

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Canada Nickel Company —Crawford Nickel-Cobalt Sulphide Project

1st MEETING REPORT

MEETING INFORMATION		
DATE	October 18 th 2022	
TIME	2:00 PM to 3:25 PM	
LOCATION	Videoconference—MICROSOFT TEAMS	
PARTICIPANTS	Members	Presence
	Jared Alcock, Town of Cochrane	✓
	Brian Finner, Town of Iroquois Falls	✓
	Scott Tam, City of Timmins & Mattagami Region Source Protection Committee	✓
	Eric Neilson, Town of Smooth Rock Falls	
	Michel Dupuis, Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed	✓
	Suzanne Lajoie, Porcupine Health Unit	✓
	Sue Parton, Cochrane Local Citizen Committee	✓
CANADA NICKEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pierre-Philippe Dupont, Vice President Sustainability ✓ Alexandra Armstrong, Community Relations & Communications Coordinator ✓ Mathieu Boucher, Environmental Manager ✓ Adam Gauthier, Environmental Coordinator 	
FACILIATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Isaac Gauthier – Facilitator – Transfer Environment and Society (TES) ✓ Anne Bélanger – Note taker – Transfer Environment and Society (TES) 	
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Roundtable (new members) 2. Meeting Agenda Review and Approval 3. Update on Canada Nickel’s Impact Assessment & Relevant Data 4. Canada Nickel’s Intentions Regarding the Environmental Impacts Committee 5. Group Discussion – Committee expectations 6. Presentation – Committee Proposal 7. Preliminary Group Discussion – Topics of interest & recurrence 8. Next steps / Next meeting 9. Varia 	

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

- The Committee adopted the Charter Document

COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

- Invite government representatives as observers in committee meetings so they can provide regulatory and expert information, as needed.
- Interest in having experts and/or consultants working on the Project made available, at the committee's request, to explain their work and findings.
- Discuss project geochemistry during the water topic.

1. WELCOME AND ROUNDTABLE

Isaac Gauthier, the meeting facilitator, initiates the meeting and welcomes the members. The meeting starts with a roundtable.

Ms. Alexandra Armstrong, Canada Nickel's Community Relations & Communications Coordinator, invites the participants to share their questions and comments freely throughout the meeting. For details regarding the presentation, please refer to the Appendix.

2. MEETING AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Mr. Gauthier mentions that Canada Nickel has offered to start the meeting with a short presentation of the Crawford Project before addressing the topics listed in the meeting agenda. Members agree to start with a brief introduction to the project. The revised meeting agenda is approved.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE CRAWFORD PROJECT

Ms. Armstrong presents Canada Nickel as a junior exploration company built around the Crawford Project. She mentions that drilling started at the Crawford site about three years ago and the company is looking at an open pit mine producing nickel, iron, and cobalt over an approximate 40-year lifespan.

She presents the site layout shared in the *Initial Project Description* (IPD), mentioning it has slightly changed since and will be updated in the upcoming Feasibility study and in the *Detailed Project Description* (DPD), which is the next step of the planning phase of the federal Impact Assessment (IA) Process. Ms. Armstrong adds that the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) has been filed and the next step is the Feasibility study, which will attract investor interest towards the project.

The project's footprint is currently between 80 and 90 square kilometers and is situated over Highway 655, which will need to be relocated along with the existing 500 kV powerline. A corridor will include the partially rerouted highway, the 500 kV line, a new 230 kV line and the continuation of the railroad from the Kidd Creek Project.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 1	A member asks if there are any lakes within the project's footprint.	Ms. Armstrong answers that efforts have been made to avoid the West Buskegau River and the lakes located directly south-west of the project, this being subject to further alterations to the site layout. The updated layout will be available in the Feasibility study.
Q & I 2	A member mentions having heard that it takes around 100 million dollars to start a mining project, especially to plan for closure, and asks where Canada Nickel is with regards to funding.	Mr. Dupont answers that, for a project like Crawford, the construction cost will be closer to \$1.5 - \$2 billion, with additional funds set aside in the amount determined by the Ministry of Mines for closure assurance. He adds that current spending is focused on studies to prepare a project that will raise enough financing to move into construction.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 3	A member shares their personal experience regarding problematic mine closures, adding that enough money should be left for mine closure.	Mr. Gauthier mentions that the topic of mine closure is one that can eventually be discussed in another committee meeting.

4. UPDATE ON CANADA NICKEL'S IMPACT ASSESSMENT & RELEVANT DATA

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 Crawford Project is currently in the planning phase, which began summer 2022 with CNC's submission of the IPD, followed by the Agency's consultations on the document. IAAC shared the next document, the *Summary of Issues*, with CNC in September 2022. Canada Nickel's next steps include submitting the *Detailed Project Description* (DPD) and the response to the *Summary of Issues*. Ms. Armstrong mentions the provincial process will begin soon.

Ms. Armstrong then presents the list of potential approvals to obtain from federal and provincial regulators. The major steps in the provincial approvals will be the environmental assessment, the closure plan and the required studies and baselines to do both. For the federal process, the main step is the upcoming Impact Assessment.

Mr. Boucher, Canada Nickels' Environmental Manager, explains that the purpose of baseline data collection is to provide information on the current, pre-operation, onsite situation, on various topics. From that information, a proponent can infer potential impacts and either avoid or mitigate them when designing a project. He adds that a second use for the baseline data is to measure project impacts during actual construction and operation.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 4	A member asks is Canada Nickel has reached out to Mattagami First Nation.	<p>Mr. Dupont answers there is a specific process ongoing with Indigenous communities that are involved in the project, including the signing of impact assessment agreements.</p> <p>He further mentions that the Committee's purpose is to focus on environmental concerns and that the topic of Indigenous engagement will not be covered in the meetings. He adds that the Committee's work includes identifying any blind spots in the data collection, or identifying potential impacts, and discussing proposed mitigation measures.</p>

5. CANADA NICKEL'S INTENTIONS REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS COMMITTEE

Ms. Armstrong shares the idea behind the committee's creation, explaining that general engagement meetings do not generally provide sufficient opportunities for in-depth discussions on more technical or precise subjects, even though environmental information is shared during such meetings.

She explains that Canada Nickel's intention in creating the committee's is to have those more detailed conversations and to take the time to go deeper in various environmental topics. The invited committee members are community and area experts, and the hope is that they will be able to help share comprehensive information from the committee to the rest of the community. The committee members are also meant to guide Canada Nickel in their goal of following environmental best practices.

Ms. Armstrong further adds that Canada Nickel's early engagement activities on the Crawford Project showed community interest towards different types of committees: a community contributions and procurement committee which was launched in early 2022, an environmental committee, and eventually a labour and training committee.

No questions or comments are raised.

6. GROUP DISCUSSION – COMMITTEE EXPECTATIONS

After hearing Canada Nickel's intentions, Mr. Gauthier invites the members to voice their own expectations regarding the committee.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 5	A member comments that provincial ministry representatives could be key partners on the committee as they are experts in various topics.	<p>Ms. Armstrong answers that Canada Nickel's team has regular, ongoing discussions with provincial ministries. The caveat would be to ensure that the presence of government representatives does not impede the Committee's primary goal, which is to foster open discussion with local representatives about regional specifics.</p> <p>Mr. Dupont adds that the initial focus of the discussions for the environmental committee relates to the federal Impact Assessment process, as it takes a broader approach than the provincial process. He mentions that the committee could ask Canada Nickel to include provincial representatives as observers in certain meetings, so they could answer specific regulatory questions or share</p>

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
		<p>information on the project’s regulatory framework, as appropriate.</p> <p>Mr. Gauthier adds that regulatory representatives often do not want to be appointed as members in a committee as they would then be too closely involved in a project they will eventually make decisions on. He adds that the committee’s charter provides the option of having experts made available, which can include regulatory representatives, at the committee’s request.</p>
Q & I 6	<p>A member mentions their interest in including social determinants in the committee’s discussions and mentions that it would be interesting to have experts assist the committee in understanding key concepts.</p>	<p>Mr. Dupont thanks the member for their interest and adds that Canada Nickel’s consultants will be made available for the committee, if there is interest. He adds that the committee’s members were selected, among others, because they can discuss the links between social and environmental issues, such as social determinants of health, so they can be integrated into the Impact Assessment.</p> <p>He further notes that experts could also help explain the different methods and models that are used to assess, for example, water or air quality. In another project, he mentions that consultants can also assist in providing tangible examples of potential project impacts, such as samples of potential noise levels.</p>
Q & I 7	<p>A member mentions that they expect the committee to be a place of learning and education, where information is communicated clearly to members, so they are prepared when asking questions, discussing with experts, sharing information with the community, etc.</p>	<p>Mr. Gauthier comments that members shouldn’t hesitate to suggest ideas for how they want information to be shared with them and what information they would like to receive or discuss.</p> <p>He further adds that Canada Nickel will prepare information per what they think will be important for the committee, but members should feel comfortable to mention</p>

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
		what type of information they would like as well as the way it should be shared.
Q & I 8	A member asks if Canada Nickel expects to do underground mining.	Ms. Armstrong answers that the team is presently focussing on open pit mining.
Q & I 9	A member asks about the expected arsenic and cobalt levels in the project.	<p>Mr. Dupont answers that the topic of geochemistry will likely be one of the topics covered in an upcoming committee meeting, as it relates to many larger topics, including water. As a preliminary answer, however, he explains that Canada Nickel’s initial studies are showing no acid mine drainage and minimal metal leaching from the project. Further studies are meant to validate those assumptions.</p> <p>Mr. Dupont further adds that arsenic does not show up as a potential contaminant of concern as per the preliminary geochemical results performed on mine waste and tailings. Water management will likely focus on suspended solids and contaminants from blasting products.</p>
Q & I 10	A member asks about the total overburden for the project.	<p>Since the topic of overburden requires further context, Mr. Dupont explains to all members that it relates to the material (earth) that needs to be removed to reach the deposit. He mentions that the overburden at Crawford is a mix of clay, sand, and gravel, and is an average of 40 to 50 meters deep.</p> <p>Mr. Gauthier suggest that a more personalized meeting be set with the member to address specific questions that are currently outside of the meeting’s scope.</p>

7. PRESENTATION – COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Mr. Gauthier mentions that the proposed Charter was shared with the members as a draft for discussion, and not as a final document. He explains it was built upon TES’s experience of helping establish and facilitate dozens of similar committees in the last 30 years. The Charter is a document that establishes the baseline for a good working committee and can be revisited at a later date, if required and if there is a consensus amongst members.

5.1 Mandate, Objectives & Scope

Mr. Gauthier reads out the Committee’s mandate, objectives, and scope. Mr. Gauthier adds that the Committee would meet three (3) to four (4) times per year, depending on the topics to be discussed and the project’s requirements. He mentions that Canada Nickel’s previous engagement activities have also highlighted a suggestion to hold a yearly meeting with one representative of each committee initiated by Canada Nickel, to ensure information is shared among members. Mr. Gauthier explains that the mandate, objectives, and scope can be modified, by consensus.

5.2 Roles & Responsibilities

Mr. Gauthier shares the members’ roles and responsibilities throughout the committee’s activities. He adds that there will be a meeting report after each meeting.

5.3 Committee Meeting Terms & Rules

Mr. Gauthier presents the committee’s terms and rules, adding a few details:

- Rule number 2: Mr. Gauthier mentions that although summarized documents will be used, members can voice a broader interest towards a topic and ask for more in-depth information
- Rule number 4: Mr. Gauthier details the meaning of “consensus”, which does not refer to unanimity, but finding a common acceptable solution.
- Rule number 5: Mr. Gauthier mentions that usually the next meeting’s date is discussed at the end of each meeting.
- Rule number 7 and Rule number 10: The objective here is to maintain the committee’s pace and make sure that it works for all representatives. Therefore, if a member plans to be absent, a colleague or someone from their organization can attend in their place. It is the member’s responsibility to do so.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 11	A member mentions that, in addition to everyone’s expertise, it will be important to listen to elders.	Mr. Gauthier underlines the fact that the committee relies on each member’s good will and discussions made in good faith. The objective is to allow all members to have time to share their thoughts.

8. PRELIMINARY GROUP DISCUSSION – TOPICS OF INTEREST & RECURRENCE

Mr. Gauthier proposes to start building a list of topics to be discussed by the committee, per each member’s concerns and interests, combined with Canada Nickel’s list of issues and topics to discuss.

Mr. Dupont adds that the committee most likely will touch upon most if not all of the identified topics but adds that by identifying priorities, it provides the committee guidelines for the next meetings. He explains that Canada Nickel may not have sufficient information to immediately discuss certain topics. For example, for topics like air quality, Canada Nickel is still collecting data that will help model the impacts. He mentions that water management could be one of the first topics to be discussed because of the amount of available information.

Mr. Gauthier invites members to share their topics of interest, beyond the ones already identified: tailings management, water discharge, closure plan, air, and water quality.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 12	A member mentions that everything regarding climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is of interest.	Mr. Gauthier mentions that the topic of climate change is indeed key to the federal IA process and should likely include the subtopics of GHG emissions and carbon sequestration. Mr. Dupont mentions that Canada Nickel has a lot of information already to share on those topics which makes it a good one for an early meeting.
Q & I 13	A member comments that the provided list of topics is already detailed and will likely evolve over time as more information is shared with the committee.	Ms. Armstrong acknowledges the member's comment.
Q & I 14	A member further agrees that it is an evolutionary conversation that necessitates a learning phase at the start, adding that having comparisons with best practices, other projects and other countries will be important. They add that there is a lot of research on the topic of climate change, which will allow comparisons.	Ms. Armstrong acknowledges the member's comment.

QUESTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		ANSWERS
Q & I 15	Mr. Gauthier asks members if they want the next meeting to discuss the topics of climate change, GHG emissions and carbon sequestration.	<p>Mr. Dupont mentions that the topic of water should also be a priority as it is an important topic with a lot of information to share. Canada Nickel wishes the committee's feedback on this topic.</p> <p>Regarding the topic of climate change, he suggests that a short presentation be made for informational purposes in the early meetings as well.</p> <p>Mr. Boucher confirms that water management should be talked about sooner rather than later.</p>
Q & I 16	Mr. Gauthier comments that water management sounds like a topic that would take at least a whole meeting and it may be too heavy to add the topic of climate change to the meeting. He suggests that the next meeting be about water management and the following one on climate change, GHG emissions and carbon sequestration.	<p>Mr. Dupont answers that the two topics might fit in the same meeting, but whether or not this makes sense will be made clear as the material for the next meeting is prepared. Confirmation will be made when the proposed meeting agenda is sent to the members.</p> <p>He then invites the committee's members to not hesitate to share any requests for information or discussion topics they may have.</p>
Q & I 17	A member asks if the water management plan includes a treatment facility that will make the water discharge cleaner than what it was when it was initially withdrawn.	<p>Mr. Dupont answers that this question is an example of one that would be answered in the water management meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Armstrong provides a summary explanation saying that there are no plans for water withdrawals, as the project plans to only use water from the onsite dewatering process. There will be discharge of water, but no withdrawal.</p>
Q & I 18	The member asks if there will be an artesian well.	Ms. Armstrong answers that it is not in the plans and that it can be further explained in the water management meeting.

9. NEXT STEPS / NEXT MEETING

Ms. Armstrong presents the next steps for Canada Nickel which includes working on the DPD for the federal Impact Assessment process, finalizing the Feasibility study and starting the provincial assessment process. She mentions that members can reach out to her for questions, comments, or feedback.

Mr. Gauthier asks Canada Nickel's team when it would be foreseeable to hold the next meeting. Mr. Dupont mentions that January would fit well with data collection and the permitting schedule. Ms. Armstrong asks the member if afternoon meetings suit everyone which is confirmed.

Mr. Dupont reiterates the committee's importance for such a large mining project. He explains that the committee has the opportunity to participate in the planning phase of the project and to raise any concerns or provide suggestions at an early stage in project development.

Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Armstrong, and Mr. Dupont thank the members for their participation. The meeting ends at 3:25 PM.

APPENDIX I PRESENTATION