

1.4 OUTLINE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This EIS incorporates all the components outlined in the EIS Guidelines and follows the Table of Contents framework precisely as detailed in the EIS Guidelines.

1.4.1 Preface

This EIS has been prepared in response to and in accordance with the EIS Guidelines issued by the federal Minister of the Environment in March of 2012. The EIS contents are pursuant to, and will be reviewed under the requirements governed by the Canadian *Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA 2003). It has been prepared by TML incorporating input and advice received from consultants and subject matter experts described in Section 1.4.2.

1.4.2 Acknowledgements

Preparation of the EIS for the proposed New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project has involved significant effort on the part of many contractors, leading consulting firms, specialists and supporting companies. TML wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the following organizations and individuals involved in the preparation of this EIS:

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1.4.3 Executive Summary

Taseko Mines Limited, a British Columbia based mining company that owns and operates the Gibraltar Mine near Williams Lake, British Columbia proposes to develop the New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project 125 km to the southwest of Williams Lake.

The Project would involve the construction, operation, and closure of a large gold-copper mine which would take two years to build and would operate for 20 years. The main project components include an open pit mine, a 125 km power line, an onsite concentrator, a new 2 km access road and a tailings pond.

An environmental impact statement/application was submitted for mine development after the completion of an updated feasibility study in 2007, and was subject to rigorous reviews under British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Act (BCEAA) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEA Act) through the period 2009 to 2010.

Through their respective reviews which culminated in 2010, both governments concluded there would be no significant adverse environmental effects to:

- Air quality
- Terrain and soil
- Surface or groundwater quality
- Moose and mule deer and their habitat
- Vegetation, including old growth forest and grasslands
- Archaeological resources
- Fish in the Taseko River
- Water quality in Onion Lake, and
- Human health.

Both Governments also concluded the impact of the project on Fish Lake would likely result in adverse environmental effects on fish and fish habitat.

On January 14, 2010 the Province of British Columbia approved the project with the granting of an Environmental Assessment Certificate. They had determined the impact on fish and fish habitat was justified because of the significant economic benefit the project would bring to the local communities, the Province and the country.

Ten months later on November 2, 2010, the Government of Canada announced it could not justify providing the authorizations that would enable the project to be carried out as proposed. In rendering its decision the Government of Canada stated it was not opposed to the mining of the Prosperity ore body and that Taseko was not precluded from submitting a project proposal that includes addressing the factors considered by the panel. Subsequently, Taseko was invited to redesign the project in a manner that would respect the environmental concerns raised by the federal environmental assessment.

After a careful reading of the Government of Canada's decision and of the Panel Report upon which the decision was based, Taseko undertook to examine the means and methods by which a mine

development proposal could be prepared which would address the factors considered by the panel, be consistent with the provincial project approval already in place, avoid significant adverse environmental effects and satisfy the Government of Canada. The result of this work is detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement for the New Prosperity Gold-Copper Project formally submitted on September 19, 2012 to the Review Panel established under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and appointed by Hon. Peter Kent federal Minister of Environment on May 9, 2012.

Addressing the Federal Factors

In his referral of the Project to a federal review panel, the Minister of the Environment instructed the CEAA to design a process that will thoroughly assess whether the proposal addresses the environmental effects identified in the environmental assessment of the original Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project. He also directed the Agency to ensure that information obtained during the previous environmental assessment is used to the extent possible to ensure a timely decision and that the review take no more than 12 months. Consequently, the EIS focusses on:

- Evaluating all environmental effects resulting from changes to on-site and off-site components and activities associated with the new MDP and reconfiguration of the mine site layout (including any situations not explicitly identified in these Guidelines)
- How previously identified as well as new mitigation measures will be applied
- How previous commitments will be integrated
- How recommendations from the July 2010 Panel Report have been considered, and
- The significance of any residual effects.

The first federal Review Panel had determined that development of the project would result in adverse environmental effects on:

- Fish and fish habitat
- Navigation
- On the current use of the land and resources by First Nations for traditional uses and on potential or established Aboriginal rights or title, and
- As well, there would be a cumulative effect on grizzly bear in combination with foreseeable projects, including logging and ranching.

The new MDP, which addresses these factors, results in the preservation of the 111 ha Fish Lake and the lower portions of Upper Fish Creek as well as preservation of reaches of Fish Creek required for spawning and other small tributaries feeding the lake. This redesign will enable future generations' use of these waters for navigation, fishing and recreational activities and will also mitigate impacts on current use of the land by aboriginal people.

Additionally, the provincial policy of revenue sharing which results in significant economic benefit to participating aboriginal communities represents meaningful compensation and opportunity in

consideration of project impact. Also, Taseko remains committed to working with aboriginal people, to ensure local benefit from the project through employment, contracting and education/training opportunities.

The mine development is not located in high value grizzly bear habitat. Regardless, the revised mine site layout reduces the impact to grizzly bears as hectares of bear habitat disturbance are reduced and less fragmented.

The previous review panel report contains 24 recommendations. New Prosperity has taken these recommendations into consideration.

Project Components

Many elements and features of the New Prosperity Project design are identical to the original plan approved by the Provincial Government. There have been no changes to the proposed open pit or milling operations and facilities; and there have been no changes proposed for the access road, power line or rail load-out facilities that are also components of the project.

Taseko has relied on the previous methodology, regulatory and public participation, and consistent provincial and federal conclusions with respect to those aspects of the Project that have not changed and would suggest that previous conclusions with respect to those aspects remain valid and correct.

There will be changes to ore, waste rock and tailings storage locations. These changes, the most significant of which is the relocation of the tailings pond 2.5 km upstream of Fish Lake, will ensure the preservation of the lake, as well as the fish and fish habitat associated with the lake.

In comparison to the previous project proposal, the development design for New Prosperity results in a direct increase in capital and operating costs of \$300 million over the 20-year mine life.

The Need, Purpose, and Value of New Prosperity

The purpose of the Project is to help fill the predicted global shortage of copper concentrate and help fill a current gap that exists between the production of, and demand for, gold. The mine development is to utilize this proven mineral reserve to create value and opportunity for the people of British Columbia and Canada, and for the shareholders of Taseko.

The Project is expected to generate \$11 billion in Real Gross Domestic Product and 57,000 person years of employment over its anticipated 20 years of operation. The economic and social benefits for British Columbia and Canada will be significant, and especially for the Cariboo-Chilcotin region considering the current and future impact of the pine beetle infestation in this area of the province.

Public and Aboriginal Consultations

Input from public stakeholders and Aboriginals was provided through various consultation exercises including public meetings and a purpose-built interactive website.

Concern for the current and future economic condition of the region was top of mind with the majority of public comments received. New Prosperity is seen as having the ability to deliver considerable and much

needed economic benefit including job creation at a time when the region is suffering and facing an uncertain economic future. The following environmental concerns were also expressed: protection of water quality, wildlife, fish and fish habitat.

Consultation events and activities with aboriginal groups and individuals have been conducted since 1993. The purposes of this consultation has been to seek to develop a working relationship with the Aboriginal people; to identify potential opportunities for mutual benefit; to identify Aboriginal concerns and consider options to mitigate or accommodate those concerns; and, to perform certain procedural aspects of the Crown's duty to consult.

The key issues raised during Aboriginal consultations include the protection of wildlife habitat, fish and fish habitat, water quality, archaeology, gathering and harvesting locations, site closure and reclamation, as well as economic, community and social benefit.

The EIS illustrates how stakeholder and aboriginal considerations were incorporated into the MDP project design.

Mitigation and Significance of Effects

The following mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce the impact of any potential adverse environmental effects related to this project:

- Fish habitat compensation plans to mitigate the potential harmful alteration, disruption, and destruction of fish habitat
- Extensive use of water re-cycling and water management strategies to protect the aquatic ecology in Fish Lake and the Fish Creek watershed
- Seepage and runoff collection systems to monitor the quality and quantity of mine effluent and to assist in managing the nature and timing of its discharge into waters frequented by fish
- Adaptive management techniques to monitor and mitigate environmental impacts as required
- Subaqueous disposal of potentially acid generating (PAG) waste rock to prevent and mitigate potential impacts to water quality as a result of acid rock drainage (ARD)
- Air quality and noise control measures to reduce offsite impacts to local wildlife and workers
- Use of existing forestry roads and clear-cuts to reduce disturbance related to mine access and power line construction
- Implementation of environmental management plans will provide guidance on all environmental aspects during the construction, operations and decommissioning phases to minimize and, where possible, eliminate environmental impacts associated with the project.

Taking into account the implementation of proposed mitigation, including commitments made by Taseko in this EIS, and relying on the information supplied by relevant experts in each of the scientific and social disciplines who have contributed to this report, Taseko concludes that the Project is not likely to cause any significant adverse environmental effects.

1.4.4 Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used throughout this EIS:

%.....	Percent
<.....	Less Than
>.....	Greater Than
°C.....	Degrees Celsius
µ.....	Micro
µg/L.....	Micrograms per Litre
µg/m ³	Micrograms per Cubic Metre
µm.....	Micrometres
µS/cm.....	Microsiemens per Centimetre
A.....	Area
AAC.....	Aboriginal Advisory Committee
AADT.....	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AAFRD.....	Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
AAMDC.....	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
AANDC.....	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
AAQC.....	Ambient Air Quality Criteria
AAQO.....	Ambient Air Quality Objective (BC)
ACT.....	Analysis of Contaminant Transport
AIA.....	Archaeological Impact Assessment
ALR.....	Agricultural Land Reserve
AN.....	Ammonium Nitrate
ANFO.....	Ammonium Nitrate-fuel Oil
ANP.....	Ammonium Nitrate Prill
AOA.....	Archaeological Overview Assessment
AP.....	Acid Potential
AQEMMP.....	Air Quality Emissions Monitoring and Management Plan
ARD.....	Acid Rock Drainage
ATK.....	Aboriginal
ATV.....	All-Terrain Vehicle
Au.....	Gold
AUM.....	Animal Unit Month
BATEA.....	Best Available Technology Economically Achievable
BC.....	British Columbia
BCCDC/BC CDC.....	British Columbia Conservation Data Centre
BC CSR.....	British Columbia Contaminated Sites Regulation
BCEAA.....	British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act
BCEAO/ BC EAO.....	British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office
BCF.....	Bioconcentration Factor
BCSC.....	British Columbia Supreme Court
BCTC.....	British Columbia Transmission Corporation
BCWQG.....	British Columbia Water Quality Guidelines
BEC.....	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification

BGC	BGC Engineering Inc.
BLIERS	Base-Level Industrial Emission Requirements
BLM	Biotic Ligand Model
BMP	Best Management Practices
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BSLT	Basalt
BTEX	Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylenes
CAAQS	Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAC	Criteria Air Contaminant
CCLRMP	Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Resource Management Plan
CCLUO	Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Order
CCLUP	Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CCNS	Canadian Climate Normal Station
CCREM	Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers
CCTC	Carrier-Chilcotin Tribal Council
CDA	Canadian Dam Association
CDC	Conservation Data Centre
CDWG	Canadian Drinking Water Guideline
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
CEA Act	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
CEMI	Canadian Environmental and Metallurgical Inc.
CEPA	Canadian Environmental Protection Act
CEQG	Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines
CESL	Cominco Engineering Services Limited
CH ₄	Methane
CLI	Canada Land Inventory
CMT	Culturally Modified Tree
CNSC	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort
CRD	Cariboo Regional District
CSFP	Critical Stream Flow Period
CSR	Contaminated Sites Regulations
Cu	Copper
CV	Coefficient of Variation
CVAA	Cold Vapour Atomic Absorption
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris
CWS	Canada-wide Standard
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted Decibels
DBE	Design Basis Earthquake

DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DF	Dustfall
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DL	Shoreline Development Index
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DOC	Dissolved Organic Carbon
DOM	Dissolved Organic Matter
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAA	Environmental Assessment Act
EAO	Environmental Assessment Office
EC	Environment Canada
ECDA	Economic and Development Agreement
EEM	Environmental Effects Monitoring
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
EM	Environmental Monitor
EMA	Environmental Management Act
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EMPA	Electron Microprobe Analysis
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPA	Electricity Purchase Agreement
EPH	Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbons
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
ERCB	Energy Resources Conservation Board
ERD	Enhanced Resource Development
ERP	Emergency Response Team
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
ESD	Environmental Stewardship Division
ESV	Ecological Screening Values
Fish/m ²	Fish per Square Metre
FANL	Fisheries Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
FAV	Final Acute Value
FCD	Flood Control Dam
FFPP	Freshwater Fisheries Program Plan
FFSBC	Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
FLNRO	Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
FB	Fish-bearing
FN	First Nations
FRPA	Forest and Range Protection Act
FSR	Forest Service Road
ft	Feet
FWAL	Fresh Water Aquatic Life
g/m ²	Gram per Square Metre
g/t	Grams per Tonne
g/t Au	Grams per Tonne of Gold

GAR	Government Acts Regulation
GBA	Grassland Benchmark Area
GBPU	Grizzly Bear Population Unit
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHGRP	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Program
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Position System
GWh	Gigawatt Hour
ha	Hectares
HA	Highly Annoyed
HADD	Harmful Alteration, Disruption and Destruction
HC	Health Canada
HCA	Heritage Conservation Act
HCA/HCB	Humidity Cell
HCT	Humidity Cell Test
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
HEP	Habitat Evaluation Procedure
HHERA	Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment
HKP	Hallam Knight Piésold Ltd.
HQ	Hazard Quotient
HRT	Hydraulic Residence Time
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
ICOLD	International Commission on Large Dams
IDF	Inflow Design Flood
INAC	Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
IR	Information Request
IRM	Integrated Resource Management
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISQG	Interim Sediment Quality Guideline
JWA	Jacques Whitford AXYS Ltd.
KI	Key Indicator
km	Kilometre
km ²	Square Kilometre
KP	Knight Piésold Ltd.
KPL	Knight Piésold Ltd.
kV	Kilovolt
L/s	Litres per Second
LEL	Minor Adverse Effects, Lowest Effect Level
Leq	Equivalent Continuous Sound Level
LOAEL	Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level
LOEL	Lowest Observed Effects Level
LOM	Life of Mine
LSA	Local Study Area
LWD	Large Woody Debris
LWG	Livestock Water Guidelines

m	Metre
m/s	Metres per Second
m ²	Square Metre
m ³ / m3	Cubic Metre
m ³ /d	Cubic Metres per Day
m ³ /s	Cubic Metres per Second
MAA	Multiple Accounts Analysis
MAE	Multiple Accounts Evaluation
MAPA	Mines Act Permit Application
masl	Metres Above Sea Level
MDA	Maximum Disturbance Area
MD Act	Mine Development Act
MDL	Minimum Detection Limit
MDP	Mine Development Plan
ME	Main Embankment
mE	Metres East
MEI	Ministry of Employment and Investment
MELP	Ministry of the Environment Lands and Parks
MEM/BC MEM	Ministry of Energy and Mines
MEMPR/BCMEMPR/BC MEMPR	Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
MEND	Mine Environment Neutral Drainage
mEq/L	Milli-Equivalent per Litre
MFLNRO/BC MFLNRO	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
mg/dm ² /d	Milligram per Square Decimeter per Day
mg/kg	Milligrams per Kilogram
mg/L	Milligrams per Litre
MHRCS	Ministry of Housing, Recreation and Consumer Services
MHWM	Materials Handling and Waste Management
MIBC	Methyl Isobutyl Carbinol
ML	Metal Leaching
mm	Millimetre
Mm ²	Million Square Metres
MMER	Metal Mining Effluent Regulations
mN	Metres North
MOE/MoE/BCMOE/BC MoE/BC MOE/BC MoE	Ministry of Environment
MOELP/BCMOELP	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
MOF/MoF/BCMOF/BC MoF/BC MOF/BC MoF	Ministry of Forests
MOFR/BCMOFR	Ministry of Forests and Range
MOT	Ministry of Transportation
MPB	Mountain Pine Beetle
MS	Mountain Spruce Zone
MSD	Musculoskeletal Disease
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
MU	Management Units
MWLAP	Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

N/A	Not Applicable
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
NAAQO	National Ambient Air Quality Objectives
NAG	Net Acid Generation
NAPS	National Air Pollution Surveillance
NAQMS	National Air Quality Management System
NAWQC	National Ambient Water Quality Criteria
NEL	No Effect Threshold, No Effect Level
NFB	Non Fish-bearing
ND	Data Not Available
NNL	No Net Loss
NO	Nitric Oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOAEL	No Observable Adverse Effects Level
NOEC	No Observed Effects Concentration
non-PAG	Non-Potentially Acid Generating
NoW	Notice of Work
NOx	Nitrous Oxides
NP	Neutralization Potential
NPRI	National Pollutant Release Inventory
NRC	Natural Resources Canada
NRMS	Normalized Root Mean Square
NSTC	Northern Shuswap Tribal Council
NStQ	Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NVC	No Visible Channel
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
NWPA	Navigable Waters Protection Act
OGC	Oil and Gas Commission
OGMA	Old-Growth Management Area
OMS	Operations Monitoring and Surveillance
OP	Open Pit
ORNL	Oakridge National Laboratory
PAG	Potentially Acid Generating
PAH	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PCA	Principal Components Analysis
PDA	Project Maximum Disturbance Area
PDA	Project Development Area
PEL	Probable Effect Level
PEP	Provincial Emergency Program
pers. comm.	Personal Communication
PLT	Point Load Test
PM	Particulate Matter
PM ₁₀	Inhalable Particulate Matter (<10 µm in diameter)
PM _{2.5}	Inhalable Particulate Matter (<2.5 µm in diameter)

PMPD	Porphyritic Diorite Dikes
PNEC	Predicted No Effect Concentration
POPC	Parameters of Potential Concern
ppm	Parts per Million
PPP	Prediction and Prevention Plan
PRS	Project Report Specifications
PSL	Predicted Sound Level
PVC	Polyvinylchloride
Q	Directivity Factor
QD	Quartz Diorite
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
QXRD	Quantitative X-ray Diffraction Analysis with Rietveld Refinement
RA	Regulatory Authority
RAAD	Remote Access to Archaeological Data
RAR	Riparian Areas Regulation
RBC	Rotating Biological Contractor
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RIC	Resources Inventory Committee
RMA	Riparian Management Area
RMZ	Resource Management Zone
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	Right-of-Way
RQD	Rock Quality Designation
RRZ	Riparian Reserve Zone
RS	Acid Generation Rate
RSA	Regional Study Area
SAR	Sediment Accumulation Rate
SARA	Species at Risk Act
SD	Standard Deviation
SE	South Embankment
SEL	Severe Effect Level
SFE	Shake Flask Extractions
SIBEC	Site Index Biogeoclimatic Classification System
SIL	Survey Intensity Level
SL	Sound Level
SMU	Soil Map Unit
SNTC	Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide
SOD	Small Organic Debris
SO _x	Oxides of Sulphur
SPL	Sound Pressure Level
SQG	Sediment Quality Guideline
SRD	Special Resource Development
SRK	SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc.
SRMP	Sustainable Resource Management Plan

STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
t/day	Tonnes per Day
TC	Transport Canada
TDG	Transportation of Dangerous Goods
TDR	Technical Data Report
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TEL	Threshold Effect Level
TEM	Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping
TIA	Tailings Impoundment Area
TIC	Total Inorganic Carbon
TKO	Taseko Mines Limited
TML	Taseko Mines Limited
TNG	Tsilhqot'in National Government
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
tpd	Tonnes per Day
Triton	Triton Environmental Consultants Ltd.
TRM	Solute Transport Model
TRIM	Terrain Resource Information Management
TRV	Toxicity Reference Value
TSA	Timber Supply Area
TSF	Tailings Storage Facility
TSFA	Terrain Stability Field Assessment
TSM	Towards Sustainable Mining
TSP	Total Suspended Particulate
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UBC	University of British Columbia
UCS	Unconfined Compressive Strength
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
UWR	Ungulate Winter Range
VEC	Valued Environmental Component
VEC	Valued Ecosystem Component
VH	Volatile Hydrocarbons
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
VPH	Volatile Petroleum Hydrocarbons
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
VRI	Vegetation Resource Inventory
WCTA	West Chilcotin Tourism Association
WE	West Embankment
WHMIS	Workplace Hazardous Material Information System
WQG	Water Quality Guideline
WSC	Water Survey of Canada
ZOS	Zones of Sensitivity

1.4.5 Organization of the EIS

The EIS is organized and presented following exactly the outline and Table of Contents provided in the EIS Guidelines. Appendices from the March 2009 EIS/Application are referred to in the text by their original appendix number as used in the 2009 submission.