

January 8, 2014

Subject: **Update to Participants – Information Regarding the Public Hearing and Preliminary Hearing Schedule**

Dear Participants,

On December 17, 2013, the Joint Review Panel announced that the environmental impact statement (EIS), supplemented by additional information submitted by Stillwater Canada Inc. (SCI), contained sufficient information to proceed to the public hearing. The Panel's sufficiency determination¹ for the Marathon PGM-Cu Mine project (the Project) is available on the Project's public registry site.

The primary purpose of the hearing is for the Panel to receive the information it requires to complete its environmental assessment of the Project from interested parties. However, all sessions are open to members of the public wishing to observe the proceedings.

This document includes a preliminary schedule of the public hearing and answers to some of the key questions that participants may have.

1) When and where will the hearing be held?

The Panel has now set the preliminary schedule for the public hearing, which will commence on **February 20, 2014** in Marathon, Ontario. The Panel will hold hearing sessions in Marathon, selected First Nation communities and in Thunder Bay for Métis organizations. The preliminary schedule of the public hearing is attached. The schedule is subject to change.

2) Which session should I attend?

The Panel will hold public hearing sessions as follows:

General Hearing Sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to present their views on the Project and its potential environmental effects. These sessions are open to anyone with an interest in the Project, including First Nation and Métis peoples and members of the public to present information and ask questions of the Proponent, through the Chair of the Panel, on any aspect of the Project within the scope of the review.

¹ Marathon Public Registry CEAR # 612

Community Hearing Sessions will be held in certain First Nation communities for members of those communities to express to the Panel their views and present information and issues of importance in an informal setting. These sessions are expected to take place in the communities of Pic River and Pays Plat. A community session will also be held in Thunder Bay for Métis organizations.

Topic-Specific Hearing Sessions will allow registered participants who are experts to present information relevant to the environmental assessment of the Project. Note that for the purposes of the hearing, an expert is a person who, by reason of education, training and/or experience, has acquired specialized knowledge in the areas in which he/she is providing information.

Experts usually provide information to the Panel on scientific, technical, social science or traditional knowledge matters. These sessions will be held in Marathon starting on **March 1, 2014**.

The information to be discussed at each of the Topic-specific sessions will include, but will not be limited to, the subjects and themes listed below. The Panel recognizes there are some cross-cutting or overlapping subjects which may be presented together (e.g. wildlife and cumulative effects, soils and accidents and malfunctions); therefore presenters will not need to attend every topic-specific session but are asked to combine subjects in a logical manner.

- Geology and Geochemistry
 - pit slope stability
 - geochemical assessment
 - acid rock drainage and metal leaching
 - assessment of alternatives for mine waste disposal

- Hydrogeology
 - seepage from the process solids management facility and mine rock storage facility
 - groundwater quality and quantity

- Hydrology and Climate Change
 - surface water quality and quantity
 - effects of climate change
 - water management plan

- Aquatic Environment
 - aquatic ecology
 - fish and fish habitat
 - fisheries

- Terrestrial Environment
 - terrain and soils
 - vegetation
 - wildlife

- Human Environment
 - human health
 - social, economic and cultural impacts
 - air quality and noise impacts
 - archaeology
 - resource use

- Decommissioning and Closure Plan / Environmental Management / Cumulative Effects

Closing Remarks Session will be held for participants to summarize their conclusions to the Panel. This session is planned for **March 13, 2014** in Marathon. A second closing remarks session may be needed depending on the number of registrants and would be announced as soon as possible.

Only participants who have made submissions to the Panel (either oral or written) are eligible to make closing remarks.

3) How can I participate in the hearing?

The public hearing is open to all members of the public wishing to observe the proceedings. Members of the public who plan on attending the hearing as observers are not required to register. Those wishing to present to the Panel should register in advance of the hearing. "Walk in" participants on any particular day, with the exception of Topic-specific sessions, will be permitted to present to the Panel if time permits.

Participants in the General or Community hearing sessions may:

- Make an oral presentation only;
- File a written submission only; or
- Make an oral presentation accompanied by a written submission.

Experts, as defined above, may participate in the Topic-specific sessions by:

- Making an oral presentation accompanied by a written submission; or
- Filing a written submission only.

Participants may provide closing remarks by:

- Making an oral presentation accompanied by a written submission; or
- Filing a written submission only.

4) How much time do I have to make my presentation?

General and Community session oral presentations should be a **maximum of 20 minutes**.

Topic-specific session oral presentations should be a **maximum of 30 minutes**.

Closing remarks session oral presentations are to be a **maximum of 15 minutes**.

5) How do I Register?

Participants wishing to present to the Panel are to register with the Panel Secretariat via email at MarathonMine.review@ceaa.gc.ca by **January 20, 2014**. This includes Government departments and agencies, experts as defined above, non-governmental organizations, and all other participants wishing to present to the Panel. Participants who wish to make closing remarks should register with the Panel Secretariat by **March 8, 2014**. Late registration will be at the discretion of the Panel. Participants who miss the registration deadline and wish to request late registration are encouraged to contact the Panel Secretariat as soon as possible.

Registrants should include:

- full name
- organization, if applicable;
- contact number;
- session(s) they intend to participate;
- outline of topics and issues to be presented ;
- if translation is required;
- audio-visual equipment needs;
- any other special needs.

'Walk-in' registrations for oral presentations on any given day of the General and Community sessions will be allowed if time allows.

6) How can I prepare for the hearing?

In July, 2013 the Panel issued the Public Hearing Procedures². These provide details on how the public hearing will be conducted and what is expected of participants. Participants are also encouraged to review the Proponent's Environmental Impact Statement³ and its responses to various information requests from the Panel.

7) If I only make an oral presentation, do I need to provide any supporting material?

Participants making an oral presentation at the General and Community sessions are not required to file a formal written submission but are asked to file any supporting material, such as slides, in advance of the hearing.

Those presenting at the Topic-specific sessions are required to provide a formal written submission in advance of the hearing. Presenters must file their written submission with the Panel Secretariat by **February 7, 2014**. They are also asked to bring three (3) hard copies of their presentation and any supporting material, such as slides, on the day on which they wish to present. However, holders of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge will be permitted to make an oral presentation without providing a written submission at any session.

All participants who will be using slides or other visual aids in electronic form are asked to bring these to the hearing on a USB stick, even if they have been provided in advance. Three (3) hard copies of these documents should also be provided.

8) Will media be present at the hearing sessions?

Members of the media are welcome to attend the public hearing. The Panel will not be available for media interviews. Media inquiries should be directed to the Panel Secretariat who will be identified by name tags. Filming, recording or photography will be allowed in the room up until the Panel Chair opens the hearing session. Filming, recording, photography and other forms of media may be allowed while the public hearing is underway with permission from the Panel Chair which must be obtained in advance of the hearing session.

9) What if I want to make a presentation but am unable to attend the hearing in person?

If presenters are unable to attend a hearing session in person, the Panel may agree in exceptional circumstances to allow presentations via teleconference. The participant should contact the Panel Secretariat as early as possible to request making a presentation by teleconference.

10) How do I keep informed of the hearing proceedings?

² Marathon Public Registry, CEAR # 532

³ Marathon Public Registry, CEAR # 224

All the information relevant to the environmental assessment of the Project is available on the public registry at: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=54755>

Written transcripts of all public hearing sessions will be prepared in English and will be made available on the public registry as soon as possible. All documents related to the public hearing, including submissions, transcripts, schedules, exhibits and undertakings, will be placed on the public registry in a timely manner.

A one-way teleconference line will be open during the General and Topic-specific hearing sessions to allow participants to call in and listen to the proceedings. Lines will open at 9 a.m. on each day of the hearing sessions

Toll-free Dial-in number	1- 877- 413- 4781
Conference ID	6971078

11) What happens after the public hearing?

The Joint Review Panel will complete its mandate and submit its Report to the federal and provincial Ministers of the Environment within 390 days from the submission by the proponent of the EIS to the Panel. The Joint Review Panel will provide a hardcopy of its Report to those Aboriginal groups that have participated in the Joint Review Panel process and make the Report available on the Project's public registry.

The Report will include a description of the Joint Review Panel process, and the rationale, conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Review Panel relating to the environmental assessment of the Project, including any recommended mitigation measures and follow-up programs. The Joint Review Panel shall also include within its Report a summary of any comments received, including those from the public and Aboriginal groups. More details can be found in Article 3.15 - 3.20 of the Panel's Terms of Reference⁴ : <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/51450/51450E.pdf>.

⁴ CEAR # 146

Key dates to remember

Registration for Public Hearing ends	January 20, 2014
Last date to request Translator	January 20, 2014
Written submissions for Topic-specific session due	February 7, 2014
Presentation slides and other visual aids in electronic form due	February 10, 2014
General hearing sessions begin	February 20, 2014
Topic-specific sessions begin	March 1, 2014
Last day to register for Closing remarks session	March 8, 2014
Closing remarks session	March 13, 2014

All questions relating to the conduct of the public hearing may be addressed to the Panel Secretariat at the following coordinates:

Cindy Parker
Co-manager Review Panel Secretariat
160 Elgin Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3
Telephone: 613-948-1359 (Toll-free): 1-866-582-1884
Email: MarathonMine.Review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Jeff Sewell
Co-manager Review Panel Secretariat
Telephone: 705-670-5872
Email: MarathonMine.Review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Media may contact:

Lucille Jamault
Communications
New Prosperity Review Panel Secretariat
Telephone: 613-957-0434
Email: Lucille.Jamault@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

**Preliminary Public Hearing Schedule
(As of January 8, 2014)**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	February 18	19	20 General MARATHON	21 General MARATHON	22 General MARATHON
23	24 Métis Organizations THUNDER BAY	25 Community TBA	26 Pic River First Nation	27 Pic River First Nation	28 Pic River First Nation	1 March Topic Specific - MARATHON Geology/ Geochemistry
2	3 Geochemistry /Hydrogeology	4 Hydrology and Climate Change	5 Aquatic Environment	6 Terrestrial Environment	7 Human Environment	8 Human Environment
9	10 Decommissioning and Closure Plan/ Cumulative Effects/ Environmental Management	11	12	13 Closing Remarks MARATHON	14	15

PUBLIC HEARING SESSION	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	VENUE
General	Thursday February 20 th	9-12 1-4 pm 7-9 pm	Marathon	Marathon Recreation Complex – Theatre 16 Peninsula Rd
General	Friday February 21 st	9-12 1-4 pm (7-9 pm)	Marathon	Marathon Recreation Complex – Theatre 16 Peninsula Rd
General	Saturday February 22 nd	9-12 1-5 pm	Marathon	Marathon Recreation Complex – Theatre 16 Peninsula Rd
Métis Organizations	Monday February 24 th	9-12 1-4 pm 7-9 pm	Thunder Bay	TBA
Pic River First Nation Community	February 26-28 th	9-12 pm 1-4 pm 6-9 pm	Pic River First Nation	Pic River Community Hall
Topic-Specific	Sat - Mon March 1 st -10 th	9-12pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel 21 Peninsula Rd
Topics				
Geology/Geochemistry Pit slope stability Geochemical analysis Acid rock drainage and metal leaching Alternatives for mine waste disposal	Sat March 1 st	9-12pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel
Geochemistry/Hydrogeology Seepage from process solids and mine rock facilities Groundwater quality and quantity	Mon March 3 rd	9-12pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel
Hydrology/Climate Change Surface water quality and quantity Effects of climate change	Tues March 4 th	9-12 pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel

Water management plan				
Aquatic Environment Aquatic ecology Fish and fish habitat Fisheries	Wed March 5 th	9-12 pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel
Terrestrial Environment Terrain and soils Vegetation Wildlife	Thurs March 6 th	9-12 pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel
Human Environment Human health Air quality and noise impacts	Fri March 7 th	9-12 pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel
Human Environment Social, economic and cultural impacts Resource use Archaeology	Sat March 8 th	9-12 pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel
Decommissioning and Closure Plan/ Environmental Management/ Cumulative Effects	Mon March 10 th	9-12 pm 1-5 pm	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel
Closing Remarks	Thurs March 13 th	9-12 pm 1-5 pm (7-9 pm)	Marathon	Zero-100 Hotel