



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

PO Box 10114
701 West Georgia Street
Suite 410
Vancouver, British Columbia
V7Y 1C6

Boite postale 10114
701 rue Georgia ouest
Bureau 410
Vancouver (Colombie-Britannique)
V7Y 1C6

July 30, 2015

Mr. Ed Fogels
Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1400
Anchorage AK 99501
USA

Dear Mr. Fogels:

**Re: Environmental Assessment Decision for the Brucejack Gold Mine
Project in Northwest British Columbia, Canada**

I am writing to notify you of the federal environmental assessment decision for the Brucejack Gold Mine Project (the Project), proposed by Pretium Resources Inc. (the proponent), in northwest British Columbia, Canada. On July 30, 2015, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, issued a Decision Statement for the environmental assessment of the Project. Having taken into consideration the Environmental Assessment Report and comments received from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, other United States (U.S.) stakeholders, Aboriginal groups and the public, the Minister is of the opinion that:

- the mitigation measures and follow-up program described in the Environmental Assessment Report are appropriate for the Project; and
- the Project, taking into account the mitigation measures described in the Environmental Assessment Report, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

The Minister also issued a Project Recommendation which includes a determination regarding the potential effects of the Project under the *Nisga'a Final Agreement*.

In issuing her decision, the Minister has determined that the Project may proceed in accordance with legally binding conditions set out in her Decision Statement. These conditions include mitigation measures and follow-up requirements, which must be fulfilled by the proponent throughout the life of the Project.

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The Minister's Decision Statement, the Environmental Assessment Report, and the Nisga'a Project Recommendation are available on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca (reference number 80034). These documents were provided to the Minister as a recommendation from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) and informed the Minister's decision under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

In preparing its recommendation to the Minister, the Agency sought public comments, including from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in relation to the drafts of the Environmental Assessment Report and conditions. Thank you for your June 11, 2015 letter to Rob Hajdú, the Agency's Project Manager, providing comments on behalf of the State of Alaska on the materials.

The Agency provided your comments to the Minister, including that the State of Alaska finds no basis on which to object to: 1) the Agency's conclusions that it is unlikely that any impacts from water quality degradation to fish and fish habitat will be observable; and 2) the Agency's conclusion that the Project would not result in any significant adverse environmental effects outside of Canada.

In your letter, you also indicated that the State supports the Agency's recommendation that water quality monitoring at the outlet of Brucejack Lake into Brucejack Creek be implemented to verify the effectiveness of the proposed water treatment process, and that the State is satisfied that its concerns regarding potential cumulative effects have been addressed.

The Agency notes your interest in monitoring the effectiveness of the water treatment process in preventing harm to Alaskan waters and fish habitat. The proponent, and provincial and federal regulatory agencies, in consultation with the State of Alaska, will take measures to ensure compliance with the decision statement.

As the Agency's role has shifted to condition implementation, the Agency's contact has been transferred from Rob Hajdú to our Compliance Promotion and Enforcement Unit. That unit can be reached via e-mail at Compliance.Conformite@ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

Additional detail on all public comments on the Environmental Assessment Report and the Decision Statement conditions and how these were addressed can be found in Appendices E and G in the Environmental Assessment Report.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the time and effort the State of Alaska, and in particular the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, has dedicated to the review of the Brucejack Gold Mine Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amir Zarnit". The signature is written in a cursive style.

for:

Lisa Walls
Director
Pacific and Yukon Region

c.c.: Kyle Moselle, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Shelley Murphy, British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office