
1.3 PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the Project and identifies the significance of adverse residual effects. While the focus of the EIS is on environmental effects associated with those aspects of the Project that have changed or are new from the previous project proposal and on corresponding changes to the environmental effects previously predicted, these aspects are also assessed in relation to components and activities associated with the Project that have not changed.

This EIS:

- Evaluates the potential environmental effects of the Project, including residual effects after the implementation of mitigation measures
- Assesses whether the components and activities of the Project that have changed from the previous project proposal will result in significant adverse environmental effects, including cumulative environmental effects
- Assesses potential environmental effects of new project components and activities that have not been previously assessed and proposes mitigation measures to alleviate any potential effects
- Describes changes to previously predicted environmental effects that may occur as a result of the implementation of the new mine development plan (MDP) and mitigation measures
- Identifies how the Project as proposed addresses the significant adverse environmental effects that were identified in the previous project proposal
- Makes use of existing relevant information generated as part of the 2009/2010 review process, to the extent possible, and
- Identifies how commitments, mitigation measures and recommendations made as part of the 2009/2010 provincial and federal review will be incorporated into the Project design.

1.3.1 Study Strategy and Methodology

Taseko has observed the intent of the EIS Guidelines and this EIS provides sufficient information to identify all environmental effects that are likely to arise from the Project, using information from the 2009/2010 review as appropriate. This EIS focuses on potential environmental effects resulting from changes to on-site and off-site components and activities associated with the New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project and the reconfiguration of the mine site layout, how previously identified as well as new mitigation measures are applied, how previous commitments are integrated, how recommendations from the July 2010 Panel Report have been considered, and the significance of any residual effects.

Where matters outlined in the EIS Guidelines are in the judgement of TML not relevant or significant to the Project they have been omitted from the EIS. Any such omissions are clearly identified and appropriate justification is provided.

In assessing the environmental effects of the Project, this EIS addresses the findings of the previous panel regarding significant adverse environmental effects, in particular, effects on:

- Aboriginal rights or title
- Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by First Nations and on cultural heritage resources
- Fish and fish habitat in the Project area
- Users of the meadows within Teztan Yeqoz (Fish Creek) watershed
- Xení Gwet'in/Sonny Lulua trapline
- Taseko Lake Outfitters tourism business
- Navigation, and
- Cumulative effects on the Southern Chilcotin grizzly bear population and on fish and fish habitat.

This EIS documents how scientific, engineering, and community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge was used to reach conclusions. Assumptions are clearly identified and justified. All data, models and studies are documented such that the analyses are transparent and reproducible. All data collection methods have been specified. Where appropriate, the risk of error, uncertainty, reliability and sensitivity of any data and models used to reach conclusions is indicated.

Additional technical studies and data and updates to existing information related to the new components of the Project and their interaction with those elements and features of the Project that have not changed from the previous project proposal have been included where appropriate. The EIS contains, as appendices, copies of all technical studies, inventories or other supporting technical documents relied on to complete the EIS. The EIS identifies any significant gaps in knowledge and understanding relevant to conclusions and describes steps, if any, that have been taken to address or minimize these gaps.

There is extensive information with respect to potential Aboriginal rights throughout the EIS, in particular Sections 2.5.1.1, 2.6.4.3, 2.7.5. More specifically consideration of impacts to Aboriginal rights is provided in Section 2.7.5 and supporting appendices.