

2.0 PARTICIPANTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

2.1 Potentially Affected and Interested Stakeholders

Rainy River Resources (RRR) has informed and involved the stakeholders in a variety of ways (Appendix D). The focus of early consultation was to introduce RRR, to inform citizens of the status of the exploration and potential mining-related activities, and to provide information regarding future consultation and engagement opportunities. Consultation activities then focused on gathering input for the Provincial and Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) process, and engaging stakeholders in the environmental baseline data collection as appropriate. Subsequent engagement was conducted to support the EA process and obtain feedback on the Rainy River Project (RRP) design and environmental mitigation strategies.

The main stakeholders involved to date in the RRP include those with a direct interest in the RRP, and those who provided data for baseline environmental reports such as Municipal and Provincial government department representatives, community-based service providers, economic development agencies and other similar groups. The Provincial and Federal government representatives have been actively involved in the EA process to date.

The range of stakeholders is expected to grow and will continue to evolve throughout RRP development to reflect varying levels of interest and opportunities over time. Stakeholders engaged by RRR to date include:

Business, Community Groups and Environmental Organizations

- Ainsworth Lumber;
- Borderland Snowmobile Club;
- Camp Narrows Lodge;
- Clearwater Lodge;
- Confederation College;
- Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce;
- Fort Frances Sportsman's Club;
- Gateway North Outfitters;
- Mining Watch Canada;
- Natural Resources Advisory Committee;
- Northwatch;
- Northwest Catholic District School Board;
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters;
- Rainy Lake Conservancy;
- Rainy River Cattleman's Association;
- Rainy River District School Board;
- Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board;

- Rainy River District Stewardship;
- Rainy River Federation of Agriculture;
- Rainy River Future Development Corporation;
- Rainy River Outfitters;
- Rainy River Soil and Crop Improvement Association;
- Rainy River Trapping Council;
- Rainy River Valley Field Naturalists;
- Resolute Forest Products;
- Riverside Health Care Facilities;
- Known local mineral rights holders; and
- Other local small business owners.

Municipal Government

- Township of Alberton;
- Township of Chapple;
- Township of Dawson;
- Township of La Vallee;
- Township of Morley;
- Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls;
- Town of Emo;
- Town of Fort Frances; and
- Town of Rainy River.

Provincial (Ontario) Government

- Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
- Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment;
- Ministry of Energy;
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care;
- Ministry of Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Labour;
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR);
- Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM);
- Ministry of the Environment (MOE);
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport;
- Ministry of Transportation;
- Hydro One Networks Inc.;

- Ontario Provincial Police; and
- Provincial Parliamentary representatives.

Federal Government

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada;
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency);
- Environment Canada;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- Health Canada;
- International Joint Commission (Canada - United States);
- Major Projects Management Office;
- Natural Resources Canada;
- Transport Canada; and
- Federal Parliamentary representative.

2.2 Other Jurisdictions

There are no other jurisdictions with EA or regulatory requirements with respect to the RRP that were not identified in previous sections.

2.3 Potentially Affected and Interested Aboriginal Groups

The Aboriginal groups initially consulted with and engaged in relation to the RRP were identified using the following criteria:

- Direction from the Provincial Crown (represented by MNDM, MOE, MAA and MNR) and Federal Crown (represented by the CEA Agency);
- Proximity to the RRP; if the stakeholders or Aboriginal groups are resident in and/or have jurisdiction over the area in which the project is proposed or has the potential to affect;
- Past or current interest in similar projects or developments in the region; if the stakeholders or Aboriginal groups have been involved in consultation processes in current or past projects in the region that are anticipated to have a similar interest in the RRP;
- Demonstrated previous interest in potential biophysical and socio-economic environmental effects of the RRP; or

- Aboriginal groups with traditional lands encompassing the RRP site and its related proposed infrastructure.

RRR requested advice from the MNDM in 2010 and again in 2011 as to which Aboriginal groups should be engaged regarding the RRP due to potential impacts of exploration and mine development on Aboriginal or Treaty rights. Following advice provided by MNDM at the time, RRR engaged nine First Nations along with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) that could be affected by RRP (Table 2-1).

In May 2012, the Provincial government (including MNDM, MOE, MAA and the MNR) identified changes and considerably expanded the list of Aboriginal groups RRR is to consult or notify about mine development (Tables 2-2). The majority of these additional groups are located in the Lake of the Woods area. RRR elected to have the Provincial Crown coordinate notification in August of 2012.

RRR received guidance from the CEA Agency in September 2012 with regards to Aboriginal engagement (Table 2-3). The preliminary depth of consultation provided to RRR by the CEA Agency is intended to take into account the strength of the community's claim to Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and the seriousness of potential adverse impacts.

An important part of the mine permitting and planning process is proactive engagement with area Aboriginal communities. For the RRP, this engagement included ensuring potentially affected Aboriginal communities are informed and engaged in the development of the project, responding to their interests and concerns, and continuing to build and maintain positive relationships. This has been and is currently being achieved by creating a forum for dialogue and information exchange (verbal and written) and fostering an ongoing relationship between the potentially affected Aboriginal communities and RRR.

At various community and leadership meetings, RRR was informed that Aboriginal communities did not have the time, financial and human resource capacity to adequately review the RRP EA Report. In response to those concerns, RRR committed financial resources to the Aboriginal groups for an independent technical review of the RRP EA Report. In order to allow adequate time for the Aboriginal technical review, the draft EA Report (Version 1) was released to thirteen Aboriginal groups eight weeks in advance of the general public and government agencies. Comments received as a result of the independent technical review (Appendix D-1e) were considered and incorporated into the RRP final EA Report. RRR will continue to involve communities in the EA through various means including community based open houses and presentations.

Table 2-1: Local Aboriginal Groups Engaged as Instructed by MNDM, December 2011

First Nation or Métis Group	First Nation Number	Reserves Near Project Site	Distance to RRP Pit Centroid (km)
Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing (Big Island) First Nation	125	Big Island Mainland 93	35
		Saug-A-Gaw-Sing 1	39
Couchiching First Nation	126	Agency 1	53
		Couchiching 16A	40
Lac La Croix First Nation	127	Neguaguon Lake 25D	142
Mishkosiminiziibiing (Big Grassy River) First Nation	124	Big Grassy River 35 G	28
Mitaanjigamiing First Nation	133	Agency 1	53
		Rainy Lake 18C	47
Naicatchewenin First Nation	128	Agency 1	53
		Rainy Lake 17A	29
		Rainy Lake 17B	19
Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation	129	Agency 1	53
		Rainy Lake 26A	79
		Rainy Lake 26B	78
		Rainy Lake 26C	91
Rainy River First Nations	130	Manitou Rapids 11	18
		Long Sault 12	21
Seine River First Nation	132	Seine River 23A	113
		Seine River 23B	90
		Sturgeon Falls 23	119
Sunset Country Métis			

Table 2-2: Aboriginal Groups Identified by the Provincial Government to be Consulted or Notified, May 2012

First Nation or Métis Group	First Nation Number (as applicable)	Reserve Locations (as applicable)	Distance to RRP Pit Centroid (km)
Aboriginal Groups to Consult:			
Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing (Big Island) First Nation	125	Agency 30	73
		Big Island 31D	55
		Big Island 31E	54
		Big Island 31F	59
		Big Island Mainland 93	35
		Lake of the Woods 31B	96
		Lake of the Woods 31C	78
		Lake of the Woods 31G	92
		Lake of the Woods 31H	58
		Naongashing 31A	57
		Saug-A-Gaw-Sing 1	39
		Shoal Lake 31J	104
Mishkosiminiziibiing (Big Grassy River) First Nation	124	Agency 30	73
		Assabaska	35
		Big Grassy River 35G	28
		Lake of the Woods 35J	49
		Naongashing 35A	57
		Obabikong 35B	48
Métis – Rainy River Lake of the Woods Regional Consultation Committee Region #1			
Naicatchewenin First Nation	128	Agency 1	53
		Rainy Lake 17A	29
		Rainy Lake 17B	19
Naotkamegwaning (Whitefish Bay) First Nation	158	Agency 30	73
		Sabaskong Bay 32C	41
		Whitefish Bay 32A	64
		Yellow Girl Bay 32B	76
Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation	131	Agency 30	73
		Assabaska	35
		Sabaskong Bay 35C	40
		Sabaskong Bay 35D	39
		Sabaskong Bay 35F	34
		Sabaskong Bay 35H	42
Rainy River First Nations	130	Manitou Rapids 11	18
		Long Sault 12	21
Buffalo Point First Nation	265	Agency 30	73
		Buffalo Point 36	94
		Buffalo Point First Nation 1	103
		Buffalo Point First Nation 2	98
		Buffalo Point First Nation 3	101
		Reed River 36A	100

First Nation or Métis Group	First Nation Number (as applicable)	Reserve Locations (as applicable)	Distance to RRP Pit Centroid (km)
Aboriginal Groups to Notify:			
Anishinabe of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation (Rat Portage)	153	Agency 30	73
		Kenora 38B	101
Couchiching First Nation	126	Agency 1	53
		Couchiching 16A	40
Lac La Croix First Nation	127	Neguaguon Lake 25D	142
Mitaanjigamiing (Stanjikoming) First Nation	133	Agency 1	53
		Rainy Lake 18C	47
Nigigoonsiminikaaning (Niccikousemenecaning) First Nation	129	Agency 1	53
		Rainy Lake 26A	79
		Rainy Lake 26B	78
		Rainy Lake 26C	91
Northwest Angle #33 First Nation	151	Agency 30	73
		Northwest Angle 33B	95
		Whitefish Bay 33A	58
Northwest Angle #37 First Nation	152	Agency 30	73
		Big Island 37	67
		Lake of the Woods 34	69
		Lake of the Woods 37	85
		Lake of the Woods 37B	79
		Northwest Angle 34C	104
		Northwest Angle 34C and 37B	102
		Northwest Angle 37C	102
		Shoal Lake 34B1	104
		Shoal Lake 37A	110
		Whitefish Bay 34A	61
Seine River First Nation	132	Seine River 23A	113
		Seine River 23B	90
		Sturgeon Falls 23	119

Notes: RRR will also continue to consult and involve the Fort Frances Chiefs Secretariat and Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing-Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services Tribal organizations.
RRR elected to have the Provincial Crown coordinate notification in August of 2012.

Table 2-3: Aboriginal Groups Identified by the Federal Government through the Results of Preliminary Depth of Consultation, September 2012

Preliminary Consultation Depth	First Nation or Métis Group
High:	Naicatchewenin First Nation
	Rainy River First Nations
	Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing First Nation (Big Island)
	Mishkosim�iibiing (Big Grassy River) First Nation
	Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation
	Naotkamegwanning (Whitefish Bay) First Nation
Moderate:	Métis - Rainy River Lake of the Wood Regional Consultation Committee Region #1
Low:	Mitaanjigamiing (Stanjikoming) First Nation
	Couchiching First Nation
	Buffalo Point First Nation
	Northwest Angle #33 First Nation
	Northwest Angle #37 First Nation
	Anishinabe of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation (Rat Portage)
	Lac La Croix First Nation
	Seine River First Nation
	Nigigoonsiminikaaning (Nicickousemenecaning) First Nation