

Information Sheet

Marathon Palladium Project

Dear Participants,

This document has been prepared to provide information in support of public participation in the joint review panel process for the Marathon Palladium Project.

After reviewing the document, participants are encouraged to contact the Panel Secretariat with their outstanding questions about the environmental assessment process by e-mailing question to:

iaac.marathonminereview-examenminemarathon.aeic@canada.ca

Participants can also contact the Panel Secretariat by phone at: (343) 549-6246

The Panel regrets to inform participants that, given the current situation due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel Secretariat is unable to travel at this time to local communities close to the proposed project to hold in-person information sessions on the joint review panel process. The Panel will evaluate the possibility of holding in-person information sessions at a later date. Until such time, the Panel will provide opportunities for meaningful participation through other platforms, such as written comments and submissions, access to a telephone number and virtual teleconferencing.

The Project

- Generation PGM Inc. (the Proponent) proposes to develop the Marathon Palladium Project (the Project), which is a platinum and copper open-pit mine and milling operation.
- The mine would be located approximately 10 km from the town of Marathon, Ontario.
- The project would include three open pits, an ore processing plant, tailings and mine rock storage facilities, site access roads, a transmission line, explosives factory and magazines, water management facilities, ancillary mine infrastructure and associated activities.
- During operations, the mine would process an average of 22,000 tonnes of ore per day for 14 years.

- The Project will be decommissioned at the end of mine life.



The Joint Review Panel

What is a Joint Review Panel?

A Joint Review Panel is a group of experts appointed by the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Ontario Minister of the Environment based on their knowledge, experience and expertise related to the environmental assessment of a proposed project.

The role of a Joint Review Panel is to review and assess, in an impartial and objective manner, a proposed project that may cause significant adverse environmental effects. A joint review means there will be one environmental assessment for the project.

The Joint Review Panel (the Panel) for the Project will review the public record of the Project, including the environmental impact statement ([EIS 2012](#)), amendments to the EIS ([EIS Addendum](#)) and any supporting documents, such as the updated baseline studies ([Baseline Studies 2020](#)) submitted by the Proponent. The Panel will provide opportunities for the public to express their views throughout the environmental assessment. At the end of the environmental assessment, the Panel will submit a final report to the federal and provincial Ministers that includes its conclusions, rationale and recommendations on the potential significant adverse environmental effects of the Project.



The [Joint Review Panel member's Biographies](#)

It is important that the public raise all questions and concerns about the Project with the Panel. The Panel will consider all comments received to determine if additional information or studies are needed from the Proponent, to make conclusions on the significance of potential adverse environmental effects and to make recommendations in its report.



What are the Joint Review Panel's Terms of Reference?

The Terms of Reference established by the federal and provincial Ministers set out the roles and responsibilities of the Panel, as well as the scope of Project and the scope of the assessment. The Terms of Reference also outline the steps and the timelines for conducting the environmental assessment. The Panel's Terms of Reference were updated in January 2021 to reflect the changes to the Project and the environmental assessment process, including timelines.



For additional details regarding the joint review process or the mandate of the Panel, please consult the [Agreement to Establish a Joint Review Panel for the Marathon Palladium Project](#)

The Joint Review Panel Process

Why is the Marathon Palladium Project a joint review panel?

The Project is subject to the requirements of both the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* and the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*.

In October 2010, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change decided that a review panel would conduct the environmental assessment for the Project due to the potential for the Project to cause significant adverse environmental effects. The Ontario Minister of the Environment determined that the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* could be met by incorporating the legislative requirements into Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines and the Panel's Terms of Reference.

A joint review panel process helps avoid unnecessary duplication, delays and confusion that could arise from individual reviews by each government.



How do time limits work under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*?

When a Project is referred to an environmental assessment by a review panel, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change must establish the time limit for the Panel to conduct its review.

During the review, if the Panel is of the view that it does not have sufficient information to conduct the environmental assessment, including holding a public hearing or to write its report, it can require the Proponent to provide additional information or studies. The request for more information is typically done through an information request from the Panel to the Proponent. When that happens, the time limit or "clock" is paused. The clock stays paused until the Proponent responds to the information request. The Minister also has the authority to extend the time limit.



The timeline for the review **does not** include the time it takes for the Proponent to gather and provide the information requested by the Panel.

How much time does the Joint Review Panel have to complete the environmental assessment?

In 2012, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change provided the Panel 390 days to conduct the environmental assessment of the Project, including holding a public hearing and submitting its report.

In January 2014, the Proponent informed the Panel that it wanted to suspend the environmental assessment in order to update its feasibility study for the Project. The Panel requested that the Proponent provide additional information on how the Proponents updated feasibility study would affect the predicted environmental effects of the Project. The information request paused the “clock”. At that time, the Panel had used 209 out of 390 days available for its review.

Given the environmental assessment has been paused for 6 years many of the activities required to conduct the environmental assessment must be repeated. Therefore, in October 2020, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change extended the Panel’s time limit by 90 days. This leaves the current Panel with 271 days to complete the environmental assessment. The “clock” will begin to count down once the Proponent has submitted the full EIS Addendum.



The clock is paused until the Proponent Submits the full EIS Addendum.

Is the environmental assessment of the Project starting over?

No, the environmental assessment of the Project is not starting over. In January 2014, the environmental assessment of the Project was paused at the request of the Proponent. In September 2014, the Proponent informed the Panel that it would not be proceeding with the Project at that time and the Panel was subsequently disbanded. The environmental assessment was paused but it was never terminated.

The newly appointed Panel is responsible for everything on the record of the Project. Given the environmental assessment has been paused for 6 years many of the activities required to conduct the environmental assessment must be repeated. For example, the Panel will review the EIS 2012, the Baseline Studies 2020, and the EIS Addendum to determine if it has sufficient information to proceed to a public hearing. The former panel based its determination on the information available to it at that time.

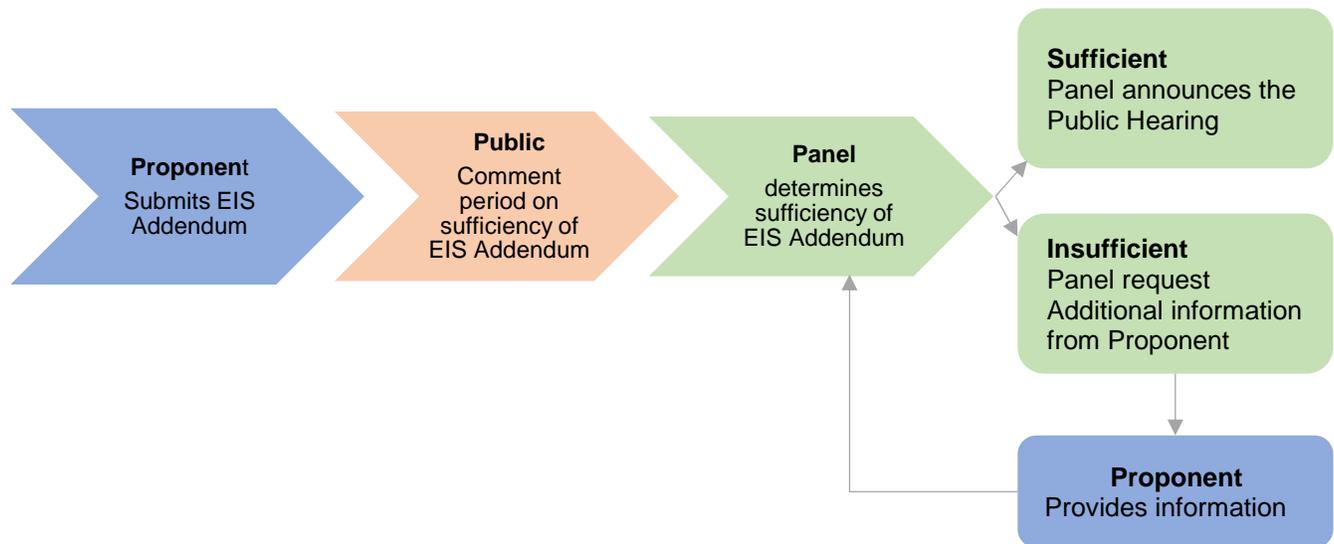


All of the information that the Panel uses to conduct its review is publicly available on the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada’s Registry: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/54755>.

How will the Joint Review Panel complete its mandate?

The Joint Review Panel will complete its role and responsibilities in three stages:

- Stage 1: Determine sufficiency of the environmental impact statement
- Stage 2: Conduct a public hearing
- Stage 3: Submit a report to the federal and provincial Ministers



Stage 1: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Sufficiency

The EIS is prepared by the Proponent to describe and assess the potential for the Project to cause adverse environmental effects and propose measures that would avoid, reduce, or eliminate those effects.

The Panel will review the technical merits of the EIS 2012 and the EIS Addendum to determine if the Panel has the necessary information required on the potential environmental effects of the Project and to hold a meaningfully public hearing. If the Panel determines that more information is required, the Panel may choose to will issue one or more information requests to the Proponent.

Stage 2. Public Hearing

A public hearing is an opportunity for the Panel, the Proponent and participants to openly ask questions to clarify issues identified during the review in a public forum.

The primary objective of a public hearing is for the Panel to gather the information it requires to complete its review of the Project. The public hearing also provides an opportunity for the Proponent to present information about the Project, including the potential for adverse environmental effects and ways to mitigate those effects. Indigenous groups, members of the public and Government experts can present their views about the Project to the Panel, including the significance of the environmental effects and the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures.

The public hearing will be announced once the Panel is satisfied that it has sufficient information to conduct a meaningful public hearing. The Panel will provide sufficient time in advance of the public hearing to allow participants time to prepare, including preparing written submissions, presentations and making travel arrangements, if required.

Public hearings are generally held in the communities closest to the proposed Project. In the event a public hearing cannot be held in a public space (e.g. due to COVID-19 or other public health and safety restrictions) the Panel will hold, in whole or in part, a virtual public hearing using a videoconferencing platform that is accessible over the internet.



The Panel will up-date the [Public Hearing Procedures](#) in advance of the public hearing that will respect both the need for meaningful public participation and the public's health and safety.

Stage 3: Panel Report

Upon completion of the public hearing, the Panel will prepare a report to the federal and provincial Ministers. The Panel must submit its report within the overall time limit for the environmental assessment.

The report will contain:



- Rationale, conclusions and recommendations regarding the Project;
- A summary of the views of participants received during the review;
- Recommended mitigation measures and follow-up programs;
- Information regarding whether any likely significant adverse effects may be justified in the circumstances;
- All of the commitments identified by the Proponent during the review; and

- Recommendations to the Ontario Minister of the Environment as to whether the Project should be given approval to proceed or be refused.

How can the public and Indigenous groups get involved in the joint review panel process?

Public participation plays a crucial role in a panel review process. Members of the public and Indigenous groups are provided with several opportunities to participate in the process:

- Participate in the public comment period when the EIS Addendum is available;
- Submit written comments or documents to the Panel at any time during the environmental assessment;
- Present information to the Panel during the public hearing;
- Review material on the record for the Project; and
- Ask questions on the joint review process by contacting the Panel Secretariat by email or by phone.



The Panel will review all comments submitted as part of the previous review.

In order for the Panel to understand participant's current views about the Project, it is important that participants submit their comments as part of this review.

How can I access material related to the environmental assessment?

The Panel must conduct its work in a manner that ensures transparency and fairness for all parties involved. As such, the Panel will rely only on information on its official record, which is the public registry. A public registry will be maintained for the duration of the environmental assessment. Documents posted on the public registry must be related to the environmental assessment of the Project.

A public registry is a record of the environmental assessment which:

- Increases the transparency of the joint review panel process;
- Provided convenient public access to all records relating to the review; and
- Allow for effective public participation.

The public registry for the Project can be accessed at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/54755>



[List all records](#)



[Compilation of Key Documents](#)

What happens after the Joint Review Panel issues its report?

The Panel reviewing the Project will submit a report to the federal and provincial Ministers who will then make the report available to the public.

The federal government will issue a Decision Statement once it has made a decision on the Project. The Decision Statement will include any conditions that the Proponent must adhere to, if the Project is allowed to proceed.

The Ontario Minister of the Environment will also review the Panel's report and provide its decision on the Project. If the Panel recommends that the Project be given approval to proceed, the Panel may also recommend any conditions necessary to carry out the Project in a manner that provides for the protection, conservation and wise management of the environment.

How can I Staying Connected

To be stay informed of activities related to the joint review panel process, provide contact information to the Panel Secretariat at:

iaac.marathonminereview-examenminemarathon.aeic@canada.ca.

Background

- October of 2010, the Marathon Project was referred to an independent review panel due to its potential to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
- August 9, 2011, the Joint Review Panel was established with the province of Ontario.
- July 2012, the proponent submitted its environmental impact statement to the Panel.
- December 17, 2013 the public hearing was announced.
- January 30, 2014 the proponent requested the suspension of the environmental assessment.
- January 31, 2014 the Panel requested additional information from the proponent, pausing the time limit or “clock”. The public hearing was cancelled.
- October 31, 2014 the Joint Review Panel was disbanded and the environmental assessment was placed on hold.
- July 13, 2020 the proponent informed the Impact Assessment Agency that it plans to submit updated studies to respond to the former Panel’s information request.
- October 9, 2020 the Minister of Environment and Climate Change extended the time limit for the submission of the Joint Review Panel's report by 90 days.
- October 2020, the proponent submitted updated baselines studies to the Impact Assessment Agency.
- November 16, 2020, the new Joint Review Panel was appointed with Ontario.
- January 7, 2021, the proponent submitted Volume 1 of the EIS Addendum.
- February 2021, the remaining sections of the EIS Addendum is expected.