

CANADA NICKEL COMPANY—CRAWFORD NICKEL SULPHIDE PROJECT INTRODUCTORY MEETING AND PROJECT OVERVIEW MEETING REPORT — COCHRANE LOCAL CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE

MEETING INFORMATION		
DATE	May 4 th , 2022	
TIME	6:00 – 7:34 PM	
LOCATION	Zoom meeting	
PARTICIPANTS	Number of people present: 7 Terry Boucher David Field Jean-Luc Brousseau Sue Parton Fern Gravel Lino Morandin	
CANADA NICKEL	 ✓ Pierre-Philippe Dupont Vice President Sustainability ✓ Alexandra Armstrong, Community Relations & Communications Coordinator ✓ Kenzie Tyler, Geotechnician, Note Taker 	
OBJECTIVES	 □ Present an overview of the new Impact Assessment Process □ Present the main elements of the Initial Project Description (IPD) □ Obtain feedback on the preliminary IPD from stakeholders 	
MEETING HOLDER	Canada Nickel Company	
AGENDA	 Welcome Meeting Agenda Approval The (new) Impact Assessment Process 3.1 What has changed? 3.2 Where is Canada Nickel in the process? Initial Project Description 4.1 Project Information 4.2 Stakeholder, Community, and Indigenous Engagement 4.3 Existing Infrastructure and Activities 4.4 Proposed Mine Facilities/Infrastructure 4.5 Preliminary Decommissioning Approach 4.6 Preliminary Schedule 4.7 Preliminary List of Activities 4.8 Baseline Studies 4.9 Approvals 	

- 5. Questions and Feedback
- 6. Next steps
- 7. Varia
 - 8. Meeting End

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ISSUES AND CONCERNS		
✓ LCC	Project workforce provenance (local, regional, external)	
✓ LCC	☐ Project size and footprint	
✓ LCC	Project closure and rehabilitation plans	
✓ LCC	☐ Water discharge impacts to the environment	
✓ LCC	☐ Tailings management and potential impacts	
✓ LCC	□ Project financing	
✓ LCC	Project impacts on wildlife	

FOLLOW-UPS	
✓ Canada Nickel	Share the Meeting Report and attached presentation, for review and validation

GENERAL COMN	MENTS
✓ LCC	☐ General appreciation of Canada Nickel's engagement activities
✓ LCC	Positive comments towards the project and its impact management

1. WELCOME

Ms. Alexandra Armstrong, Canada Nickel's Community Relations & Communications Coordinator, begins the meeting with a brief introduction of the team and the accompanying engagement consultants from TES.

She mentions that, since many of the participants have already received part of the information shared in the presentation, she will quickly go through some of the slides. Participants are invited to ask questions or share comments freely throughout the meeting, at their discretion. Q&A periods are also planned throughout the presentation.

2. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

The meeting agenda is approved.

3. THE NEW IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Ms. Armstrong presents an overview of the scope and schedule of the new federal Impact Assessment (IA) Process, managed by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC or Agency). She mentions that the new process relies heavily on Indigenous and public participation and will thus involve many phases of engagement and consultations with the community. For further details, please refer to the presentation available in the Appendix, slides 6 to 8.

3.1 What has changed?

Ms. Armstrong mentions that the new process has a strong focus on participation, especially at the early planning phase of a project. Proponents like Canada Nickel will therefore discuss the preliminary design of their projects to gather as much feedback as possible, with the aim of improving project design, identifying a broad scope of issues, and planning appropriate mitigation measures. The process also strongly focuses on Indigenous participation and the assessment of social impacts, in addition to environmental impacts. No questions or comments are raised.

3.2 Where is Canada Nickel in the process?

Ms. Armstrong mentions that Canada Nickel is currently at the beginning of the Planning Stage of the IA Process, namely engagement on a Draft Initial Project Description (IPD), the preliminary planning document for the Crawford Project. Once Canada Nickel has completed its engagement on the preliminary document, it will integrate the feedback received and submit the formal IPD to the Agency by mid-summer 2022.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q&I1	A participant asks what is a genderbased analysis (GBA+).	Ms. Armstrong answers that it is a study lens that is applied to obtain a more detailed understanding of a project's impacts in the context of specific social and economic groups such as women, youth, and marginalized populations.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 2	A participant asks if the federal and provincial processes are the same.	Ms. Armstrong answers that the two processes are distinct. The federal process oversees all potential project impacts, including environmental, social, and economic, with a strong focus on Indigenous participation and community engagement. The provincial process focuses on a project's environmental impacts and its permitting. Mr. Dupont adds that while both processes are separate, they will combine into an allencompassing assessment. The same information will be used in both, which will be fed by the same engagement feedback and same baseline studies. Both processes are also meant to encourage communication between the provincial and federal regulatory bodies.
Q & I 3	A participant asks if Canada Nickel will undertake smelting onsite.	Ms. Armstrong answers that the mine's ore will be processed onsite into three types of concentrate, namely a low-grade nickel concentrate, a high-grade nickel concentrate, and an iron concentrate. These will be sent for downstream processing at a location that has yet been determined.

4. INITIAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ms. Armstrong presents an overview of the Crawford Project's design. For further details, please refer to the presentation available in the Appendix, slides 10 to 43.

4.1 Project Information

Ms. Armstrong mentions that the project's design is that of an open pit nickel mine project, the same as what was shared during previous engagement activities. The major difference being that the mine's lifecycle is much longer than originally estimated, going from a 25-year mine life as described in the Preliminary Economic Assessment (2021) to a minimum 40-year mine life. No questions or comments are raised.

4.2 Stakeholder, Community, and Indigenous Engagement

Ms. Armstrong provides an overview of the different engagement phases and activities that were initiated since the project was launched. She mentions that a significant amount of Indigenous and community

engagement was undertaken. Of note, two parallel engagement processes are ongoing, an Indigenous process and a community process. Both aim to improve the IPD document through feedback before the final version is submitted to the Agency by mid-Summer.

Ms. Armstrong adds that Canada Nickel is also planning two virtual public information sessions, on May 13th and May 16th, for which the communications and marketing have recently begun.

To sum up Canada Nickel's engagement process, Ms. Armstrong shares the three key takeaways, namely that Indigenous and stakeholder communities will be heard, that the engagement processes are ongoing and flexible, and that Canada Nickel wants to know what the communities and individuals care about in terms of interests and expectations. For further details, please refer to the presentation. No questions or comments are raised.

4.3 Existing Infrastructure and Activities

Regarding the existing infrastructure and activities, Ms. Armstrong mentions that the site is a greenfield site with regards to mining and advanced exploration, that has albeit been extensively logged. Canada Nickel has been undergoing several types of activities, including approximately 3 years of surface drilling. The company is currently looking to identify and locate local hunting blinds or evidence of human activity on the site, to inform the owners of the mining project. Letters are left when blinds are identified, to ensure communications with the local users.

In addition, the Crawford Project is undergoing different activities, including environmental baseline studies, engineering studies, permitting, etc. Importantly, Canada Nickel plans to have a finalized Feasibility Study by late Q4 2022. No questions or comments are raised.

4.4 Proposed Mine Facilities/Infrastructure

In terms of the project's design considerations and its facilities and infrastructure, Ms. Armstrong mentions from the start that the site layout has changed significantly since Canada Nickel last engaged with the community. The project's footprint is currently between 80 and 90 square kilometers. The layout involves efforts to minimize the project's footprint and encroachment on local waterbodies, notably the West Buskegau River. Ms. Armstrong notes that, during drilling and exploration activities, the project will maintain a 100 meters minimum distance with local waterbodies wherever possible, instead of the regulatory 30 meters.

Canada Nickel will also avoid the relocation of the 115 kV powerline that is located east of the project, while relocating the existing 500 kV powerline and building a new 230 kV powerlines. Both these powerlines will be located to the west of the site, along the new location for Highway 655. Mr. Dupont adds that both powerlines and the Highway will form a corridor. For further details, please refer to the presentation.

Concerning the layout, Canada Nickel is planning three open pits, named the Main, East, and West Zones. Before accessing the ore, approximately 40 meters of overburden will need to be removed, composed of clay, sand, and gravel. Due to the structural quality of the ground, Canada Nickel will be unable to stack its tailings, overburden, or waste rock to the heights (50 to 70 meters) that are sometimes seen at other projects. The maximum height will therefore be around 10 meters. Regarding the footprint, it will grow progressively, over time. The early years' processing capacity will be of 42 500 tonnes per day before expanding to a maximum processing of 120 000 tonnes per day. The Main Zone will be mined first, followed subsequently by the East and West zones.

Ms. Armstrong mentions that the tailings management facility will be the largest area (29 km²) of the site. While the tailings from the main zone will be stored in the surface facility, the tailings from the East and West zone will be stored in the mined out main zone pit. While the tailings have a large footprint, Canada Nickel sees advantages in this design, as it reduces the height of the tailings and thus the risks of dam failure. In addition, a larger tailing footprint will encourage greater carbon sequestration by exposing more tailings surface to the atmospheric conditions.

Ms. Armstrong mentions that Canada Nickel does not plan to build a work camp, due to the proximity of nearby communities. The site will also exclude an explosives manufacturing site, even though explosives will be stored on-site. A processing plant is also planned for the site. In terms of energy, the project will require a large amount of power, due to the heavy automation planned for the mining site. It is for this reason that a new 230 kV line is to be built from the nearby Porcupine Substation. While current large haul trucks are not yet fully electrified, Canada Nickel expects that this technology may be made available in the coming years, which will put added pressure on the project's energy requirements.

Regarding water management, Ms. Armstrong mentions that it is a topic for which Canada Nickel is particularly looking for feedback. While Canada Nickel has identified the Mattagami River for technical and financial considerations in the upcoming Feasibility Study as its intended water discharge location, this design decision is not yet concluded. The company is currently considering four water discharge locations, namely the Mattagami River, the North Driftwood River, the West Buskegau River or a potential combination of those locations. Regarding the project's water usage, Ms. Armstrong mentions that dewatering of the open pit, collection of runoffs, and recycling through the process will provide sufficient water for the processing system. It is anticipated that the site will collect more water than is needed for the system and will therefore have to discharge beyond the site's footprint – noting that water that leaves site will meet regulatory requirements prior to discharge to the environment. Thus, Canada Nickel will have to identify a location for its discharge.

Regarding the Mattagami River, it offers significant advantages, due to its size and flow and therefore capacity to accept additional water from the discharge. The project currently has minimal impact in that watershed since the river is located approximately 10 km from the site and therefor would require a pipeline for transport of discharge. These impacts will have to be included in the IA, though it is anticipated the total water flow added to the system will be less than 1%.

While the West Buskegau River is closer to the project, there has been an effort to avoid the river system in site design. The river also has an uneven and limited seasonal flow. Thus, a large amount of water discharged into the West Buskegau could have a significant impact, equivalent to approximately 30 % of the system's natural flow. A similar issue would occur in the North Driftwood River, as its flow is lower and inconsistent. Since the project currently encroaches on the North Driftwood, which itself feeds the site with water, the impacts would be held within an approximate closed loop.

Ms. Armstrong invites the participants to share feedback on this crucial design issue.

QUESTIONS AND	INTERVENTIONS	ANSWERS
Q & I 4	A participant asks how many pounds of nickel will be produced each day as well as the grade within the ore.	Mr. Dupont answers approximately 42 000 pounds of nickel per day will be concentrated. Currently within the ore the nickel grade is around 0.3%. However, when concentrated from the ore, there will be a few different products: an iron concentrate to feed the stainless-steel market, a high-grade (45%) nickel concentrate potentially feeding into the battery metal industry; and a lower grade (10%) nickel concentrate.
Q & I 5	A participant asks where the workforce will be drawn from; locally, nationally, or internationally.	Ms. Armstrong answers that Canada Nickel's goal is to draw from the local population wherever possible. However, due to the size of the project, there may be a need to bring in workers from outside the region to meet the workforce requirements. She mentions that Canada Nickel is currently working with local training institutes, including Northern College and College Boreal, to promote related training opportunities. There are many good international programs within these school, in addition to the Rural Northern Immigration Pilot, to facilitate the training and employment of Canadian immigrants. She adds that Canada Nickel and their partners hope to encourage training now to meet predicted demand down the road, per the project's preliminary schedule. Finally, Ms. Armstrong mentions that bringing in outside workers comes with its own challenges, such as potential impacts on social and healthcare services due to the potential population increase. Canada Nickel wishes to avoid use of fly-in/fly-out workers and encourage permanent relocation to the region.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 6	A participant asks if Canada Nickel is looking for a diversified workforce that will encompass a range of jobs related to mining, or if there is particular emphasis on traditional open pit roles, such a haul truck operators.	Ms. Armstrong answers that Canada Nickel will be looking for a diversified workforce as it will cover all stages of construction, operation, and closure of the mine, as well as "new" technologies like automated equipment. She mentions that Canada Nickel will need engineers, operators, mechanics, electricians, support and administrative staff, and dozens of other roles throughout the life of the operation. Canada Nickel is now looking to complete a full evaluation of the types of jobs that will be required for the operation, and an estimate on how many opportunities there will be for each of these roles. Mr. Dupont adds that there is typically less specialized training required for an open pit compared to an unground mine, and some workers can be drawn from other industries.
Q & I 7	A participant asks how the project's footprint was minimized if the mine's life was extended.	Ms. Armstrong answers that an effort was made to make the site more compact by reducing distances between the different facilities/infrastructure. She explains that this reduces the project's surface impact, haulage time and operating costs. Ms. Armstrong notes that the site will slowly expand to its full footprint, given that the stockpiles and tailings management facility will be gradually filled throughout operations. She adds that the higher-grade ore will be processed first, with the lowgrade ore stockpiles processed at the later stages of the mine's life when mining has ceased.
Q&18	A participant asks if a copy of the presentation could be made available.	Ms. Armstrong answers, that the presentation will be available after the meeting.

4.5 Preliminary Decommissioning Approach

Ms. Armstrong mentions that Canada Nickel's decommissioning approach is not the project's final Closure Plan. Here again, the participant's feedback will be used to improve and refine the decommissioning approach and ultimately, the Closure Plan. Overall, it is mentioned that the actual objective is to rehabilitate the open pit into a lake. She adds that Canada Nickel will be able to undertake this approach due to non-acid bearing nature of its mine rock, ore, and tailings. For further details, please refer to the presentation.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 9	A participant asks how big the lake will be after the mine's closure.	Ms. Armstrong answers that the lake will have a surface area of around 9 square kilometres. Mr. Dupont adds that the pit itself will reach a depth of around 600 meters. However, it will be backfilled as appropriate to ensure its safety and ability to support aquatic habitats. He adds that the lake will be monitored during the mine's, closure, and post closure to maintain safe pit slopes and water quality. Additional steps will be taken to ensure that the lake can act as a productive natural habitat, including revegetation and fish
Q & I 10	A participant asks about the difference between nickel and gold tailings and if there is potential to sell carbon credits from the operation.	mr. Dupont answers that all projects are unique, but one of the primary differences between higher grade gold mines and lowgrade nickel mines is the higher potential for acid runoffs in gold projects, which can be a challenge for water management. He mentions that based on the actual results obtained in the environmental geochemistry program, there are no anticipated risks of acid mine drainage at the Crawford Project. Regarding carbon sequestration and the potential to sell carbon credits, he mentions that the project will look to maximise its electrification, through trolly assisted trucks and electric rope shovels. Additionally, the waste rock and tailings can naturally absorb carbon from the air, through a process known as carbon sequestration. Canada

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS ANSWERS		
		Nickel hopes to optimize this process and is currently looking at solutions to this effect. This could lead to Canada Nickel being able to sell carbon credits if more carbon is sequestered from the air than is emitted by the project. Mr. Dupont adds that there is even potential to use the site's tailings to help with the closure of other mining operations, as Crawford's more basic tailings could help neutralize acidic tailings.
Q & I 11	A participant asks if a proponent is required to set funds aside for the Closure Plan, before a project is built.	Ms. Armstrong answers positively, as it is a provincial requirement. Mr. Dupont adds that the financing requirements for a Closure Plan are available publicly on the website of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF), under Financial Assurance.
Q & I 12	A participant asks if the project's water discharge into the environment will be clean.	Ms. Armstrong answers that Canada Nickel will ensure that the water discharge meets regulatory requirements and won't affect the receiving environment. Mr. Dupont adds that the NDMNRF's metal and diamond mining effluent regulations are a very strict process for standards of effluent discharge. He explains that the main potential environmental challenge regarding water discharge will probably be suspended solids and residues from blasting products (ANFO).
Q & I 13	A participant asks if decommissioning the mine in three years is realistic.	Ms. Armstrong answers that it is only a preliminary number, which will be further detailed by engineering. Mr. Dupont adds that the mine's rehabilitation will begin before closure, as certain areas will be mined out and will be

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS	ANSWERS
	reclaimed before others. He explains that for
	such a mineral deposit, the higher-grade ore
	is mined and processed first, while the low
	grade is stockpiled and processed within the
	last 10 years of operation. During that last
	period, there is little to no active mining at
	the site, which will allow for site reclamation
	to begin. He mentions that three years is
	standard for the industry for this kind of
	closure, namely regrading, revegetation, and
	removal of infrastructure. This is a distinct
	process which differs from post-closure
	monitoring and related activities which could
	go on for longer periods.

4.6 Preliminary Schedule

Regarding the schedule, Ms. Armstrong mentions that the project's schedule has changed significantly since previous presentations, due to the mine's extended lifetime of a minimum of 40 years. For further details, please refer to the presentation.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 15	A participant asks if Canada Nickel will continue to drill in the area once mining starts and if underground mining has been considered.	Mr. Dupont answers that the project has a low-grade homogenous ore deposit. It is possible that more drilling will occur once the mine begins operations, however, it won't be the project's main focus. Underground mining has been considered and evaluated, however the economics for this type of low-grade deposit usually make it unfeasible with the tonnages involved.
Q & I 16	A participant asks how the project will be financed, and if Canada Nickel will look to find a strategic partner.	Ms. Armstrong answers that financing is an ongoing effort. Mr. Dupont adds that these projects can be financed in a few different ways, including potential offtake agreements, in which Canada Nickel would secure financing by selling the rights to receive future production from Crawford.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
		He mentions that a nickel shortage is also
		expected in the next few years, which makes
		the project well timed to play a role in the
		electric vehicle battery market. He further
		adds that the project's economics at the time
		of the Preliminary Economic Assessment
		(PEA) were positive despite the lower nickel
		price at the time. Present day nickel prices
		are around \$14/pound, and experts predict it
		should not drop below \$10/pound in the
		near to mid term future.

4.7 Preliminary List of Activities

Ms. Armstrong provides a quick overview of the project's list of activities during the construction, operations, and closure phases. A few of the highlights concern the relocation of Highway 655, the relocation and construction of the 500 kV and 230 kV powerlines, the open pit development, etc. For further details, please refer to the presentation. No questions or comments are raised.

4.8 Baseline Studies

Ms. Armstrong shares details on the ongoing and upcoming baseline studies, including field studies. The list of baseline studies includes air quality, noise/light/vibrations, cultural heritage and archeology, geochemistry, hydrogeology, hydrology, social, economic & health context for the concerned communities, flora and vegetation, and land and aquatic wildlife. For further details, please refer to the presentation.

Ms. Armstrong adds that in terms of species of concern, no woodland caribou were identified within the project's area, despite being the in extreme south of the caribou range. She further mentions that the baseline studies will continue in 2022. Finally, she adds that Indigenous communities will have their own process regarding many of the baseline studies, notably archeology and traditional land use.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 17	A participant asks how will the workers get to the mine.	Ms. Armstrong answers that while no traffic studies have been completed yet, the use of shuttles is being considered because the workforce will likely reside in the neighbouring communities. Mr. Dupont adds that a potential shuttle service, if implemented, will be needed from the start of the project. He mentions that if people get comfortable driving to work in their own vehicles, they are likely not going

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
		to switch when a shuttle service becomes available. Such a mistake has been seen in previous mining projects.
Q & I 18	A participant asks what happens if an at-risk species is identified in the area.	Ms. Armstrong answers that there are a few options, including designing and implementing a compensation plan, a contribution to government projects relating to the specie in question, or habitat restoration in other areas of interest.

4.9 Approvals

Ms. Armstrong presents the list of preliminary and potential federal and provincial approvals. For further details, please refer to the complete list. No questions or comments are raised.

4.10 Potential Project Impacts

Ms. Armstrong provides a detailed overview of the project's potential impacts and proposed preliminary mitigation measures. For specific details, please refer to the presentation.

She adds that per the new IA Process, the Agency, and by extension, Canada Nickel, is looking for feedback on potential impact topics that are of lesser relevance to the project and its eventual IA, due in part to its location and design. She cites, as examples: noise, ambient light, and vibrations as potential impacts of this type. Regarding carbon capture, she mentions that Canada Nickel is aiming for net-zero and with the project's current design, she believes that there is a strong chance of success. She adds that the project may even be able to sell carbon credits.

Regarding the project's social and public health impacts to Indigenous and local communities, Ms. Armstrong mentions that Canada Nickel will focus on the use of a local workforce, which will likely have impacts on the host communities, including in terms of housing, traffic, access to social and health services, education, changes of economic statuses, etc. She commits that Canada Nickel will look to work with the communities to identify impacts and appropriate mitigation measures. As an example, she cites a previous meeting where participants identified an increase in traffic as a potentially significant impact. The participants further suggested that Canada Nickel uses shuttles to transport its workers to the mine site, to reduce such an impact. She concludes by saying that each potential project impact will be assessed in the engagement process, the IA and through the project's different committees, for example the Community Contributions and Procurement Committee.

5. QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

Ms. Armstrong opens the floor to the participants by asking them if there are any impacts that seem to be of lesser relevance to the project, per its initial design.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 19	A participant asks how likely corporate is to proceed with the project.	Ms. Armstrong answers that once the Feasibility Study is complete and the project is permitted, corporate will make its decision. Mr. Dupont adds that as long as the project economics are positive and CNC has enough financing to back it, corporate will move forward.
Q & I 20	A participant asks how will the concentrates be moved offsite.	Mr. Dupont answers that the intention is to optimize the use of train transportation for most consumables brought to site and the concentrates leaving the site. He mentions that it is possible that trucks will be needed, but Canada Nickel will look to prioritize the train. Transport and traffic studies will be undertaken before a decision is made.
Q & I 21	A participant asks if noise has been a consideration as a potential impact on local wildlife.	Ms. Armstrong answers that wildlife activity may be affected by site noise, as this will be a large industrial operation. A noise assessment will be conducted during the baseline studies and the Impact Assessment to better understand the importance of this aspects of the project on local wildlife.
Q & I 22	A participant mentions that Canada Nickel's team has provided good answers to the questions. They add that a project's tailings are usually a concern because of the potential environmental impacts. Closure Plans are also usually a concern. Regarding Canada Nickel's project, these items seem to have been carefully considered. As such, the participant has no negative comments on the project. They are curious to see how the pit will fit into the environment once it is a lake.	Ms. Armstrong acknowledges the feedback and thanks the participant for their time.
Q & I 23	A participant mentions that they appreciate Canada Nickel's presentation.	Ms. Armstrong thanks the participant for their comment.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 24	A participant asks how the surrounding	Ms. Armstrong acknowledges the comment,
	communities will benefit from Canada	and notes that further information around
	Nickel's project. They also are looking	contributions and economic opportunities
	forward to seeing it progress.	will be shared as the project progresses.

6. NEXT STEPS

Ms. Armstrong presents the next steps in terms of Canada Nickel's Indigenous and stakeholder engagement process. For further details, please refer to slide 46 of the presentation.

7. VARIA

No varia are proposed.

8. MEETING END

The meeting ends at 7:34.

APPENDIX I PRESENTATION