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## **11.0 ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **11.1 Federal Environmental Approvals**

Environmental approvals related to the *Fisheries Act*, *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* and *Explosives Act* are anticipated to be required for the Springpole Gold Project (Project). Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Transport Canada (TC) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) are the federal agencies primarily involved with approvals under these statutes.

These federal departments have a broad range of responsibilities. The *Fisheries Act* gives the DFO responsibility for the management of fisheries, habitat, and aquaculture, including aquatic Species at Risk (SAR). In regard to the Project, DFO has the role to manage the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. ECCC is the lead on the broad protection of the environment and also has responsibilities under the *Fisheries Act* for the protection of fish, specifically by leading approvals related to the deposition of deleterious substances in waters frequented by fish (a regulatory amendment to list a waterbody to Schedule 2 of the *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations*; MDMER). TC reviews the impacts on waterways to ensure navigability and aviation is not interfered with. NRCan is responsible for licensing the manufacturing and storage of explosives and issuing permits for the transportation of explosives.

It is expected that the overprinting of waters frequented by fish by the co-disposal facility (CDF) and the central water storage pond may be necessary and will require a listing under Schedule 2 of the federal MDMER, pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*. This process requires a stand-alone alternatives assessment for mineral waste disposal. A copy of the draft Mine Waste Management Alternatives Assessment is attached to this EIS/EA as Appendix E.

An Offsetting Plan for the Paragraph 35(2)(b) Authorization and a Fish Habitat Compensation Plan for the Schedule 2 MDMER listing are anticipated to be required for the development of the Project. A combined draft plan is provided in Appendix F. Once finalized, this plan will be submitted to DFO and ECCC for approval, to address the overall fisheries compensation and offset requirements for the Project.

Table 11.1-1 summarizes the federal environmental approvals that could potentially be required for the construction, operation and closure of the Project (including engineering approvals related to explosives manufacturing and/or storage). Other approvals may arise through consultation with federal agencies or as Project design progresses.

**Table 11.1-1: Anticipated Federal Environment-related Approvals**

<b>Approval / Instrument</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>
Authorization <i>Fisheries Act</i>	DFO	Based on an assessment of impacts to fish and fish habitat, an authorization may be required for an undertaking or activity that may result in the death of fish or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the CDF and the central water storage pond;</li> <li>• In-water structures; and</li> <li>• Mine dewatering groundwater effects and surface flow reductions that would cause impacts to watercourses supporting fisheries.</li> </ul>
Schedule 2 Listing MDMER pursuant to the <i>Fisheries Act</i>	ECCC	Overprinting of water frequented by fish by mine waste (or other deleterious material) will require a listing under Schedule 2 of the MDMER. Potential areas of impact include the CDF and the central water storage pond.
Manufacturing, storage, and transportation of explosives <i>Explosives Act</i>	NRCan	Explosives magazine, manufacturing facility and transportation require a federal permit, pursuant to Section 7 of the <i>Explosives Act</i> . If facility is owned by licensed explosives contractor, permit will be issued to them.
Works in Navigable Waters <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i>	TC	Alteration of navigable waters (e.g., dike in Springpole Lake) and crossing of navigable waters with infrastructure.
Aeronautical Obstruction Clearance Canadian Aviation Regulations (SOR/96-433) of the <i>Aeronautics Act</i>	TC	Marking and lighting for structures that could interfere with aeronautical navigation, such as transmission line and airstrip (if developed).
<i>Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act</i>	TC	Focuses on the prevention of incidents when dangerous goods are imported, handled, offered for transport and transported.

**Note:**

Although not expected, a federal *Species at Risk Act* (ECCC) permit could be required.

## **11.2 Provincial Environmental Approvals**

There are a number of provincial Acts that are applicable to the construction, operation and closure of the Project. These Acts and associated regulations, guidelines and policies stipulate those relevant aspects of the natural and/or human use environments are to be protected in Ontario against undue disturbance from industrial and other sources, except as provided through the granting of permits, approvals and authorizations.

There are three primary provincial ministries that are anticipated to be involved with environmental approvals for the Project:

- Ministry of Mines (MINES) has responsibility to ensure the orderly development of mineral resources in Ontario, including primary responsibility for mine reclamation planning activities;
- Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is responsible for the protection and wise use of Crown resources including merchantable timber and aggregates; and
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) grants permits and approvals that address project aspects that are related to soil and water quality and quantity, air quality and noise, and SAR.

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) may also be involved with permitting of Project components; although no permits are expected to be required. In addition, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) may issue permit(s) if there is an infringement on provincial highway(s). The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) may also provide energy-related approval(s) for the Project, including approval to construct transmission lines.

Decisions related to provincial permits and approvals that may be issued by provincial regulatory authorities are informed in part, by this EIS/EA.

Provincial approvals will be required to construct, operate and eventually close the Project. Table 11.2-1 provides a listing of the provincial approvals anticipated to be required or likely to be required for the Project. The list of permits and approvals will continue to be reviewed as the Project progresses. Provincial ministries will continue to be consulted as applicable, to ensure that the required approvals are identified.

**Table 11.2-1: Anticipated Provincial Environment-related Approvals**

<b>Approval</b>	<b>Responsible Ministry</b>	<b>Description of Activity / Facility Approved</b>
Environmental Compliance Approval – Air and Noise <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>	MECP	Release of air emissions and noise, such as from haul trucks (road dust), and facilities, such as the process plant.
Environmental Compliance Approval – Domestic Sewage <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>	MECP	Establishment and operation of a domestic sewage treatment plant.
Environmental Compliance Approval – Industrial Sewage Works <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>	MECP	Operation of the integrated water management system to provide for discharge to the environment, including but not limited to: central water storage pond, plant site pond and effluent treatment plant.
Overall Benefit Permit <i>Endangered Species Act</i>	MECP	Project-related effects to a protected species (in return for providing an overall benefit to the species in Ontario).
Permit to Take Water <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i>	MECP	Taking of groundwater or surface water in excess of 50,000 litres per day, such as for a fresh water supply, or controlled dewatering the open pit and construction excavations.
Closure Plan <i>Mining Act</i>	MINES	Mine construction, operations and closure, including financial assurance for reclamation costs. The Closure Plan may also approve dams located outside watercourses and waterbodies.
Aggregate Resource License <i>Aggregate Resource Act</i>	MNR	Extraction of aggregate for construction purposes during the construction and operations phases.
Forestry Resource License <i>Crown Forest Sustainability Act</i>	MNR	Cutting of Crown merchantable timber, such as for site development and clearing for the access road and transmission line.
Land Use Permit / Sale of Crown Land / License of Occupation <i>Public Lands Act</i>	MNR	Tenure for long-term facilities on Crown land, such as for the transmission line or shoreline structures.
Scientific Collection Permit <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>	MNR	Conduct baseline fish / wildlife studies and relocate fish from watercourses and waterbodies. Also for the destruction of beaver dams, if needed.
Work Permit <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, Public Lands Act</i>	MNR	Work / construction on Crown land. Construction of a dam or dike in any lake or river requires approval for the location of the dam, and its plans and specifications.
Clearance Letter <i>Heritage Act</i>	MCM	Confirms appropriate archeological and/or cultural heritage studies and mitigation, if required have been completed, for activity at the location to proceed.
Entrance Permit and Encroachment Permit <i>Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act</i>	MTO	Allows access to construct a transmission line from a provincial highway and placement of a transmission line over a provincial highway, if required.
Leave to Construct <i>Ontario Energy Board Act</i>	OEB	Construction of a transmission line.

### **11.3 Municipal Approvals**

Since the Project is not located in an incorporated municipality, no municipal approvals are anticipated to be required.