Society</p>	<p>Tracy Boyes, Watershed Health Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of the data presented in the EAR was collected during the 90's. Decision making simply cannot be based on this outdated data, therefore we recommend that the company perform more detailed studies. The presence of iron sulphides such as pyrite and chalcopyrite, which are acid generating when oxidized, is of concern. Mitigation measures to treat acid rock drainage are necessary. Continual testing should include a humidity cell test. Mining consumes great amounts of water at all stages of production. The

		<p>amount of water available within the aquifer is a concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and the Carmacks community need to be conducted to ensure that the local community benefits if this project goes ahead. • The draft closure plan that is included in this document is not ready for comment. • A full environmental review of the closure plan, and a commitment to posting a bond for the closure are essential before approval of this plan can be considered. • Although the upper 250m of the No.1 zone has been classified as being oxidized any additional depth gained during operation may cause oxidization and redox issues that have not been addressed. More technical research is required to determine the mitigation measures necessary to deal with the possibility of generating acid rock. • The “waste Rock Storage Area Evaluation and Detailed Design Report” should be updated to consider technological advances since this report was first written 8 years ago. • The waste dump should have a compacted till layer underneath it so water can be collected and it can’t penetrate the ground water; keeping the sites high and dry would be the best scenario. • More information is required regarding the storm events used in the EAR. • Further information is required regarding the stability of the ground below the liner (heap pad stability). • More information is required regarding alternatives to the sulphuric acid leaching process proposed by the proponent. • More information is required regarding the potential for adverse environmental effects as a result of trucking sulphuric acid. • There should be emissions limits placed on the acid plant. • Certainty is required regarding the acid producing technique to be used by the proponent. • More information is required regarding what material will be made in the Haul Road construction. YCS may have concerns with the proponent using waste rock in road construction as this rock may be acid producing. • Culvert design should incorporate 100-year return event not 25-year. • Access roads will have an adverse effect on wildlife as a result of increased hunting in the area. • Contamination of the Yukon River from Mine Site runoff is a concern as this may have an adverse effect on salmon stocks. • The sediment control ponds should be designed using a 1 in 100 year event. • More information is required regarding the stability of the ground on which the waste rock dump is being proposed. • More information is required regarding the plans for the low grade ore in case it is not processed. • More information is required regarding the heap neutralization (heap detoxification). • More information is required regarding the permafrost conditions on site. • The hydrological data should be updated. • Fisheries, Benthic Invertebrates Data should be updated. • The Wildlife data was performed at an unsuitable time for sightings. This data should be updated. • The company should consider alternatives to using calcium chloride for de-
--	--	--

Carmacks Copper Mine Environment Assessment
 Summary of Comments Received as of January 16, 2006

		<p>icing as this can have an adverse effect on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company should complete an Environmental Management System for review before the project is approved.
Yukon Government – Tourism Department	Cathryn Paish, Tourism Resource Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current tourist activities in the area include non-motorized boating/canoeing and rafting in the summer and dog mushing along the Yukon River in the winter. Concerns exist surrounding the possible visual and noise impacts on the Yukon River travelers. The Yukon Quest trail includes a portion of the Freegold Road and runs along Williams Creek. This project may effect winter use of the Quest Trail by tourism operators and the Yukon Quest event. A number of commercial dog mushers offer trips along the Quest Trail that may include the area proposed for the mine use.
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)	Mac Hislop, Campaign Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copper mining is known to cause irreversible ecological and environmental damage including: habitat destruction, fragmentation and alienation and water and air pollution. Since metal prices are highly cyclical significant negative community socio-economic impacts are experienced through all phases of both upswings and downswings of mining operations. The proponent has acknowledged that the economics of the project are questionable in its Canadian securities disclosures. It is imperative that a proper economic analysis be done of the project in order to determine its viability and whether or not the project can deliver on its promises. There is significant uncertainty regarding the technical viability of the proposed heap leaching operation. The technology to be employed is as yet unproven at the scale and environment proposed in this project. Mining operations and the environment have suffered from the application of non-viable operational technologies. According to Western Silver Corporation's 40-F filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004, the company has acknowledged that it does not have the resources to carry out the proposed project nor any experience in placing properties into production. High degree of uncertainty that the proponent can reclaim areas disturbed by its proposed and past activities