



November 28, 2008

Nova Scotia Environment
Environmental Assessment Branch
5151 Terminal Road
PO Box 442
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2P8

I am writing today on behalf of the membership of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS) in support of the Donkin Underground Exploration Project (Project No.: 081235.01).

At the outset, we would draw your attention to the fact that Xstrata Plc is considered a world leader in the mining industry when it comes to sustainable development. As you know, the Donkin Joint Venture is comprised of two companies, Xstrata Coal Donkin Limited (75%) and Erdene Gold Inc. (25%), and MANS is confident that that this particular project will be held to the same standard of business principles and policies as other Xstrata projects around the world – principles and policies that ensure the highest standards of health and safety, environment, sustainable communities and employee relations. What a coup for the provincial government to have attracted interest from such an organization. This is a true testament of your commitment to ensure that our natural resources are properly developed for the benefit of all Nova Scotians.

MANS also would like to highlight the economic benefits of this project. In the developmental stages which include the preparatory work on surface and subsea and the use of the continuous miner, the project will provide approximately 45 full time equivalent positions. The anticipated capital investment would be in the vicinity of \$100 US million. This investment would be a significant boost to the economy of the region and indeed the province.

Finally, it should be noted that the Proponent has consulted with the local community on a number of occasions including a session that was held November 27th. The issues raised at these meetings have been addressed in the environmental assessment document. MANS is confident that the Proponent has listened to these concerns and addressed them to the best of their abilities.

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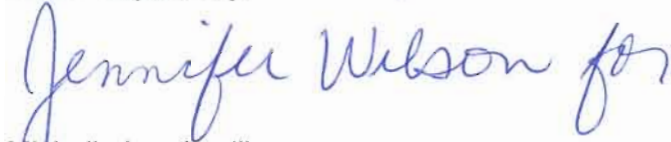
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MANS supports any mining project that is properly designed, executed and monitored and that provides economic benefits to the community and province. We know that this project has been undertaken by experienced professionals and that the environmental processes outlined in the environmental assessment report have been development by skilled members of that community.

We believe that this project should be approved and encourage the government of Nova Scotia to send a message to all Nova Scotians that we can indeed develop and benefit from our natural resources which protecting the environment.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Wilson for". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Michelle Landreville
Executive Director