



NorthWest Response Ltd.  
P.O. Box 2015  
Smithers, British Columbia  
V0J 2N0 CANADA

---

Date: November 21, 2020

Att: Ms. Shelley Murphy, Executive Project Director  
**BC Environmental Assessment Office**  
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

**Re: Certificate Extension Request for Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell Project**

Dear Ms. Murphy,

Thank you for the opportunity provide public comment regarding the Certificate Extension Request for the KSM Project (Environmental Assessment Certificate #M14-01).

I have been involved in the BC Mining Sector from 1989-1995 when I worked for the Ministry of Environment and from 1995 until present as an Environmental Impact Assessment Consultant through NorthWest Response Ltd.

Over the past 31-years I have personally experienced the transformation of the Mining Sector from a relatively simple Permitting Process to a multi-year complex Permitting Process. The current level of professional accountability and responsibility to our environment, stakeholders including First Nations and the general public is among the most rigorous in the World, an achievement we are all proud of.

The time-frame required to prepare for Certification is intense and not easily obtained without a dedicated team, strong financial support and the reliance on multi-disciplinary, international expertise. Under normal conditions, meeting the conditions outlined in an Environmental Certificate can be challenging, add in a Global Pandemic and the challenges can increase exponentially.

The Canadian economy has been hit very hard with this Global Pandemic. Using the Global Pandemic as a last-ditch effort to shut down a Certification Process is not the correct way to manage the Mining Sector in British Columbia or Canada.

The Environmental Certification Process holds everyone involved accountable to ensure that new mines in BC meet all the current environmental standards and that all public concerns and stakeholder concerns are addressed. We need to trust the process.

Under the current challenging times, this extension request is warranted. Furthermore, by allowing this extension, BC sends a strong international message that the process we currently subscribe to is one we can trust and rely on for long-term stability.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ray Hollenberg".

Ray Hollenberg, B.Sc., R.P. Bio.  
Principal  
Northwest Response Ltd.

# Certificate Extension Request for Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell Project

---

## Invitation to Comment

---

An Environmental Assessment Certificate (Certificate) was issued on July 29, 2014 for the Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell Project (KSM). KSM is located approximately 65 kilometres (km) northwest of Stewart and 35 km northeast of the British Columbia-Alaska border. KSM would extract up to 130,000 tonnes of gold, copper, silver and molybdenum ore per day over a mine life of up to 52 years.

A five-year extension of the Certificate was granted on March 21, 2019. British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act* (Act) allows one certificate extension for up to five years. The Certificate will now expire on July 29, 2024, if the project is not substantially started by then.

KSM Mining ULC (the Certificate Holder, or Holder) has submitted a request for an emergency variance of the Certificate deadline to extend it by at least two years, on the basis that the global COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting provincial and national state of emergency, and the associated health orders issued by the Province of British Columbia will make it difficult to meet the existing deadline in the Certificate. The Holder asks that the Minister use Section 46 of the Act to vary the Act to allow for the EAO to consider whether to grant a further extension. Section 46 allows the Minister to vary the requirements of the Act in response to an emergency and where the variance is in the public interest.

The Holder's request for a variance under Section 46 and its application for an extension (collectively, the Second Extension Request) are undergoing review by the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The EAO is inviting the public and Indigenous nations to review the Second Extension Request and provide feedback to inform the EAO's review.

A 14-day comment period in relation to the Second Extension Request will begin on **November 19 and end on December 3, 2020 at midnight, PST.**

All comments received during this comment period in relation to the Second Extension Request will be considered.

The intention of inviting public comments is to seek feedback on the information presented by the Holder in its Second Extension Request including how the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic have affected its ability to meet the deadline in the Certificate. The EAO also seeks comments to understand whether a variance under Section 46 of the Act may be in the public interest. Comments received will support the EAO in the preparation of a report on the Second Extension Request for the decision maker.

The EAO accepts comments:

- **By Online Form:**  
[www.gov.bc.ca/eao](http://www.gov.bc.ca/eao) – click on 'Commenting on Projects'
- **By Mail:**  
Shelley Murphy  
Executive Project Director  
Environmental Assessment Office  
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9V1
- **By Fax:** 250-356-7477

The documents related to the Second Extension Request and other public engagement materials are available on the EAO's website at: <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/>. Click on 'List of Projects', then search 'KSM'.

For more information on the environmental assessment process, visit: [gov.bc.ca/eao](http://gov.bc.ca/eao).

---

**NOTE:** All submissions received by EAO during the public comment period in relation to the KSM Project are considered public and will be posted to the EAO's website. All comments must adhere to the public comment policy to be considered.

---



Environmental  
Assessment Office