

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Brenda Torresan – Board Director  
Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed.  
P.O. Box 5111,  
South Porcupine, On.  
P0N 1H0

**RE: Permit to Take Water (PTTW) for Pamour Open Pit Mine**

Dear Mrs. Brenda Torresan,  
Thank you for reaching out to Newmont Porcupine for more information regarding our Permit to Take Water application for the Pamour Open Pit mine. This communication is being provided to address the questions we received on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

**Question 1:**

FPRW understands that there is a new proposal for a PTTW for water taking from 4 sources. The site location details indicate the Pamour Open Pit Mine but the link showing locations brings us to Simpson Lake/Buffalo Ankrte.

- *Response: The water takings are at the Pamour Site. The enclosed documents show in detail where the takings are proposed.*

**Question 2:**

Where and what are the water taking sources? What is the purpose of the water taking?

- *Response: The water taking is limited to surface run-off water on the Pamour Mine Site. The 'takings' are best described as collection and diversion of precipitation that collects on surface. The site has proposed in this application to collect this precipitation that comes into contact with the waste rock onsite and divert it to the Pamour pit.*
- *Response: The purpose is to divert impacted water away from the natural environment and store it in the Pamour Open Pit until it can be treated prior to discharge.*

**Question 3:**

On the Environmental Registry page, this PTTW is classified as a Category 3 (High risk; which requires a detailed ecological/hydrological/hydrogeological study)

- a) Were there any studies conducted to support this water taking? If so, what were their findings on the environmental impact of large volume withdrawal on the area's aquatic ecosystems?
- *Response: Calder Engineering and EcoMetrix were commissioned to conduct the study for this Permit Application. Given the nature of the proposed water taking, the study focused on the potential effects on the environment of 1 – diverting the precipitation from*

*its current paths and receivers, and 2 – on the improvements to the surrounding environment by removing the impacted water from the natural environment.*

b) Would you be willing to share the study documents?

- *Response: See attached Permit to Take Water Application #3130-BN7TAN*

c) Were these studies compared to a reference (non-impacted) area?

- *Response: Due to the nature of the water taking is limited to collection and diversion of surface run off (precipitation), and the water will ultimately be treated and discharged to the Porcupine River, the study focused on the net improvements to the natural environment from having taken the impacted water out of the surrounding ecosystem.*

**Question 4:**

What will happen to this water after use? Are there any treatments, testing and remediation of water prior to being discharged back into the system?

- *Response: The water is not being taken to serve and industrial purpose, but to divert impacted surface run off from entering the natural environment.*
- *Response: The water will be treated in accordance with MECP's requirements prior to discharge to the Porcupine River. The treatment and discharge will be subject to MECP's processes, regulation and oversight within the next 1-2 years. This Environmental Compliance Approval will also likely be posted to the ER for comment when it is submitted. Newmont Porcupine is concurrently performing the required studies and treatment design to meet the requirements of discharging to the Porcupine River, a Policy 2 Receiver.*

We do appreciate the Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed (FPRW) position and would like to highlight that we share a mutual interest in the health of the watershed. It is always our intent to be open and transparent and engage meaningfully with all our stakeholders, including the FPRW.

As mentioned in a previous communication, unfortunately, our team is currently booked on other meetings and will not be in a position to participate in the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting however we look forward to ongoing open correspondence with your group.

Yours truly,



Bryan Neeley  
Manager – Sustainability & External Relations