



**Prosperity Gold-Copper Project**  
**Public Comment Period Summary Report**  
**June 15, 2009**

## Executive Summary

Taseko Mines Limited has applied for an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project (the Project). The Project is subject to environmental assessment review under both the federal and provincial environmental assessment acts, and is currently in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS or Application) review stage of the review processes. The 180-day review period, coordinated jointly by the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) on behalf of the federal Panel includes a 60-day formal public comment period during which time regulatory agencies, local and regional governments and members of the public were invited to comment on the Application.

The Environmental Assessment public comment period for the Project began on March 26, 2009 and ended on May 25, 2009. As part of the process, the public was invited to attend public open house meetings, review the proposed project and provide comments on potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health impacts.

The consultation program consisted of:

- Two Open Houses held in regional communities: Williams Lake and 100 Mile House. The third Open House scheduled for Alexis Creek was cancelled by the EAO.
- A one hour question-and-answer session at the end of each open house presentation with a panel consisting of Taseko staff and representatives from the EAO and CEA Agency.
- Three specific topic Open Houses held in Williams Lake on: Fish, Fish Habitat and Fish Compensation; Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Water Quality and Aquatic Biology; and, Terrestrial Ecosystems.
- Meetings with interested parties including: Rod and Gun clubs; Stockbreeders' associations; local and regional business groups; and, local and regional environmental conservation groups.
- Written submissions by the public and stakeholders posted on the EAO website and forwarded to Taseko for formal response.

The public and interested parties were encouraged to view the Application online at the EAO website ([www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca)), at open houses, and at regional public libraries in 100 Mile House and Williams Lake, Williams Lake City Hall, and the Ministry of Forests and Range office in Alexis Creek. They were also invited to submit comments directly to the EAO via mail, fax or e-mail. In addition, a formal public comment form was available at the open houses and on the EAO website ([www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca)).

Information booklets summarized the Project and the 9 volumes in the Project EIS were made available at Open Houses and meetings with interested parties. On the Taseko website ([www.prosperityproject.ca/prosperity/PEA-EISA.asp](http://www.prosperityproject.ca/prosperity/PEA-EISA.asp)) both the booklets and the complete EIS was made available. In addition, compact discs with the EIS were made available to any organization requesting a copy.

Notification for the EAO public comment period for the Project was undertaken in accordance with requirements set out by the EAO. The EAO requires seven days notice prior to commencement of the public comment period. The formal 60-day public comment period ended at midnight on May 25, 2009.

Approximately 2000 individuals participated in the consultation program either through open houses, correspondence to the EAO or through meetings with Taseko. A total of 600 participants

attended the open houses; 1218 written submissions were made to the EAO; and, over 260 met with Taseko during specific interest group meetings.

Primary themes from the question-and-answer periods at public meetings and from meetings with interested groups:

- Employment and contracting opportunities for local workers and local industry.
- Local and regional economic benefits from the Project.
- The balance of social, economic and environmental considerations in the review process, and the Federal review timeline.
- Water management in and around mine site; long-term protection of surface and ground water quality from acid rock drainage (ARD); and, environmental effects from water diversions.
- Prosperity Lake in general, the feasibility of the lake being productive, and the public's access to the new lake.
- Impacts from new access or increased public and/or worker access along existing roads on wildlife, human safety and cultural heritage sites.
- Effect of the Project on First Nations Rights and Title, and current treaty negotiations.
- Protection of taxpayers from costs associated with environmental monitoring, water management or reclamation.
- Route location, ownership and decommissioning of the transmission line.
- Alternatives assessment and options that were investigated in attempt to save Fish Lake.
- Impacts on wildlife immediately within or around the mine site and hunting restrictions for the public.

Key quantitative results from written submissions to EAO

A total of 1218 public submissions were received. The submissions and Taseko's responses are detailed in tables in appendixes to this report. The comments are categorized as follows:

- In-Support of the Project
- Conditional Support of the Project if properly regulated and environmental protection put in place
- Opposed to the Project due to concerns regarding potential effects:
  - Aboriginal Rights and Title,
  - Wildlife and habitat
  - Loss of Fish Lake
  - Water Quality
  - Socio-Economic, including cultural heritage

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	- 1 -
○ Table of Contents .....	- 3 -
1 Introduction.....	- 4 -
1.1 Environmental Assessment Process.....	- 4 -
1.2 Summary of Consultation to Date.....	- 4 -
1.3 Purpose of this Report.....	- 5 -
2 Consultation and Information Distribution Program .....	- 5 -
2.1 Notification .....	- 6 -
2.2 Access to the Application .....	- 7 -
2.3 Public Open Houses .....	- 7 -
2.4 Specific Topic Public Meetings .....	- 9 -
2.5 Meetings and Communication with Interested Parties .....	- 9 -
2.6 Public Input.....	- 13 -
3 Next Steps .....	18
Appendix A – Newspaper Advertisement .....	<a href="#">separate attachment</a>
Appendix B - Interested Parties - Contact List .....	<a href="#">separate attachment</a>
Appendix C - Public Comments Tracking Table.....	<a href="#">separate attachment</a>
Appendix D – Discipline Specific Issue Tracking Tables .....	<a href="#">separate attachment</a>

# **1 Introduction**

Taseko Mines Limited (Taseko) proposes to develop the Prosperity Gold-Copper Project (Project), a conventional mine project that would involve a large open pit mine development with a 20 year operating life. The Project includes the development of the mine, an onsite mill and support infrastructure, a power transmission line corridor approximately 125 km long, and 2.8 km of mine access road. A vital and necessary step in the development of a project of this nature involves the completion of an environmental assessment. The Project is subject to environmental assessment under federal and provincial environmental assessment legislation and is currently in the application review stage of the provincial and federal processes.

## **1.1 Environmental Assessment Process**

Taseko Mines Limited (Taseko) submitted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS or Application) for an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project (the Project) to the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) on January 26, 2009. The EAO determined that the Application provided an appropriately meaningful treatment of the requirements of the Terms of Reference and formally accepted the Application for review on March 11, 2009.

The EAO also set out the requirements for the formal public comment period in accordance with the Section 11 Order issued on June 22, 2008. A formal public comment period was established (March 26 to May 25, 2009) for the public to submit comments on the Application. As well, the EAO set out an agency comment period (March 26 to May 25, 2009) for members of the Technical Working Group (composed of provincial and federal government agencies, Project area First Nations and Project area local governments) to submit comments on the Application.

## **1.2 Summary of Consultation to Date**

The Project EIS provides descriptions of key consultation events and activities conducted for the development of the EA from 1992 to the present. These consultation events and activities are divided into four major sections which include: Government Agency Consultation, Public Consultation, First Nation Consultation and Stakeholder Consultation (Volume 2, Section 5). First Nations consultation is further summarized in Volumes 8 of the EIS.

Consultation events and activities include:

- Interactions with numerous government agencies identified in Section 5.2 throughout 1993 to 2008
- Engagement with Tsilhqot'in and Northern Secwepemc communities and leadership throughout 1993 to 2008.
- Two public advisory committee meetings during early stages to assist in the development of the Project in 1993 and 1995.
- Seven project committee meetings between 1995 and 1999.

- Twenty meetings of 4 technical subcommittees between 1997 and 1999; a number of informal technical meetings between 2006 and 2008; and, 6 technical Open Houses in 1997 and 1998.
- General Open Houses in 1998 to review Project Report Specifications; and, General Open Houses in 2008 to review Terms of reference for EIS
- Five Alternative Assessment Workshops and Multiple Accounts Evaluation Open House in 1998.
- Sixteen presentations to stakeholders between 1997 and 1999 and fifteen meetings/ presentations to stakeholders between 2006 and 2008.

Results from technical subcommittee meetings, open houses, and workshops throughout the 1990s to 2008 are tabulated in Volume 2 of the EIS, and, for key consultation events, the issues and concerns raised are summarized. As reported in Section 5.7 of Volume 2, the key issues indentified include:

- Increased access to currently undeveloped areas and this impact on wildlife;
- Disturbance of fish and fish habitat, and the Fish Compensation Plan
- Opportunities for education and training, and job creation;
- The transmission line right-of-way effects on wildlife, cultural sites and cattle grazing operations;
- Long-term protection of water quality and salmon;
- Trap line compensation;
- The EA and consultation process; and,
- Infringement on First Nations' aboriginal rights.

### **1.3 Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the consultation program undertaken by Taseko for the Project during the public comment period of the Application review phase. This summary focuses on activities and input received between March 26 and May 25, 2009.

In accordance with the Section 14 Order, this document fulfills an EAO requirement that Taseko submit a report on the results of public consultation activities related to the Application review phase. Note that First Nations consultation is not specifically discussed in this report but rather addressed in a separate First Nations Consultation Report to be submitted to the EAO.

## **2 Consultation and Information Distribution Program**

Taseko's public consultation and information distribution program is described in Volume 2, Section 5 of the Application and includes a summary of the pre-Application phase consultation. The public consultation and information distribution plan for the Application review phase specified in Section 5 includes the following activities:

- Newspaper advertisements and announcements would continue to be produced and distributed to keep the public aware of Project and EA events and milestones
- Make copies of the Application available in local libraries and/or other suitable generally-accessible locations in Williams Lake, Quesnel, 100 Mile and Alexis Creek
- Continue to update the Project website to reflect important Project and EA milestones and provide a link to the Application on Taseko's web site
- Present an overview of the Application to key local organizations with information on how to obtain copies
- Respond to Information Requests (IRs) received from the BC EAO, the federal Panel or submitted directly to Taseko
- Meet with interested parties upon request
- Host a round of open houses to provide an overview and visual presentation of the project and environmental assessment as described in the Application.

## **2.1 Notification**

The public was notified of the submission of the EA Application and the associated public comment period (March 26 to May 25, 2009) via newspaper advertisements (Appendix A) and direct communication from Taseko staff. As a result the high level of interest in the Project from nearby communities (particularly Williams Lake and 100 Mile House) and extensive communication by Taseko with these communities during the pre-Application phase, there appeared to be a relatively high level of public awareness of the Prosperity Project environmental assessment (EA) process, as evidenced by reporting in local media and open house attendance.

Based on direction from the BC EAO, Taseko prepared public notification advertisements for regional newspapers in March 2009. The newspapers identified for advertisements serve local communities near the project and all were identified as 'communities with interests' for the project. Notices were published in the following newspapers on the dates shown:

- Williams Lake Tribune – March 19, 2009
- 100 Mile House – March 20, 2009
- Quesnel Cariboo Observer – March 22, 2009

Each advertisement included: public comment period dates; open house times and locations in each community; a description of where copies of the Application could be viewed by interested members of the public; and, instructions on how to access the report on the internet (on the Taseko website). The advertisement placed in regional newspapers is included as Appendix A. Taseko staff also directly contacted by telephone a number of stakeholders and organizations who had previously expressed an interest in the Project to inform them of the opportunity to provide comments on the

project during the public comment period and offer further information through a meeting or presentation. A listing of stakeholder and organization contacts is provided in Appendix B.

## **2.2 Access to the Application**

Printed copies of the Application were hand delivered to public libraries in the following communities: Williams Lake and 100 Mile House. A copy of the Application was hand delivered to the City Hall in Williams Lake for public viewing. A copy of the Application was also available to the public for viewing in Alexis Creek through the Ministry of Forests and Range government office. In addition, printed copies were delivered to the following rural First Nations communities: Xeni Gwet'in (Nemiah), Yunesit'in (Stone), Tl'esqox (Toosey), Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office (Anaham), Alexis Creek, ?Esdilagh (Alexandria), Ulkatcho, High Bar, Xatsull, Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek), T'exelcemc (Williams Lake) and Esketemc (Alkali).

Electronic copies of the Application were publicly accessible on the Taseko website. Furthermore, a compact disc containing the EIS files was provided to any organization that requested a copy.

## **2.3 Public Open Houses**

Taseko organized a series of Open Houses to provide information on the Project to interested members of the public, respond to questions and facilitate submission of public comments by providing comment forms. Open Houses were co-hosted by representatives of the EAO and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency). At the Open Houses, presentations were given by Taseko, the EAO and the CEA Agency. Taseko's presentation provided an overview of the Project and its EA Application. The EAO and CEA Agency presentations provided overviews of the provincial and federal EA processes, respectively. Summary information for each Open House (date, time and attendance) is listed below:

- **100 Mile House – March 31, 2009 – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

Registration was estimated at 100 persons

- **Williams Lake – April 1, 2009 – 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Registration was estimated at 500 persons.

An Open House was scheduled for April 2, 2009 at Alexis Creek; however, a demonstration coordinated by Tsilhqot'in Chiefs caused the EAO and CEA Agency to decide to not continue with the meeting.



At the Open Houses, members of the public were given an opportunity to provide written comments on the project. At the registration desk, attendees were encouraged to fill out a comment form that they could put into a drop box (collected by the EAO at the end of each Open House), or fax or email to the EAO at a later date. The nature of the comments is described in section 2.6 of this report. Many of the attendees were also interested in potential career opportunities with Taseko, if the Project is approved and proceeds to development. A large number of people came to the Open House with resumes, and these were received and filed by Taseko staff for future reference.

Information booklets summarized the Project and the 9 volumes in the Project EIS were made available at Open Houses and meetings with interested parties. During the question and answer periods, comments were recorded and general themes were categorized as follows:

***Themes from Comments at the 100 Mile Open House***

- Long-term protection of ground water
- Environmental risk from the tailings pond, including overflowing
- Concentrations of elements in the environment
- Employment opportunities for 100 Mile residents and bussing of workers to the site
- First Nations position on the Project, and First Nations Rights and Title
- Protection of taxpayers from environmental or reclamation costs
- Total size of mine and associated disturbance

***Themes from Comments at the Williams Lake Open House***

- The review process in general; the balance of social, economic and environmental considerations in the review; and, the Federal review timeline
- The access route for concentrate to the Macalister load-out facility; the access roads' capacity and effect on existing traffic
- Ownership and decommissioning of the transmission line; viability of the line since it is over 100 km; and, the feasibility of using alternative energy such as proposed co-gen plants
- First Nations position on the Project, and the effect of new BC legislation proposed on First Nations, and the Project's effect on the current treaty negotiations
- Environmental risk from acid generation and water management; and, environmental effects from water diversions
- Alternatives assessment and options that were investigated in attempt to save Fish Lake; the effect of higher copper price and modern technology on the feasibility of alternatives; and, the feasibility of the Project in general considering current economic climate
- Employment and contracting opportunities for local workers and local industry

## **2.4 Specific Topic Public Meetings**

A series of Open Houses were held in Williams Lake on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 over a weekend to enable the public to hear more information on technical aspects of the project. The format for these Open Houses was a presentation provided by Taseko followed by question and answer periods. Three Open Houses were held:

- Fish, Fish Habitat, and Fish Compensation - April 3 (evening)
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Water Quality and Aquatic Biology - April 4 (morning)
- Terrestrial Ecosystems - April 4 (afternoon)

Approximately 10 to 15 individuals attended each of the three Specific Topic Public Meetings.

### ***Themes from Comments at Specific Topic Public Meetings***

Taseko's presentations were topic specific at each session; however, discussions following the presentations covered all aspects of the Project. The majority of discussion during questions and answer periods centered on the following:

- Other examples in Western Canada or United States where a pre-existing lake has been replaced with a biologically restored tailings pond.
- Impacts on wildlife immediately within or around the mine site, including the need for fencing around the mine site to protect wildlife and the impact of the loss of the island which game currently uses to evade predators.
- Monitoring programs proposed to assess the effects of the mine on wildlife health.
- Details of reclamation practices.
- General transmission corridor questions regarding route.
- General water management in and around mine site.

## **2.5 Meetings and Communication with Interested Parties**

Taseko was asked to meet with or speak to interested parties regarding the Prosperity Project during the Application review period, and participated in a number of meetings, which are summarized below:

### **• Chamber of Commerce, 100 Mile House**

This group includes representatives of the business community in 100 Mile House. There were approximately 30 persons in attendance. The main topics that were discussed were the potential jobs and economic development associated with the project, if approved. Taseko provided the key findings of the Economic and Fiscal Impacts Study done on Prosperity. An overview was also provided in terms of the general Project review processes (EAO and CEA Agency), and opportunities for public review of the EA application and provisions for public comment. The group provided very encouraging and supportive comments. One key item put forward by the group was the idea of

building an airstrip at the site to enable the creation of an air charter "commuting service" for employees who would rather fly into the mine site from 100 Mile and elsewhere rather than take a bus into the site. While there are no plans for an airstrip at site, the proponents of the idea put forward some persuasive arguments in favor.

- **Chamber of Commerce, Williams Lake**

This group includes representatives of the business community in Williams Lake and presentations to this group had been provided during the pre-Application stage. . On April 28, a meeting was held with the Williams Lake Chamber of Commerce and their consultants to provide them with information they required for a study being conducted by them. Taseko provided information on business needs for the Project. In addition, on May 28<sup>th</sup>, a luncheon presentation was provided to the Chamber of Commerce in Williams Lake to give an update on the review process and Taseko's activities during the public comment period. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. Comments and questions on May 28 centered around First Nations' position on the project and the schedule for the review process.

- **Lunch-Time Rotary Club, Williams Lake**

An update on the Project and the review process was provided to lunch-time Rotary Club on May 20, 2009. Approximately 20 were in attendance. This group includes representatives of the business community and had been previously provided a presentation on the Project during the pre-Application stage. The group provided supportive comments. The questions primarily centered around First Nations' position on the Project and risk of the Project not going forward.

- **Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society (with Field Naturalists and Williams Lake Sustainability Council)**

A meeting coordinated by the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, with invitations extended to Field Naturalist and Williams Lake Sustainability Council, was held on May 21, 2009. A joint meeting of these organizations was held as membership overlaps between groups. Members of the Council of Canadians were also present at the meeting on May 21 and their comments are summarized below. In total, approximately 40 people were in attendance. During this meeting, questions and concerns were raised with regard to the protection of water quality, mitigation measures for wildlife, reclamation costs and identification and protection of rare plants. Concern was also expressed with regard to the polarization developing within the community between those in favor of project development for economic reasons, and those opposed for perceived social or environmental issues. Since it was apparent that this group would like to have additional meetings to review the Project EIS in greater detail, Taseko offered further meetings with the group with topic-specific sessions. It appeared that few or none of these members attended the Topic Specific Public Meetings held on April 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> in Williams Lake. Follow-up contact by email was made with the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society with regard to further meetings but no dates were confirmed at the time of this report.

- **Council of Canadians**

The Council of Canadians specifically requested a 'panel' type of meeting with brief presentations to be made by Taseko, First Nations, Chamber of Commerce and an environmental group yet to be identified as they were dissatisfied with the Open House in Williams Lake. Taseko advised the Council that they raise this request with the EAO to coordinate such a multi-stakeholder panel forum. Members of the Council were subsequently in attendance at the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society meeting (see above) and voiced their dismay at this panel meeting not being provided. Taseko further encouraged the Council to contact the EAO, and committed to participating in such an event should the Council move forward with it; however, Taseko also outlined the Federal review process and the public participation opportunities at the Panel hearings.

- **Williams Lake Social Planning Council**

A lunch-time presentation was provided to the Social Planning Council on June 11, 2009. Although outside of the public comment period, a summary of this meeting is provided in this report to ensure that dialogue with this group and commitments from Taseko are recorded. Approximately 14 individuals were present at the meeting. This group's interest is in social well-fair of the regional communities and is involved with the non-government social support programs. Taseko provided an overview of the project, and the environmental and social studies completed for the EIS. The Social Planning Council was interested in reviewing in greater detail the socio-economic information summarized in Volume 6 of the Prosperity EIS. Taseko offered to be available to provide more information through presentations or meetings to assist the Council or a sub-committee review the information. The Council was particularly interested in Taseko's Mining: Your Future education and training program, and re-training of unemployed forest workers for mining jobs.

- **Williams Lake Sportsman Association**

Taseko participated in an evening meeting held on May 25, 2009 with the Williams Lake Sportsman Association as a follow-up to a presentation Taseko provided on the Project in 2007. At the 2007 meeting, the concerns and issues raised centered around the affect of increased public access on wildlife, and the affect of the mine development and transmission corridor on habitat and wildlife populations. During this 2009 evening meeting, further information was provided to the group on the Project and in response specifically to their previous questions. There were approximately 12 members in attendance. Maps were shown that illustrated habitat information collected for the EIS. Members in attendance asked numerous questions with regard to: Taseko's proposed measures to ensure protection of water quality, financial security put in place to protect taxpayer's from reclamation or water management costs; and, the First Nations position on the project.

- **Chilcotin Rod and Gun Club**

An evening meeting was held on May 28, 2009 with the Chilcotin Rod and Gun Club in Alexis Creek. There were 4 members in attendance. Concerns and issues raised centered around the affect of increased public access on wildlife, increased traffic on the Taseko Lake Road and human safety, hunting restrictions in the vicinity of the mine site, and

effects of lost habitat from mine development on moose that return to that location at calving time. During this evening meeting maps were provided that illustrated habitat information collected for the EIS. A commitment was made to have further dialogue with the Club should the Project proceed specifically on hunting restrictions proposed for the area.

- **Big Creek Stockbreeders Association**

Taseko provided a general overview of the Project at a meeting of the Big Creek spring Range Unit Meeting on April 20, 2009. This was a follow-up to a presentation on the Project provided to the group in 2007 where issues were raised with regards to increased access, alignment of the transmission corridor through or near private lots, weed control along the transmission corridor, and dust from increased traffic in the area. A summary of the Project review processes (EAO and CEA Agency) and review's timeline was provided to highlight the opportunity for public comment on the EIS. There were about 30 people present at the meeting. Questions asked were primarily in regard to opportunities for employment and contracting. Many ranchers in the area have been involved in logging and wondered how they might use their experience and equipment to benefit from the Project. Ranchers who have property near the access road to the mine site wondered if there would be assistance forthcoming to rebuild old fences or install new fences where natural barriers were breached due to clearing. Many of the meeting participants stayed afterward to look at maps of the project site and power line transmission corridor and provide information on existing fencing in the vicinity of the proposed corridor. Taseko committed to meet with the group again should the Project proceed to provide further information on employment and contracting; plus, Taseko committed to working specifically with the land owners and tenure holders along with the Ministry of Forests and Range to identify areas requiring fencing should construction of the transmission corridor proceed.

- **Chilcotin and Tatla Stockbreeders Association**

Taseko provided a general overview of the Project at a meeting of the Tatla Lake and Chilcotin rancher's at a spring Range Unit Meeting on April 30, 2009. A summary of the Project review processes (EAO and CEA Agency) and review's timeline was provided to highlight the opportunity for public comment on the EIS. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Questions regarding employment/contracting opportunities were asked. Issues and concerns raised included environmental risk of ARD on the Taseko River, how the fish from Fish Lake would be managed (disposed of or harvested), and the effects of increased access by the public. This group had not previously been contacted by Taseko, but many individuals had been present at previous pre-Application meetings in Alexis Creek and were familiar with the project.

- **Kiwanis Club**

Taseko provided presentation to about 13 members of the Williams Lake Kiwanis Club on April 21, 2009. This group had not had previous contact with Taseko during the pre-Application stage. A general overview was given regarding the Project review processes (EAO and CEA Agency), the opportunity for public review of the EA application and

provisions for public comment. Mining: Your Future, a program being developed by Taseko to inform individuals about the anticipated career opportunities in the industry, was presented. The group's interest is on the youth in the region, and their questions were mainly in regard to the social and economic benefits the Prosperity Project would bring to the community of Williams Lake. Questions regarding employment/contracting opportunities were also asked, as well as how First Nations relationships were progressing.

During the pre-Application phase, Taseko contacted numerous other interest groups to inform them about the Project and offer to meet to discuss any issues of interest (see contact list in Appendix B). Communication with these parties has continued during the public comment period of the Application review phase and Taseko anticipates ongoing responsive communications with these parties as most indicated they would like to be kept abreast of Project developments.

Communication with land owners and Crown land tenure holders in the vicinity of the proposed mine site, transmission corridor, Macalister load-out facility, and along the access route has occurred throughout the pre-Application stage and the review phase. Dialogue is expected to continue in earnest during the months moving forward to ensure all neighbours to the Prosperity Project are engaged and aware of the Project's progress. Fee simple lands directly affected by the Project for which easements are required are limited to one owner along the transmission corridor route on the east side of the Fraser River.

## **2.6 Public Input**

During the public comment period for the Project, interested persons were invited to provide comments on the Project and Application to the EAO. Comment forms were completed and submitted to the EAO at the Open Houses and sent directly to the EAO throughout the public comment period. All submissions received during the public comment period were posted on either the CEEA Project Registry or the EAO Epic site and subsequently forwarded to Taseko for consideration. In total, 1218 submissions were received: 1107 by email, 90 by letter, 10 by post card, 6 by public comment response form, and 5 reports. A Public Comments Tracking Table was used to track public comments and record Taseko's responses (where appropriate) and is included as Appendix C of this report.

For the vast majority of public comments received Taseko sent either an acknowledgement letter indicating that the comment had been received and that the specific comments were being taken into account, or a simple e-mail response acknowledging receipt was sent. A number of very detailed comments were received from a total of thirteen correspondents including five federal departments, two First Nations and six NGO's. Responses to all these comments were provided in Tracking

Tables (13 in total) organized by subject matter and are included as Appendix D to this report.

The large majority of the public submissions did not identify specific concerns or issues to be resolved in regards to the Project but rather were letters of either general support or opposition. Since these submissions do not pose questions to be answered nor require issues resolution, they have been included in the Public Comments Tracking Table but are not reflected in the discipline specific Tracking Tables. Common themes expressed in these letters included: appreciation for Taseko's thorough consideration of environmental and socio-economic effects and commitment to managing them, the importance of the Project in creating jobs and economic diversification for forest-dependent communities coping the downturn in the forestry sector.

A summarization of key themes raised in comments reflected in the Public Comments Tracking Table and their frequency is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1. Frequency and Key Theme Summary of Written Public Comments to EAO**

<b>Submissions</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Key Themes</b>	<b>Project Approach</b>
938	General Support	463 44 2 465	Employment EA Process Environmental Socio-Economic	Taseko acknowledges and appreciates the degree of public support being expressed for this project. We remain convinced that if government approval is received and a decision to proceed with development of this project is made that the people of British Columbia and Canada will gain significantly from development of this project.
8	Conditional Support if properly regulated; environmentally responsible			Taseko has proposed an environmentally responsible project. At the completion of the EAO led review, if issued, a Project Certificate will be attached as a condition of approval. This Certificate will include a Table of Commitments binding upon the company and designed to ensure that the project is built and operated in an environmentally responsible manner. Following completion of the EA Process, if the project receives government approval to proceed, Taseko and various government agencies will then proceed to the permitting



				stage of development. It is at this stage that more specific details on many aspects of the project are discussed and finalized as terms and conditions of permits.
68	Questions or comments	2 59 3 1 2 2 5	Employment EA Process Aboriginal Rights and Cultural Effects Environmental Effects - General - Loss of Lake - Water Quality - Socio-Economic	The majority of comments raised concerning the EA Process related to the request for extension to the Public Comment Period. The Panel subsequently made their decision not to grant the extension and there is nothing further to add at this time. The other questions or comments were of a general nature that reflected the opinion of the author. Taseko has been and will continue to be open to consideration of all questions and comments of clarification concerning the project.
204	General Opposition to the Project	67 82 107 61 35 58 37	EA Process Aboriginal Rights and Cultural Effects Environmental Effects - General - Loss of Lake - Water Quality - Biophysical - Socio-Economic	Taseko acknowledges public comments expressed in general opposition to the project. Taseko remains of the view that we have proposed a environmentally responsible project. These comments now form part of the public record and they will be taken into account by government when they make their decisions

				<p>concerning the acceptability of the project.</p> <p>A large number of comments have been made concerning aboriginal rights and cultural effects. Taseko has been and will continue to be open to full engagement and consultations with First Nations communities regarding their aboriginal and community interests. If First Nations bring forward additional Traditional Knowledge information that they wish us and others to consider we will do so.</p>
1218				

### 3 Next Steps

Although the public comment period on the Application concluded on May 25, 2009, Taseko will continue to conduct communications and discussions with interested parties regarding Project issues and opportunities throughout the Application review phase.

During this period, Taseko will:

- Maintain the project web site
- Respond to requests for information
- Follow up with community groups regarding requests for further information meetings on specific topics
- Meet with the landowners in the vicinity of the transmission corridor, access route and load-out facility
- Meet with Crown tenure holders whose tenure area overlaps with the transmission corridor or mine site.

Taseko will continue working with the EAO Working Group members in addressing their existing and any future comments throughout the provincial Environmental Assessment 80-day Application Review phase.

Taseko will continue working with federal departments, the Panel Secretariat and the Panel in addressing their comments and requests throughout the federal panel review.

It is anticipated that following provincial environmental assessment certification, and a positive decision by the federal government there will be further opportunities for public input on detailed designs during consultation permitting and licensing.

Attachments:

[Appendix A – Newspaper Advertisement](#)

[Appendix B - Interested Parties - Contact List](#)

[Appendix C - Public Comments Tracking Table](#)

[Appendix D – Discipline Specific Issue Tracking Tables](#)