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May 23, 2019

Sharifa Wyndham-Nguyen  
Client Services and Permissions Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Dear Sharifa Wyndham-Nguyen,

**RE: Comments on the Modernizing Ontario's Environmental Assessment Program  
Discussion Paper (ERO 013-5101)**

Please accept the following submission as Newmont Goldcorp's perspective on the discussion paper outlining the Government of Ontario's vision to bring the environmental assessment program into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In general, we agree with the proposed concepts of eliminating duplication, streamlining processes, providing clarity to applicants, improving service standards to reduce delays and better recognizing other planning processes. Newmont Goldcorp is keen to reduce the regulatory administrative burden but stresses the importance of upholding the highest standards as it relates to environmental protection and stakeholder consultation. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide comments through this consultation process.

Newmont Goldcorp is the world's leading gold company as measured by assets, prospects and people. Newmont Goldcorp was formed through the recent merger of Denver-based Newmont and what was formerly Goldcorp in Canada. The transaction to bring these two businesses together was completed on April 18, 2019.

Newmont Goldcorp has approximately 19,000 employees and 18,000 contractors, with the majority working at operations in Australia, Canada, Ghana, Peru, Suriname, Mexico, Argentina, Dominican Republic and the United States. We are an industry leader in value creation and the only gold producer listed in the S&P 500 index. Our overarching objective to create value and improve lives through sustainable and responsible mining is guided by five core values: safety, integrity, sustainability, inclusion and responsibility.

Our domestic and international operations have been recognized for sustainable mining practices, collaborative approaches with local Indigenous communities and a commitment to strong corporate citizenship in small, usually remote, communities in which we are located. In Ontario, Newmont Goldcorp has three operating mines: Musselwhite Mine, Red Lake Mine and Porcupine in Timmins, which also includes our new, all-electric Borden Gold Mine located in Chapleau. These operations represent approximately one-third of the province's gold production and directly employs approximately 3,000 workers in high quality and high-income positions in Ontario.

Based on recent experience, mining projects in Ontario are generally not subject to the Provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) Act and its associated processes but do have the opportunity to volunteer for an Individual EA or a Streamlined EA. This determination is often commensurate with the level of risk associated with the proposed project, which we believe is an appropriate approach. However, many projects, both the expansion of existing mines and the development of a new mine in Ontario, can be subject Federal EA requirements under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. This is combined with the requirement to conduct additional studies and programs to seek permits at both the Provincial and Federal level. The authorizations needed vary depending on the scope and nature of the mining project proposed. As noted in the discussion paper, finding efficiencies across these various processes would be welcome.

Newmont Goldcorp is therefore supportive of a one project / one review approach for Environmental Assessments in Ontario to meet both Federal and Provincial requirements. We are supportive that a Class Environmental Assessment for mining projects. Given Provincial jurisdiction over mining we would like to see the Province be the lead for this process and feel that the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines would be a natural fit for leading and coordinating mining-related environmental assessments.

We recognize that the decision-making authority for EAs and permitting will continue to rest with the respective Provincial Ministries or Federal Departments but encourage a functional one-window coordinated approach for mining projects that is defined through guidance documents, adequately resourced, with appropriate training along with suitable governance in place to keep reviewers accountable and the process within the prescribed timelines. Service standards, as proposed in the discussion paper, are one way to improve in this area, as long as they do not preclude appropriate engagement and thorough review.

Ontario environmental regulations are already very stringent. Air, noise and water regulations are often based on the attainment of ambient quality objectives or existing baseline conditions. Leveraging these provincial regulatory requirements should facilitate the simplification of the Environmental Assessment process by focussing studies on characterizing the socio economic and biophysical environment and by allowing the integration of permitting processes. We recommend that the EA process be streamlined to act as an integrated process that allows for the completion of one assessment for both Provincial and Federal requirements concurrent with the completion of Provincial permitting and Federal authorization processes.

Finally, consultation and engagement are key areas where Newmont Goldcorp believes there could be improvement in coordination across Ministries and between various levels of government. Early planning as it relates to coordinated Indigenous consultations and consistent documented best practices approach would be helpful to define the Indigenous communities potentially affected, structure the requirements, minimize effort at the latter stages of projects and possibly expedite the EA and permitting process. We recognize the challenges associated with documenting best practices for Crown consultations and suggest that a shared documented approach developed by the Government would provide an opportunity to discuss and adjust consultation plans while respecting the preferences of Indigenous peoples. The



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guidance document should include engagement activities, opportunities and requirements for local communities, the proponent and the regulatory authorities. Where Federal and Provincial consultations are required, we propose to coordinate consultation meetings from an efficiency perspective and to be able to maintain consistent dialogue regarding a project. In this vein, we are also supportive of online submissions provided that it does not replace the need to engage directly with Indigenous peoples and local communities regarding aspects of a project or the potential impacts that are important to it.

At Newmont Goldcorp we believe the protection of the health and wellbeing of our people, environmental stewardship and being a catalyst for sustainable economic empowerment where we operate is not just the right things to do, they're good for our business. As such, we appreciate the Government of Ontario's commitment to modernize the *Environmental Assessment Act* and program while upholding Ontario's environmental protection objectives. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact John Mullally by telephone at (416)-770-3147 or by email at [john.mullally@newmont.com](mailto:john.mullally@newmont.com). We look forward to further engagement with you on this matter going forward.

Sincerely,



Todd White  
Regional Senior Vice President  
North American Operations

