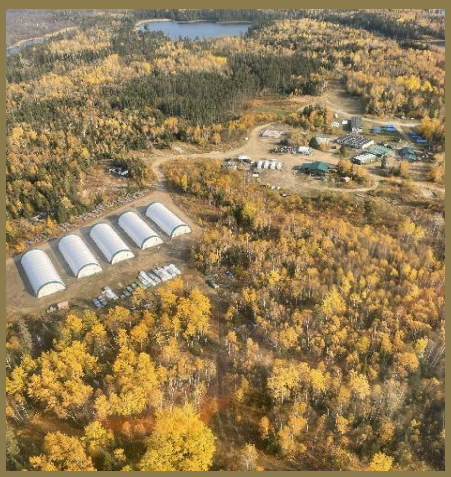
First Mining Gold

SPRINGPOLE GOLD PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY



OCTOBER 2024

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Introduction

First Mining Gold (FMG) is proposing to develop, operate and decommission/ close an open pit gold and silver mine called the Springpole Gold Project (the Project) in northwestern Ontario with an expected 18-year lifespan. FMG is a publicly traded exploration and development company created in 2015 that is committed to developing the Project in a responsible manner that contributes to a healthy environment, prosperous economy and supports sustainable communities.

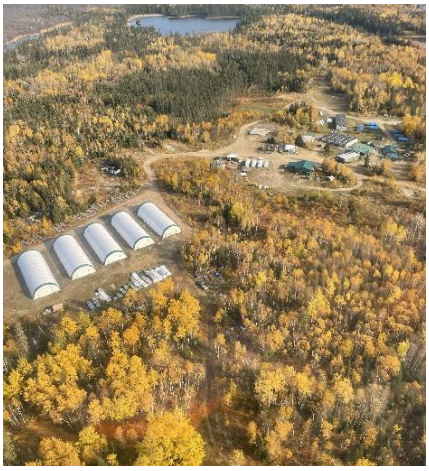
The Project will directly provide over 600 jobs during construction and approximately 350 jobs during operations, which are largely anticipated to be sourced from local and Indigenous communities. Over its 18-year lifespan, the Project is projected to generate $7.6 billion in economic contributions, create over 43,000 person-years of employment, and generate over $2 billion in tax revenue supporting government investment in community services and infrastructure.

The Project will be a major economic development engine for northwestern Ontario at a critical time for an underserviced region. With forestry industry uncertainties and few other new mineral projects in the near or mid-term pipeline, the Project is positioned to be a sustainable economic driver for the region. The Project promises substantial benefits, including infrastructure upgrades, high-paying jobs, training and skills development, and potential critical minerals for renewable energy technologies, such as tellurium for solar cells. FMG emphasizes its commitment to responsible development that supports environmental protection, economic prosperity, and the well-being of Indigenous and local communities.

The Project incorporates extensive environmental protection through planning and modern engineering designs and technologies. The follow-up and monitoring programs will validate predicted effects, assess mitigation measure performance, support adap tive management, and ensure compliance with all environmental permits. Collaborative efforts, including the establishment of an Environment Committee(s) with local Indigenous communities, aim to ensure ongoing engagement, transparency and adaptive management throughout the Project's lifecycle.

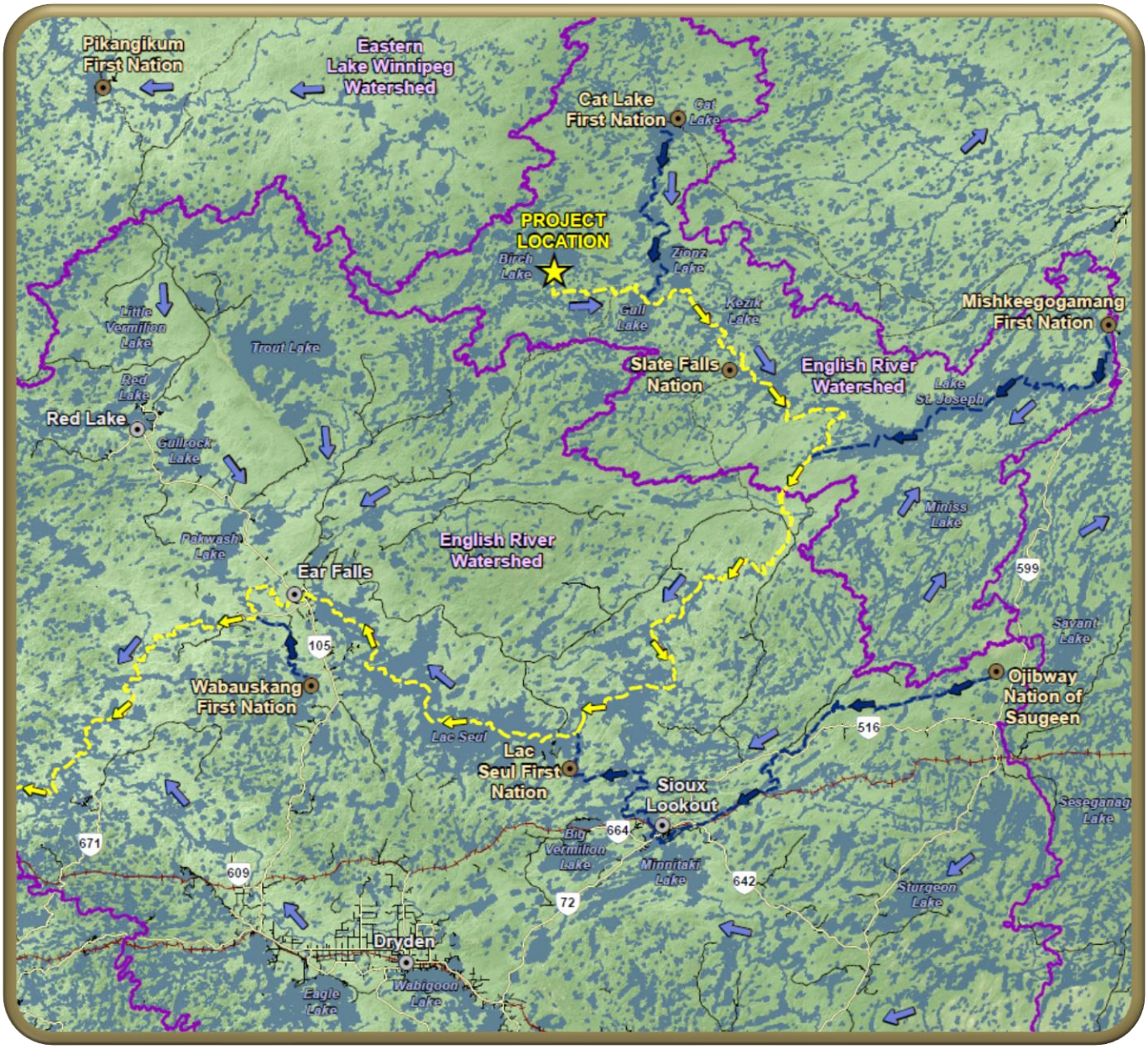
An Environmental Assessment is required for approval under both federal and provincial regulations in Canada. FMG submitted a Project Description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (now the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada) in 2018, initiating the federal process. A voluntary agreement with Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in 2018 initiated the provincial Individual Environmental Assessment process.

Environmental Assessment is a planning tool used so that the Project is designed and developed in a careful and precautionary manner that avoids or mitigates potential environmental effects and considers the benefits and opportunities from the Project. A key aspect of the Environmental Assessment planning process initiated by FMG is the early and transparent sharing of Project information and providing meaningful consultation opportunities for Indigenous communities, regulators (government agencies) and other interested parties. Input from consultation is considered throughout the Environmental Assessment including extensive baseline data collection, alternatives assessment, Project designs, mitigation measures and monitoring. Ongoing consultation will continue to shape the final Project design and environmental management during all phases of the Project.



Existing Exploration Camp (Fall 2024)

Project Location



Consultation & Engagement

Indigenous Engagement

Consultation with Indigenous communities focused on understanding impacts on traditional land use, knowledge, community values, and key areas of interest and concern to address those through Project planning. Indigenous groups include Cat Lake First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Pikangikum First Nation, Slate Falls Nation, and Wabauskang First Nation. Engagement methods included workshops, community meetings, technical review meetings, and site visits. Capacity support has been provided to facilitate community participation in the planning process. Indigenous communities provided helpful feedback on environmental components such as water quality, fish and wildlife habitats, and air quality, with engagement opportunities to share Traditional Knowledge for the assessment. Engagement strategies were tailored to each community in respect of their level of interest, preferences and identified topics of interest such as environmental, social, infrastructure, employment and business opportunities, training, and monitoring.

Public Stakeholder Engagement

FMG also engaged public stakeholders through various channels, including social media, public open houses, newsletters, and virtual webinars, targeting key project milestones. Public feedback influenced aspects of the Environmental Assessment, with information sessions held in nearby municipalities including the Municipalities of Sioux Lookout and Red Lake, the Township of Ear Falls and the City of Dryden. Topics of public interest included jobs and business opportunities, environmental mitigation measures for fish, air and water quality, and socio-economic benefits for local communities. Public information sessions and bulletins provided frequent updates, enabling stakeholders to stay informed and involved in the planning process.

Government Agency Consultation

Provincial and federal agencies were engaged based on their regulatory mandates. Key federal agencies consulted included the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Health Canada and Natural Resources Canada. Provincial agencies consulted included the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; Ministry of Natural Resources; Ministry of Mines; Ministry of Citizenship and Environmental Assessment Multiculturalism; and the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation. FMG has also engaged with other provincial agencies including the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Ministry of Transportation; and the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Government feedback informed several components of the Environmental Assessment, with technical meetings held to discuss and resolve agency comments, covering topics from baseline environmental data to specific technical and regulatory requirements. Frequent dialogue with government agencies ensures that the Environmental Assessment meets or exceeds regulatory standards while also reflecting Indigenous community and public input.

FMG appreciates and acknowledges the time and effort that has been allocated to the Project by government agencies, Indigenous communities, municipalities, and other stakeholders, particularly over the course of the two-and-a-half-year draft Environmental Assessment consultation period.

During this time, FMG received and responded to over 1,800 comments and held over 160 meetings towards understanding questions, comments and concerns which are addressed and reflected in the final Environmental Assessment.

Since entering the federal and provincial assessment processes in 2018, FMG has captured several years of baseline data and undertaken to meet or exceed every requirement of the federal guidelines and provincial Terms of Reference. Since this time FMG has invested over $20 million in environment and social baseline studies and assessments and over $5 million in Indigenous community capacity support with additional capacity support planned for the final Environmental Assessment review process and life of mine.

Through this multifaceted engagement process, the Project aims to integrate environmental protection with community stewardship and development goals, ensuring a collaborative approach to sustainable project development.

Existing Environment

The Project site is located 140 km north of Sioux Lookout. The climate features an average annual precipitation of 704 mm, warm summers, and cold winters, with an average temperature of 1.3°C. Air quality is good, and noise levels reflect a rural environment. Greenhouse gas emissions are low and result from exploration, forestry activity and other land uses. Groundwater naturally flows from elevated inland areas toward nearby lakes, interacting with mineral-rich bedrock; while surface water connects through a lake network, supporting local aquatic ecosystems.

The surrounding environment includes vegetation, forested areas, and wetlands, which provide habitats for a variety of wildlife species. Commercial and traditional land uses occur throughout the region and include forestry, mineral exploration and development, tourism, hunting, fishing, trapping, and cultural activities. A 40-person exploration camp exists at the proposed mine site and exploration work has been undertaken in the area since the 1920s.

Project Description

The Project will produce doré bars of gold and silver, while significantly contributing to both local employment and Canada’s gross domestic product. The Project also holds other critical minerals such as tellurium and fluorspar, potentially contributing to Ontario's Critical Minerals Strategy.

The Project site is an active mineral exploration area with established infrastructure and facilities including a full-service exploration camp for 40 persons, fuel storage, power generation equipment, an office, storage facilities, a sewage treatment plant, and equipment yards. Access to the site is seasonal, with floatplanes used in warmer months and ice roads or helicopters in winter. A temporary overland winter road was partially built to address safety concerns with the previous ice road. This established setup provides essential support for the exploration phase and environmental studies for the Project.

Alternative means of carrying out the Project were assessed for 25 key project components such as mine layout, waste management and infrastructure needs based on environmental, technical, and social criteria. Each option was analyzed for feasibility and potential impacts, with a focus on minimizing environmental disturbance and aligning with community and Indigenous values where feasible.

The Project footprint design is highly efficient and compact resulting in reduced effects on the environment. With a mine footprint of 867 ha, this is less than half the size of other comparable gold

mines. The total project footprint including the mine, transmission line and mine access road is 1,365 ha.

The following components and activities are proposed for the Project and serve as the basis for the EA:

Open Pit and Mining Operations

The open pit mine is anticipated to remain operational for approximately 10 years. Mining will occur continuously year-round, using a phased, sequenced approach to optimize efficiency and safety. The mine plan involves the development of open pit benches, with variable inter-ramp angles between 22 to 52 degrees depending on rock type and pit wall orientation, to manage safety and stability.

The open pit will reach a depth of 321 metres, covering a surface area of roughly 132 ha. Initial excavation phases will involve the construction of two dikes to safely isolate a small part of the north basin of Springpole Lake, which corresponds to 6% of the Springpole Lake surface area. The remaining 94% of Springpole Lake will remain untouched by the Project. The two dikes allow for controlled dewatering of the open pit area before mining operations begin. This process will occur with careful fish salvage efforts in collaboration with local Indigenous communities, and the area will be restored an enhanced at closure resulting in productive fish habitat and a net increase of Springpole Lake surface area by 3.5%.

Ore Processing Facilities

Ore extracted from the open pit will be processed onsite at the processing plant, utilizing safe and proven mineral extraction methods to recover gold and silver. Ore processing begins with crushing and grinding, where the ore is reduced in size through a primary gyratory crusher, followed by grinding with through ball mills to achieve the desired consistency. The ground ore is then sent through flotation and carbon-in-pulp leaching circuits for gold and silver recovery.

The ore's cyanidation in a controlled alkaline environment is key to efficient gold and silver recovery. FMG adheres to the International Cyanide Management Code to ensure safe cyanide use, storage, and recovery practices, with extensive in-plant cyanide destruction prior to any tailings disposal at the Co-Disposal Facility. This treatment reduces cyanide to safe levels for long-term storage and environmental protection.

The processing results in tailings, the fine-grained rock material left after ore is extracted. Tailings will be separated into thickened, non-acid generating tailings (80% of the tailings) and a smaller portion of conventional slurry potentially acid-generating tailings (20% of the tailings). The former is produced in a thickened form for reduced water content, while the latter will be managed separately and kept saturated (wet) to prevent any long-term potential acid generation risk.

Stockpiles

Separate stockpiles will be established for overburden, lakebed sediment, mine rock, and ore. Overburden materials will be used in construction or stored in stockpiles to aid future site reclamation. Clean mine rock will be used in construction, while surplus material will be managed in the north cell of the Co-Disposal Facility. Two ore stockpiles will be maintained for high/mid-grade and low-grade ore. Once mining concludes, these areas will be reclaimed for fish habitat and terrestrial habitat, ensuring they align with closure and rehabilitation goals.

Co-Disposal Facility

The Co-Disposal Facility is a central environmental component, designed to safely store tailings and surplus mine rock. The facility's foundation location on robust bedrock and design are optimal for long-term geotechnical stability while effectively managing geochemistry over the long-term to protect the environment.

This facility has two cells: a north cell for thickened non-acid generating tailings and potential acid-generating mine rock, and a south cell for the conventional slurry tailings stored in a saturated state to effectively manage geochemistry. The design incorporates established engineering principles, and contact water collected from the Co-Disposal Facility will be recycled enhancing water conservation across the site. Excess water will be treated on-site at the Effluent Treatment Plant prior to discharge.

An Independent Geotechnical and Tailings Review Board has been established to provide ongoing expert oversight of the Co-Disposal Facility's design, construction, operation, and closure strategy, ensuring they meet or exceed Canadian safety and environmental standards. The Independent Geotechnical and Tailings Review Board are supportive of the Co-Disposal Facility design approach and the engineering work undertaken to date to demonstrate its functionality and performance.

During final reclamation, the facility will be covered with an engineered cap and revegetated with native plant species to ensure long-term physical and geochemistry stability and create a more natural looking feature on the landscape.

Fish Habitat Compensation

To offset for areas of fish habitat overprinted by the Project, FMG will implement a fish habitat compensation and offsetting program to create new areas, and restore and enhance habitat at closure. The Project design aims to balance environmental needs with safe mining requirements, reclaiming approximately 213 ha of fish habitat during and after mining activities and resulting in an overall net benefit to fish and fish habitat in the system.

Water Management

An integrated water management and effluent treatment system using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable will treat site water before its release, ensuring it meets stringent environmental standards. This involves diverting non-contact water, managing site runoff, and reusing water in the process plant to minimize freshwater needs. Treated effluent from the treatment plant will be discharged in a controlled manner to Springpole Lake, with monitoring to ensure environmental protection.

Access Road

An 18-kilometre, two-lane gravel access road from the end of the existing Wenasaga Road to the mine site is proposed. The all-season road alignment minimizes environmental impact by reducing the number of water crossings, following the shortest and most direct route to minimize the creation of new linear corridors on the landscape, and avoiding major water bodies. Access will be controlled via a gatehouse at the end of the Wenasaga Road and a security gate at the end of the mine access road prior to the mine site entrance. The Access Management Strategy will be refined in consultation with local Indigenous communities and forestry stakeholders.

Power

A 230-kilovolt transmission line will connect the mine to the regional electrical grid. The transmission line follows an optimized route to minimize the creation of new linear features on the land and avoid areas of use by Indigenous communities, where possible. Onsite distribution will support all facilities, ensuring a reliable power supply throughout the Project's lifespan.

Supporting Infrastructure

Additional infrastructure to support the Project includes: an onsite accommodations complex to house the workforce; fuel storage facilities; a new airstrip to facilitate occasional transportation of personnel and equipment; solid waste sorting area; domestic sewage treatment; and aggregate sources.

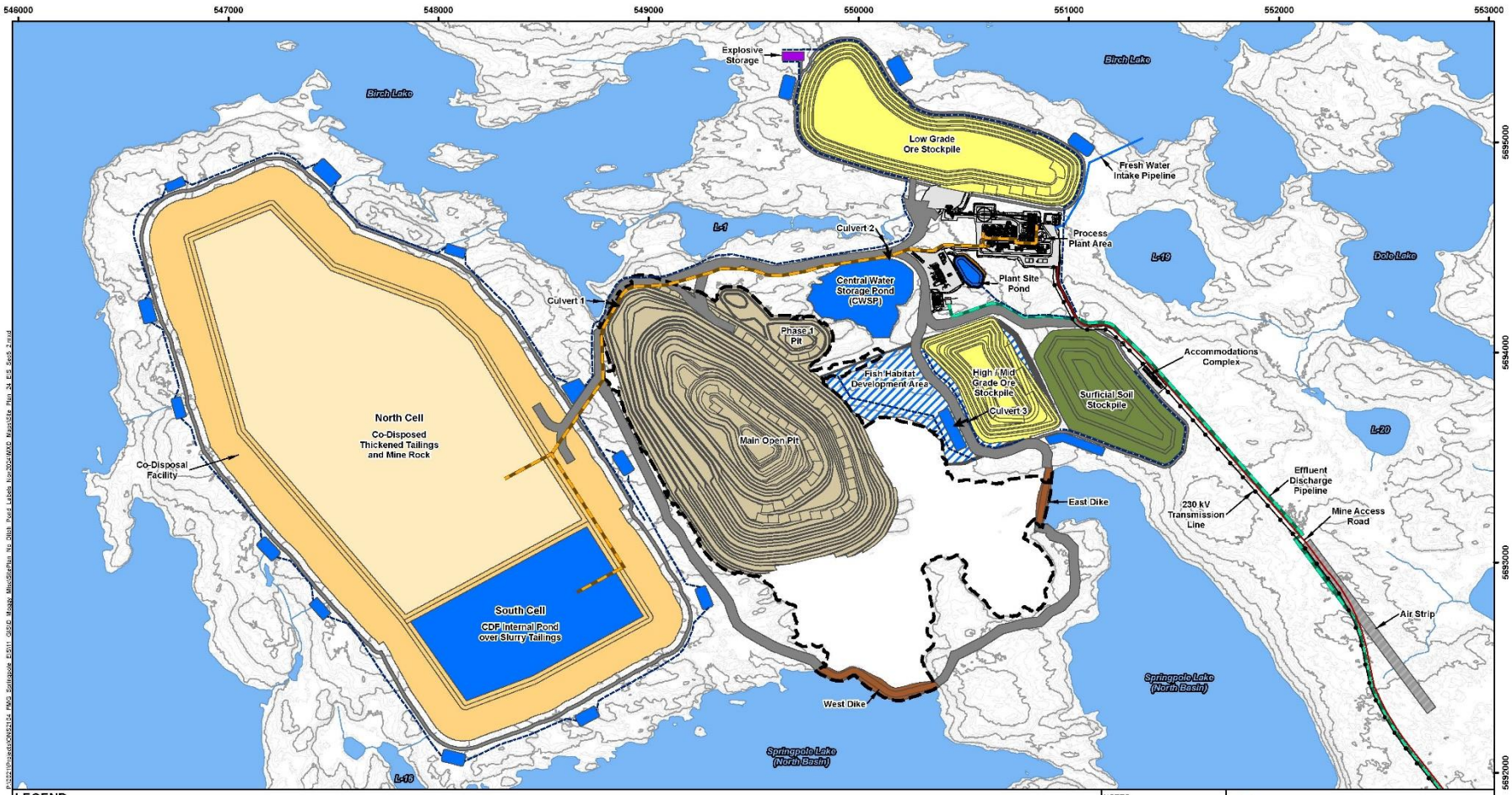
Labour Force

Over 600 jobs will support the three-year construction phase, and approximately 350 positions will be available for the operations phase. The Project will focus on local and regional hiring and contracting, particularly among local and Indigenous communities. A diversity of roles are anticipated including trades, technical, maintenance, administration and environmental.

The Project's design incorporates engineering standards and factors of safety to mitigate natural hazards associated with extreme weather conditions and/or events, seismic events and forest fires ensuring infrastructure resilience and safety. Adaptive management strategies will further address climate change. In addition, the application of engineering standards, best practices and management activities can effectively manage any residual risk ranking of potential accidents or malfunctions.

Transmission Line Route

Site Plan



LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Major Contours (5 m interval)
- Minor Contours (1 m interval)

Proposed Mine Features

- Open Pit
- Open Pit Basin
- Ore Stockpile
- Surficial Soil Stockpile
- Co-Disposal Facility
- Co-Disposed Thickened Tailings and Mine Rock
- Process Plant Area
- Dike
- Pond
- Haul / Access Road
- Explosives Storage
- Air Strip
- Mine Access Road
- Seepage / Runoff Collection System
- Culvert
- 230 kV Transmission Line
- Fresh Water Intake Pipeline
- Effluent Discharge Pipeline
- Tailings Pipeline Corridor
- Fish Habitat Development Area

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

NOTES:
- Contours extracted from 2020 LiDAR survey.
- Proposed site plan provided by Ausenco, drawing number 104496-GX-03000-31344-003, Rev 1, 26 June 2023 and modified by WSP July 2023.
- 230 kV transmission line provided by First Mining Gold, April 2024.
- Ditching and sums current as of October 2024.

Datum: NAD83
Projection: UTM Zone 15N

FIRST MINING GOLD

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SPRINGPOLE GOLD PROJECT

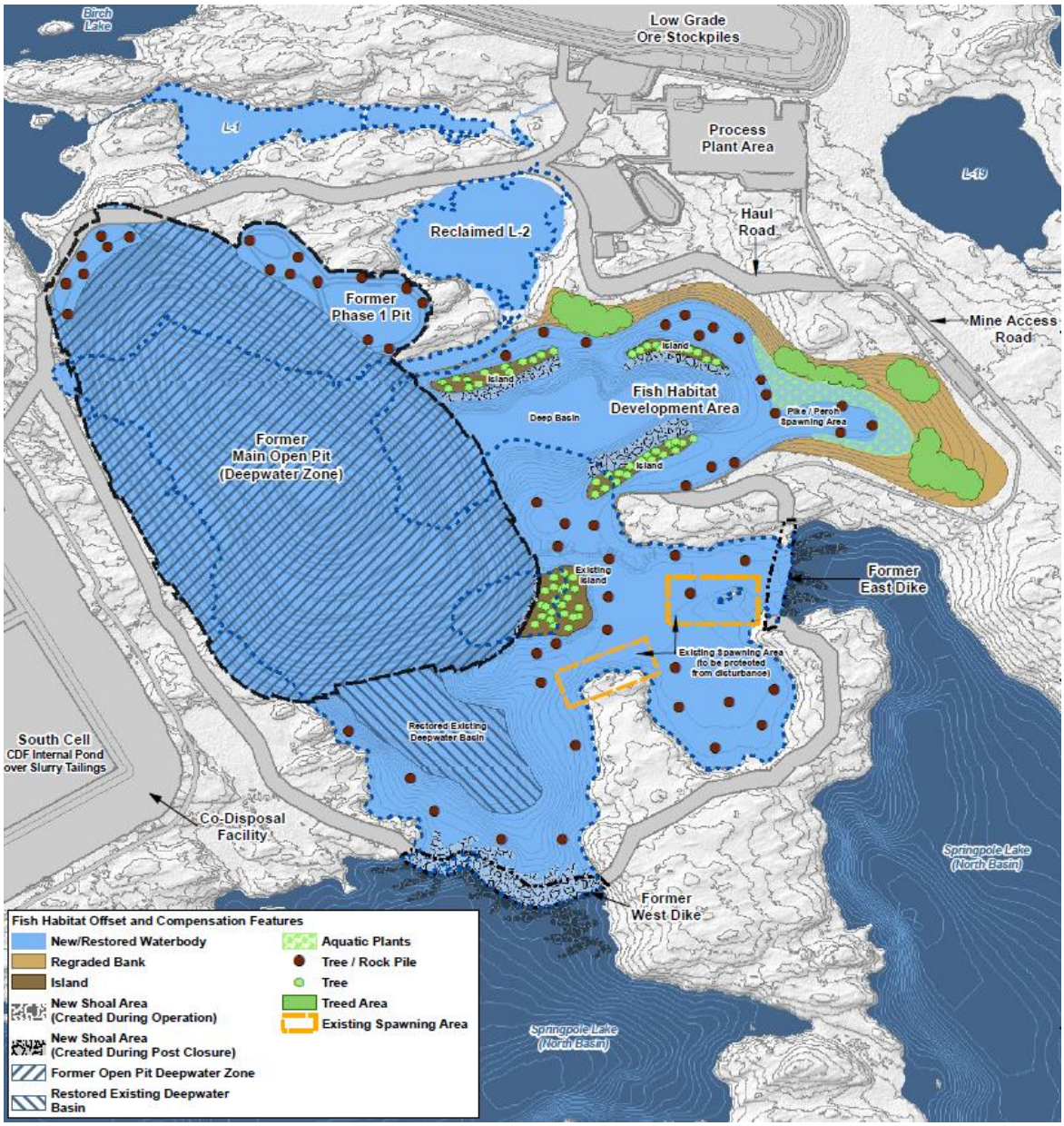
EIS / EA Site Plan

PROJECT N°: ONS2104 | **FIGURE:**

SCALE: 1:17,000 | DATE: November 2024

Conceptual Closure Plan

The Project has been designed from the beginning to achieve final closure and restoration objectives. The closure plan achieves a physically, chemically, and biologically stable post-mining site that supports wildlife, fish habitat, and vegetation. A focus for closure planning has been placed on achieving long-term water quality objectives and re-establishing an enhanced aquatic ecosystem within the open pit basin, along with terrestrial revegetation planning efforts including revegetation trials during the operations phase to optimize the restoration strategy. Key steps include the engineered capping of the co-disposal facility and revegetation, partial backfilling and recontouring of the open pit with fish habitat features, the construction of a new 47-ha fish habitat area connected to the restored open pit basin with various substrates to promote diversity and productivity, and ultimately the reconnection of the restored open pit basin to Springpole Lake resulting in an overall increase in surface area of 3.5%.



Reclaimed Open Pit Basin

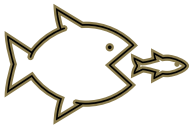
Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment assesses the Project's potential effects on 23 valued environmental, socio-economic, and cultural components, with a particular focus on Indigenous communities. Each Valued Component's assessment identifies potential impacts, proposes mitigation measures, and considers residual effects and monitoring, ensuring a comprehensive approach to minimize adverse effects and enhance positive outcomes.

Environmental Components

The assessment covers the following environmental components air quality, noise and vibrations, greenhouse gases, groundwater, surface water, fish and fish habitat, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife and wildlife habitat including caribou, wolverine, bats, and birds.

Air Quality 	Dust suppression on mine hauls roads, vehicle maintenance and locating ore crushing and transfer points within covered buildings minimize air quality effects with modeling showing that anticipated emission levels, even at maximum operation, remain below provincial ambient air quality criteria at the Project boundary.
Noise and Vibration 	Noise and vibrations will be managed through the implementation of measures such as engineered building enclosures, vehicle maintenance schedules, communication with land users, and blast plan designs to limit disturbances adjacent to the Project and reduce effects on wildlife and land users.
Greenhouse Gases 	Greenhouse Gas emissions will be mitigated with sourcing the power requirements for the Project from Ontario's electricity grid via the construction of a transmission line that connect to the existing Wataynikaneyap power line. The Project is proposed as the first net zero open pit gold mine in Ontario with a thorough accounting of GHG emissions and implementation of the Project's Net Zero Plan aligning with both Ontario and Canada's carbon plan to reach net zero by 2050, and Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: Clean Air, Strong Economy.
Water 	Groundwater and surface water quality are safeguarded through the effective management of tailings and mine rock geochemistry at the CDF, the integrated water management system, and the contact water treatment system. The contact water treatment (Effluent Treatment Plant) uses Best Available Technology Economically Achievable to ensure discharge protection. Water levels in Springpole Lake will be maintained within natural occurring levels during all phases of the Project.

Fish and Fish Habitat 	The Project will implement several strategies to protect fish and fish habitat including habitat enhancement features, as well as offsetting and compensation measures such as. • Co-location of infrastructure to reduce the overall footprint, such as using the fish habitat development area as a quarry for construction rock; • Repurposing the dike locations as spawning areas; • Researching the presence and distribution of Lake Sturgeon in previously inhabited waters within or near the Cat Lake – Slate Falls Community Based Land Use Plan area with the intent of developing a recovery plan; • Re-using, restoring and reclaiming the disrupted and altered waterbodies; and • Reclaiming the abandoned South Bay Mine through cooperation with the Province, or other similar opportunity.
Vegetation and Wetlands 	Vegetation and wetlands will be maintained in the areas adjacent to the Project with effects being minimized through the maintenance of a compact mine site and the implementation of dust mitigation measures. Revegetation trials will occur during the mine life to optimize the revegetation strategy for the mine closure phase.
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat 	Wildlife and habitat effects will be mitigated to support biodiversity through such measures as maintaining a compact mine footprint, noise and light controls, dust controls, minimizing the creation of new linear corridors by co-locating the mine access road and transmission line, and established speed limits for vehicles. With a small Project footprint there will be extensive habitat throughout the region supporting all species and ecosystem function. Habitat offsetting measures for caribou during Project operations will ensure environmental balance is maintained and monitored. FMG has developed and implemented leading work in the region on satellite telemetry monitoring, which will continue to inform Project management for FMG and species management by Ontario. Closure planning will further support the restoration of vegetation communities for key wildlife species including caribou.

Social and Economic Components

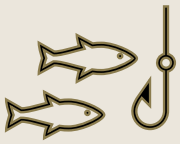
Commercial Land and Resource Use

Commercial land and resource use includes forestry and mineral exploration activities, outfitter facilities, traplines, and bait harvesting areas. There are no outfitter camps within the vicinity of the Project.

FMG will continue to work with local forestry companies to salvage valued harvestable timber, as well as mineral claim holders to accommodate access to mineral claims, and to secure permission to construct the transmission line on mineral claims held by others. With the implementation of mitigation measures, effects on these land and resource uses will be negligible.

FMG will maintain regular communication with the Ministry of Natural Resources and trapline holders to support trapline harvesting enhancements. With the implementation of mitigation measures including those for reducing sensory disturbance from noise, and an Access Management Strategy for the mine access road, the effect on commercial land and resource use due to changes in trapping and bait harvesting is predicted to be not significant.

Outdoor Recreation



Outdoor recreation activities include fishing, hunting, outdoor recreation areas and wildlife viewing, and the use of seasonal cabins.

With the implementation of mitigation measures for noise, dust, viewscapes, wildlife habitat, surface water and fish habitat, along with the minimal project footprint, reclamation measures during operations and closure phases, and the prohibition of fishing and hunting within the controlled access portion of the Project Development Area, there will be no residual effects on recreational fishing, hunting or recreational areas.

Further mitigation measures including communication of Project activities with affected resource users, the maintenance of alternative access to portages, there will be no residual effect on navigation.

Labour and Economy

The Project will create approximately 43,880 person-years of employment generating significant economic benefits through training, employment, business and contracting opportunities, and infrastructure. The Project will have a major net positive effect on the local and regional economy, and it will have a positive effect at the provincial and national levels through employment income, expenditures to local and regional businesses and increased government revenues and participating Indigenous communities.

Specific measures to enhance the effect of the Project on the economy include establishment of a Health and Wellness Strategy, employment readiness initiatives, working with local and Indigenous businesses to enhance opportunities for participation in the supply of goods and services, as well as coaching and mentoring programs.

Local and Regional Infrastructure

Infrastructure improvements, such as roads and power lines, will support the Project and create lasting benefits for local and Indigenous communities. Key measures to mitigate effects on local and regional infrastructure include the provision of onsite accommodations, provision of bus transportation to the worksite for employees, preferential hiring of employees from the local communities and municipalities, Project health and safety processes and onsite emergency response and security personnel.

Cultural, Health, and Indigenous Components

Effects on Indigenous People 	In respect of Indigenous ways of life FMG will support cultural practices, and continue to offer meaningful participation in project planning and implementation. With implementation of mitigation measures such as minimizing environmental and visual disturbance from the Project, community engagement and integration of traditional knowledge, cultural and land use preservation, employment and economic opportunities, protection and support for traditional practices and land uses, and environmental stewardship, Indigenous people will not be significantly affected and their traditional land use activities will be supported with enhanced opportunities in the region.
Traditional Land and Resource Use 	Indigenous traditional land and resource use includes activities related to harvesting of resources, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering plants, and areas where teaching or transfer of knowledge regarding cultural practices occur, ceremonial sites, travel routes or sacred sites. Measures to support traditional land-use practices and cultural values include minimization of the Project footprint and strategic design measures; Indigenous engagement and integration of traditional knowledge including the establishment of Environment Committees with Indigenous communities; timing and coordination with traditional activities; access and resource use management including development of an Access Management Strategy; support for cultural and community activities; support for land use activities, reclamation and restoration efforts including implementation of a Lake Sturgeon re-introduction program and meeting fish habitat offsetting and caribou conservation requirements to align with Indigenous interests and regulatory obligations.
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage 	Archaeological assessments of the mine area did not identify any archaeological resources. Cultural and archaeological sites will be protected through additional assessments, chance find procedures, monitoring and engagement with Indigenous representatives.
Human and Ecological Health 	Human and ecological health is important to the well-being of humans, food security, the natural environment and environmental and safety regulatory requirements. Conservatism in effects modelling and the implementation of mitigation measures for air quality and surface water quality demonstrates that human and ecological health is not changed by the Project. Monitoring programs including those for surface water and fish will be implemented during all phases of the Project.

The Project's Environmental Assessment underscores the importance of minimizing environmental and cultural impacts while supporting local and Indigenous communities. The Project's approach involves proven mitigation measures, comprehensive monitoring, and active engagement with local and Indigenous communities, and stakeholders to address potential concerns through all phases of the Project.

Cumulative Effects Assessment

The cumulative effects assessment evaluates the combined impacts of the Project alongside other past, present, and future projects generally within a 200-kilometer radius. Currently, the Project region contains little infrastructure and development, however industrial forestry activities and forest fires are the two primary landscape effects under baseline conditions. Given the relatively very small Project footprint of 1,365 ha (including the mine, access road and transmission line), the assessment concludes that no significant cumulative effects are expected from the Project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable projects, which are minimal in the region. Habitats for wildlife remain productive and supportive of species and functions as under baseline conditions. Socio-economic benefits, such as job creation and economic stimulation, are found to have a substantially positive cumulative effect. Finally, the Project's Greenhouse Gas emissions fall within existing provincial and federal policies and the Project is proposed as Ontario's first net-zero open pit gold mine.

Follow-up and Monitoring

Follow-up and monitoring programs will ensure environmental protection and compliance throughout all Project phases. This will support ongoing environmental management by verifying predicted effects, evaluating mitigation effectiveness, and ensuring compliance with permit requirements. Monitoring will help identify unforeseen effects, should there be any, and facilitate corrective or adaptive management when necessary, enhancing the Project's overall environmental performance.

The follow-up program will be refined based on feedback from government agencies, Indigenous communities, and stakeholders. Adaptive management is a core best-practice approach, allowing adjustments based on real-time monitoring data to respond to changing circumstances, new information, new technologies, or environmental indicators. This process will include potential actions such as intensified monitoring, specific studies to track trends, modifications to project design, and additional mitigation measures as needed.

Indigenous community engagement plays a significant role in the monitoring programs, with local Indigenous community members invited to participate in data collection and environmental monitoring. FMG is committed to creating an Environmental Committee(s) with Indigenous representatives to ensure transparent information sharing and to incorporate Traditional Knowledge. Through these adaptive and collaborative monitoring strategies, FMG aims to maintain a high level of environmental stewardship across the Project's lifecycle.

Dust Monitoring Stations

Benefits

The Project will benefit local, Indigenous, provincial and federal economies, as well as contribute to various industries through resource production. Substantial positive impacts on local communities include improved well-being, employment readiness and training opportunities, jobs, contracting opportunities, infrastructure opportunities and capacity building all towards enhancing workforce skills applicable to other sectors in the region for the long-term.

FMG is committed to participating in solutions towards supporting Project employment readiness, training, and employment retention of local and Indigenous talent from across the region as demonstrated by its development of a Health and Wellness Strategy for the Project. This strategy addresses such barriers and challenges to employment including mental health and addiction issues.

Economically, the Project is projected to add approximately $7.6 billion to Ontario's gross domestic product over its lifespan, averaging over $430 million annually, and creating 43,880 person-years of employment in Canada. This major economic boost will stem from direct project activities and will cascade into indirect and induced effects, benefiting sectors such as local businesses and infrastructure investments. Local, provincial, and federal governments are also expected to see increased revenue, allowing for further investments in health, social services, and community infrastructure for the long-term.

Conclusion

The Project will be a major economic development engine for northwestern Ontario at a critical time for an underserviced region. With forestry industry uncertainties and few other new mineral projects in the near or mid-term pipeline, the Project is positioned to be a sustainable economic driver for the region. The Project promises substantial benefits, including infrastructure upgrades, high-paying jobs, training and skills development, and potential critical minerals for renewable energy technologies, such as tellurium for solar cells. FMG emphasizes its commitment to responsible development that supports environmental protection, economic prosperity, and the well-being of Indigenous and local communities.

The Project incorporates extensive environmental protection through planning and modern engineering designs and technologies ensuring the Project's sustainability. The follow-up and monitoring programs will validate predicted effects, assess mitigation measure performance, support adaptive management, and ensure compliance with all environmental permits. Collaborative efforts, including the establishment of an Environment Committee(s) with local Indigenous communities, aim to ensure ongoing engagement, transparency and adaptive management throughout the Project's lifecycle.