

December 20, 2007

Environmental Assessment Branch
Nova Scotia Environment and Labour
PO Box 697, Halifax, NS, B3J 2T8
By email: EA@gov.ns.ca

I am writing today on behalf of the membership of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS) in support of the Touquoy Gold Project.

Let me begin by quoting from the Association's environmental policy, which states:

Member companies of the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia (now MANS) are committed to the concept of sustainable development which requires balancing good stewardship in the protection of human health and the natural environment with the need for economic growth. Diligent application of technically proven and economically feasible environmental protection measures will be exercised throughout exploration, mining, processing and decommissioning activities to meet the requirements of legislation and to ensure the adoption of best management practices."

We believe that the Touquoy Gold Project fully meets these requirements and in fact, goes well beyond the intended scope our policy.

From an environmental point of view, the proposed mine is designed to co-exist with the Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area which has recently been declared a candidate for protection by the provincial government. In fact, as a result of extensive public consultation, the project design has seen some 25 enhancements which allow for a better fit with the surrounding community. It is interesting to note, also from an environmental point of view, that the development will result in cleaning up historical mining activity, something that speaks directly to the commitment of the proponent.

The economics of the project must also be highlighted. 90% of the employees are expected to be drawn from the Musquodoboit Valley and Eastern Shore region of our province, an area that will no doubt benefit from this economic activity. It is also hoped that the employment opportunities with the project would draw expatriate Nova Scotians back to our province. From a provincial government point of view, it is anticipated that the development of this gold field will result in over \$1M in taxes, royalties and infrastructure improvements in the area.

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 for close to four years 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.

Thank you.

Gordon Dickie
President

Street address: 9105 Hwy 14 Hardwoodlands, Nova Scotia B0N 1Y0
Mailing address: PO Box 60 Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia B0N 2H0
Phone: (902) 219-2111 Web site: www.tmans.ca