

12. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Terms of Reference pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act for the proposed construction and operation of Bennett Environmental Inc.'s (Bennett) Thermal Oxidizer Facility for the town of Kirkland Lake summarized a comprehensive consultation process, which was embarked on prior to submission of the Environmental Assessment to the Ministry of the Environment for approval. The Terms of Reference outlined a plan based on a set of consultation principles, which Bennett adopted and diligently followed using methods and communication tools employed throughout the process. In many respects Bennett has gone beyond what was required.

The Terms of Reference required that Bennett use general (media) as well as specific approaches (direct consultation) with certain groups. Discussion follows, on the consultation that was involved with each group, as well as the general and specific approaches that Bennett used to consult with the public on an ongoing basis throughout the development of the EA.

The principles of consultation that Bennett put into practice to guide its consultation efforts included:

- **An open consultation process.** Bennett made every effort to ensure the consultation process was open to all potentially affected government agencies and organizations, groups, or individuals that may be affected or interested in the process. Bennett made every effort at the outset of the EA planning process to inform potential parties of the nature of the EA process and the undertaking, and how they may participate in the process. Bennett took steps to ensure that new stakeholders were able to get involved at later stages in the development of the EA when additional matters or more detailed sources of information were being considered.
- **A transparent consultation process.** Leading up to the final EA, Bennett documented the consultation process, which was carried out so that the process could be understood and traced.
- **A responsive consultation process.** Bennett provided opportunities for the stakeholders to comment during the development of the final EA and provided responses to each concern individually.
- **A meaningful consultation process.** Included within the EA are the comments Bennett received along with the responses Bennett provided. The responses indicate how Bennett incorporated the comments into the EA planning process. Where Bennett concurred with any suggested changes, Bennett indicated how the change was implemented. Where Bennett disagreed with a suggested change, Bennett provided an explanation for its position. Bennett sought comment at key milestones (ie. Open House events, meeting with stakeholders and presenting three modules of consultant reports) before irreversible decisions were made in EA planning process.

During the EA consultation process Bennett allowed responses to new issues that emerge as EA planning proceeds was on going.

12.1. CONSULTATION METHODS AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS

As in the Terms of Reference, Bennett employed a variety of consultation methods and communication tools appropriate to the audience and type of input being sought. Public input was encouraged using various consultation methods such as open houses, questionnaires, face-to-face meetings with groups and individuals and telephone conferences.

A variety of communication tools were used to identify and respond to comments, these included:

- Providing copies of the EA documentation for public viewing at a wide variety of location;
- Making presentations and hosting question and answer sessions during open house meetings with the public and focused meetings with various stakeholder groups;
- Issuing media advertisements of upcoming consultation events, opportunities for comment, and general responses to comments received;
- Maintaining a Kirkland Lake office with staff available to take comments and provide responses and;
- Maintaining an Internet site for online information dissemination and opportunities for direct communication and comment with Bennett on EA planning and documentation.

Pursuant to the Terms of Reference, the following activities have been conducted as part of the consultation process for the Bennett Environmental Inc. Environmental Assessment:

Key Milestones - Open House Sessions and Meetings with Stakeholders on three Information Exchange Modules Leading to the Draft EA, in addition to an Open House session and meetings with various stakeholders post Draft EA release.

12.1.1. Public Open Houses

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, Bennett used Open Houses as a means of communicating with the general public. These meetings were felt to be a beneficial part of the consultation process. The public were provided with an opportunity to meet with members of the project team, learn more about the proposed project and the EA process, ask questions, raise issues and have concerns addressed.

Bennett hosted several Open House and Information Exchange Sessions in Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard, and Englehart. Each event was advertised separately in the local Newspapers and broadcasted on local radio stations. A sample of the advertisements is attached in Appendix 2-1.

The advertisements for each individual open house were placed in the local newspapers at least one week prior to the event and a series of 10 radio advertisements were aired throughout the week leading up to the open house and including the day of the event. In addition invitation letters were sent specifically to those members of the community and surrounding area who had expressed an interest in a particular area i.e. Human Health, Air Quality. Appendix 2-2 contains a sample of those letters along with a distribution list of all who received them.

12.1.1.1. Kirkland Lake Open House and Information Exchange Sessions

May 31, 2001

On May 31, 2001 Bennett held the first of three informal Open House and Information Exchange Modules at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Kirkland Lake. These modules were designed to provide the community with an opportunity to visit Bennett staff, learn about recent developments, and familiarize themselves with the recent findings of studies that were carried out by consultants.

Module I focused on the results of the Traffic Impact Assessment, the Economic Impact Assessment and the Acoustic Impact Assessment. Approximately 40 interested parties participated in the event including media representatives.

During the event Bennett staff was on hand to greet visitors, address concerns and answer questions. Stations were set up to introduce the results of the three studies and information summaries were available for any interested parties who attended. These summaries can be found in Appendix 2-3. Attendees were encouraged to fill out an Information Request and Feedback Form and return the form before leaving so as to provide any feedback, pose any questions or offer any additional comments. Ten forms were returned to Bennett. Copies of the blank form as well as the completed information request forms along with Bennett's responses are attached in Appendix 2-4.

August 28, 2001

On August 28, 2001 Bennett held Module II; an informal Open House and Information Exchange Session held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Kirkland Lake. The discussion focused on the results of the Surface and Groundwater Impact Assessment, the Biophysical Impact Assessment, the Archaeological Stage 1 & 2 Assessment and the Social/Cultural Impact Assessment. Bennett staff along with some of the consultants who performed the studies were on hand to answer any questions. Approximately 60 interested parties were there to participate in discussions including media representatives.

Four stations were set up to present the studies. Consultants were situated at their perspective station to clarify and answer any questions. Information summaries were available for any interested parties. Copies of these summaries are attached in Appendix 2-5. Information Request and feedback forms were available for the public in order to help Bennett understand their concerns and so that they could be certain that their questions would be answered. Six forms were returned to Bennett. Copies of those completed forms accompanied by Bennett's responses are attached in Appendix 2-6.

September 12th and 13th, 2001

On September 12th and 13th, 2001 Bennett held Module III over a two-day period. The informal Open House and Information Exchange Sessions, held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Kirkland Lake, were carried out over a two-day span due to the widespread interest Bennett received relating to the topics being presented. In total approximately 42 interested parties attended the sessions including media representatives. A list of those individuals is contained in Appendix 2-7

During the sessions Bennett Staff along with 6 consultants who performed the studies were on hand to present and discuss the results of the Air Quality Impact Assessment, the Agricultural

Impact Assessment, and the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment. Each study had its own station and consultant(s) available to offer explanations, clarify questions or receive comment. Information summaries were also available to provide attendees with additional information and a quick and easily understood overview. These summaries can be found in Appendix 2-8. Attendees were strongly encouraged to fill out an Information Request and Feedback Form and return the form before leaving the Open House. Six forms were returned to Bennett. A copy of the completed forms accompanied by Bennett's response is contained in Appendix 2-9.

December 18th 2001

On Tuesday December 18th, 2001 Bennett held an Open House and Information Exchange session to discuss the December 6, 2001 release of the Draft Environmental Assessment at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Kirkland Lake. In total, approximately 24 interested parties attended the sessions including local media representatives. A list of those individuals is contained in Appendix 2-10.

During the session Bennett staff along with Dr. William Mills of Mills Consulting were on hand for discussions surrounding the Draft Environmental Assessment. Attendees were strongly encouraged to fill out an Information Request and Feedback form and return the form before leaving the Open House. Seventeen forms were returned to Bennett. A copy of the completed forms accompanied by Bennett's response is contained in Appendix 2-11.

12.1.1.2. New Liskeard Open House

June 1st, 2001

On June 1, 2001 Bennett Held the first of three Open House and Information Exchange Modules at the Waterfront Inn Conference Center in New Liskeard. Studies presented during the Open House included the Traffic Impact Assessment, the Economic Impact Assessment and the Acoustic Impact Assessment. Approximately 20 interested parties attended the session including media representatives.

Bennett staff was available to meet, greet, and respond to questions and comment. The room was divided into three areas, one for each study. Information summaries were available at each station for any interested parties. The summaries are contained in Appendix 2-3.

Information request and feedback forms were also available, and the attendees were encouraged to fill out the forms and return them before leaving the Open House. Ten forms were returned to Bennett. Copies of the forms accompanied by Bennett's response are contained in Appendix 2-4.

12.1.1.3. Englehart Open House

August 29th, 2001

Bennett held an informal Open House and Information Exchange Session at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Englehart as part of Module II on August 29th, 2001. Bennett chose to hold the meeting in Englehart rather than New Liskeard since the majority of interested parties from the previous session came from Englehart and the surrounding area. Approximately 35 interested parties attended the session.

Discussions focused on the results of the Surface and Groundwater Impact Assessment, the Biophysical Impact Assessment, the Archaeological Stage 1 & 2 Assessment and the

Social/Cultural Impact Assessment. Bennett staff together with some of the consultants who performed the studies were present to explain and discuss the results, to answer questions and to receive comments. Information summaries were located at four separate stations and were available for any interested parties. The information summaries are contained in Appendix 2-5.

Bennett provided information request and feedback forms to attendees, in which they could pose specific questions or concerns regarding the proposal, and interested parties were encouraged to return the forms before leaving the Open House. Six forms were returned to Bennett. Copies of those completed forms accompanied by Bennett's responses are attached in Appendix 2-6.

September 11th, 2001

On September 11th, 2001 Bennett held an informal Open House and Information Exchange Session, the last of three modules, at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Englehart. Approximately 15 interested parties attended the session. A list of attendees is contained in Appendix 2-7.

Studies presented included the Air Quality Impact Assessment, the Agricultural Impact Assessment, and the Human Health and the Ecological Risk Assessment. Bennett staff together with consultants were on hand to present the studies, answer any questions and address any comments or concerns. Information summaries were available at each of the three stations for any interested parties. The information summaries are contained in Appendix 2-8.

Bennett provided information request and feedback forms to attendees, in which they could pose specific questions or concerns regarding the proposal, and interested parties were encouraged to return the forms before leaving the Open House. Six forms were returned to Bennett. Copies of those completed forms accompanied by Bennett's responses are attached in Appendix 2-9.

December 19, 2001

On Wednesday, December 19th, 2001 Bennett held an informal Open House and Information Exchange session to discuss the December 6, 2001 release of the Draft Environmental Assessment at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Englehart. In total, approximately 22 interested parties attended the sessions. A list of those individuals is contained in Appendix 2-10.

During the session Bennett staff along with Dr. William Mills of Mills Consulting Inc. were on hand for discussions surrounding the Draft Environmental Assessment. Attendees were strongly encouraged to fill out an Information Request and Feedback form and return the form before leaving the Open House. Seventeen forms were returned to Bennett. A copy of the completed forms accompanied by Bennett's response is contained in Appendix 2-11.

12.1.2. Meetings

12.1.2.1. First Nations Organizations

As defined in the Terms of Reference, Bennett was required to advise representatives of the First Nations organizations within the boundaries of the Temiskaming Territorial District and South Cochrane Regional District on EA milestones and invite comment during the EA planning process. The Beaverhouse, Matachewan, Wahgoshig, Mattagami, and Temagami First Nations are located within the Temiskaming Territorial District and vicinity. The Timiskaming First Nation is located in Western Quebec.

On May 4, 2001, Bennett sent the abovementioned First Nations Organizations letters announcing the recently approved ToR and to acknowledge that their First Nation had been added to the core government review team. Bennett asked for an opportunity to meet with each organization individually to ensure that their information needs were appropriately addressed. Copies of these letters are contained in Appendix 2-12.

Follow up calls were placed to each organization requesting feedback to try and identify any concerns that they may have had due to the proposed undertaking. A log of those calls is contained in Appendix 2-13. Beaverhouse, Matachewan and the Teme Augama Anishnabai First Nations, an umbrella group of status and non-status Indians in the Temagami area under the Temagami First Nations, were the only three organizations to indicate any interest in the Bennett Proposal. Meetings were arranged with the Beaverhouse and the Matachewan First Nations as a result.

Packages containing EA documentation were sent by courier to all First Nation Organizations as material became available. This was done in order to allow additional time for review and comment in preparation for the Draft EA report. The following is a list of Impact Assessment Reports, which were couriered to each First Nation Band Office:

- August 15, 2001 - Traffic Impact Assessment
 - Spill contingency Plan
- September 28, 2001 - Stage 1&2 Archaeological Impact Assessment
- October 16, 2001 - Economic Impact Assessment
- October 17, 2001 - Biophysical Impact Assessment
 - Agricultural Impact Assessment
- December 3, 2001 -A complete copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment including
 Appendices A to N

Appendix 2-14 contains the covering letters that accompanied the reports.

Matachewan First Nation

Bennett contacted Fabian Batise of the Matachewan First Nation to arrange a meeting between Bennett and members of the Matachewan First Nations Band Council. The meeting request was in response to interest, by members of the Band Council, in the proposed Bennett facility.

On July 5, 2001 Bennett met with five members of the Band Council at the Matachewan Reserve Community Hall in Matachewan. Bennett gave a presentation and answered questions throughout the meeting. A copy of the presentation is attached in Appendix 2-15. Questions from the meeting, and subsequent Bennett responses, are attached in Appendix 2-16.

Beaverhouse First Nation

Bennett contacted Howard Restoule of the Beaverhouse First Nations to arrange a meeting between Bennett and members of the Beaverhouse First Nations Band Council. The meeting was in response to interest, by the Band Council, in the proposed Bennett facility.

On July 6, 2001 Bennett met with two members of the Band Council at the Beaverhouse Offices in Kirkland Lake. Bennett gave a presentation and answered questions throughout the meeting. A

copy of the presentation is attached in Appendix 2-15. Questions from the meeting, and subsequent Bennett responses, are attached in Appendix 2-17.

After the presentation Howard Restoule offered Bennett an opportunity to give a presentation at their next Beaverhouse Annual General Meeting, which was scheduled for August 11, 2001. Unfortunately their event was postponed to due extremely warm weather. Bennett contacted Mr. Restoule in September to inquire about the rescheduled meeting, however no date had been confirmed. In October, Bennett again contacted the Beaverhouse First Nations Band Office; the event had been rescheduled for November 3, 2001; however no invitation was extended to Bennett to attend the rescheduled event.

Temagami First Nations

After Speaking with Chief Doug McKenzie of the Teme Augama Anishnabai First Nations, Bennett arranged a meeting with his Band Council for August 13, 2001. Regrettably, the meeting was cancelled. Bennett originally had planned to meet with the Beaverhouse First Nation and the Teme Augama Anishnabai First Nation within a day of each other, however as a result of the Beaverhouse First Nations cancellation, Bennett chose to cancel the meeting with the intention to try and rearrange the meeting to coincide with the rescheduling of the Beaverhouse First Nations Annual General Meeting. The meeting was eventually rescheduled for November 22, 2001 in downtown Toronto with Chief Katt of Temagami First Nation, however Chief Katt had to cancel due a sudden death in his community.

Post Draft EA Meeting

On December 3, 2002 Bennett began to circulate the Draft EA to each member of the Government Review Team, including First Nations Organizations, the Offices of Public Record, Environmental interest groups and to Local Municipalities for review and comment. Contained in Appendix 2-14 are the covering letters, which accompanied the Draft EA documents, sent to each First Nation.

As described in the ToR, Bennett was required to make a request to representatives of the First Nations organizations, on the Government Review Team, to give a presentation on the Draft EA officially released/received on December 6, 2001. As such letters were sent out by regular mail on December 10, 2001 requesting to meet with each organization and their Band Councils separately. In addition calls were placed to all the First Nation Organizations following up on the letters sent out on December 10, 2001. Appendix 2-18 contains a sample of the First Nations Follow up letter sent. Appendix 2-13 contains a log of the phone calls placed to each organization.

Timiskaming First Nation

On January 11, 2002 Bennett spoke with Mr. Mark Hall of the Timiskaming First Nation to discuss the possibility to meet and give a presentation on the Draft Environmental Assessment to members of the Timiskaming First Nation Band Council. After confirming with Ms. Brenda Batisse, clerk for the band office, a meeting was scheduled for Tuesday January 15, 2002 for 6:00 pm at the First Nation's Community Hall in Notre Dame du Nord, Quebec.

Bennett arrived as scheduled to deliver a presentation before the council and other members of the First Nation community, however the meeting was adjourned after a brief statement made by Chief Daniel Chief asking Bennett to respect the wishes of their First Nations and leave the territory. Appendix 2-19 contains a copy of the statement made by Chief Daniel Chief on January 15, 2002.

Wahgoshig First Nation

On January 11, 2002 Bennett contacted Chief Paul McKenzie of the Wahgoshig First Nations to follow up on the Draft EA sent out on December 3, 2001. After speaking with the Chief a meeting was arranged for Thursday January 17, 2002 for 10:00 am at the Wahgoshig Band Office 42 km east of Matheson, Ontario.

Upon arriving at the meeting Bennett learned of a death, which took place within their community and as a result were unable to meet with Chief McKenzie. However Ms. Elizabeth Babin along with another council member invited Bennett to make the presentation to them. Appendix 2-20 contains a copy of the presentation and Appendix 2-21 contains a list of question asked during the presentation.

Beaverhouse First Nation

Mr. Wayne Wabi of the Beaverhouse First Nation was contacted on January 11, 2002 to request a meeting between Bennett and the Beaverhouse First Nation Band Council to talk about the Draft EA. After some discussion a meeting was arranged for January 18, 2002 for 10:00 am at the Beaverhouse Band office in Kirkland Lake.

Mr. Wabi indicated a specific interest in the ecological risk assessment portion of the Environmental Assessment and asked that we focus on this area during the presentation. In response to Mr. Wabi's request, Bennett brought along Ms. Ruth Hall of Cantox Environmental Inc., who performed the Ecological Risk Assessment. Ms. Hall delivered a presentation on the results of the Ecological risk assessment in conjunction with Bennett's presentation to six council members. Throughout the presentation a number of questions were asked. Appendix 2-22 contains a list of the questions raised during the meeting. A copy of the presentation is contained in Appendix 2-20.

Matachewan First Nation

On January 11, 2002 Bennett contacted Mr. Fabian Batise of the Matachewan First Nation to follow up on the Draft EA and to discuss the possibility of a meeting between his Band Council and Bennett.

Although Mr. Batise was appreciative and supportive of Bennett's consultation efforts he informed Bennett on the behalf of his Band Council that the Matachewan First Nations wishes to no longer be involved in the consultation of Bennett's proposal for Kirkland Lake. Thus they were not interested in any further meetings with Bennett to discuss the Environmental Assessment process.

Temagami First Nation

On February 13, 2002 Bennett contacted Chief Raymond Katt to arrange a meeting to discuss the EA process, the Draft EA document, and the needs and concerns of the Temagami First Nation. A meeting was scheduled for Monday February 18, 2002 at the Temagami Band office on Bear Island south of Temagami.

Bennett arrived on schedule in Temagami to meet with Chief Katt and members of his band council however the meeting was cancelled as a result of unexpected political struggles within the community. Bennett was left with no other alternative than to leave the territory.

Other First Nations Organizations

Efforts put forth by Bennett have not resulted in any meetings with the other First Nation organizations for the consultation process prior to and post the Draft Environmental Assessment.

12.1.2.2. Kirkland Lake Rotary Club

On March 26, 2001 Bennett was invited to meet with the Kirkland Lake Rotary Club. During a scheduled luncheon, Bennett made a presentation to the members of the club detailing the company history, the proprietary technology and an overview of the Environmental Assessment process. After the presentation there was an opportunity for informal discussion. A copy of the presentation is attached in Appendix 2-23.

12.1.2.3. Northern College

On March 27, 2001 Mr. Richard Kallio, Professor at Northern College, presented Bennett with an opportunity to meet with the students in the Waste Facility Management program at the College in Kirkland Lake. Bennett met with the students in addition to Richard Kallio and media representatives. Bennett gave a presentation focusing on the company history, the process technology and an overview of the Environmental Assessment process. After the presentation, informal discussions took place, which concentrated mainly on future job opportunities with the company.

12.1.2.4. Job Connect

On March 27, 2001 Bennett was invited by Carole Champion of Job Connect to make a presentation to any interested parties in the Kirkland Lake and the surrounding area. Presentation and discussions focused on Bennett's history, Bennett's proprietary technology and the future job prospects for the proposed facility. Approximately 25 individuals attended the presentation. Following the presentation informal discussion took place, which centered on employment opportunities.

12.1.2.5. Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture (TFA)

Mr. Ambrose Raftis contacted Bennett on Behalf of the TFA to arrange a meeting between Mr. John Bennett and the members of the TFA. Mr. Raftis drafted an agenda, which he sent to Bennett to identify issues and topics that the TFA wished to discuss regarding the proposal for Kirkland Lake. Several attempts were made to confirm a meeting date, however plans to meet were dismissed due to concerns arising from local farmers worried about Mr. Bennett's then recent visit to the UK and their problems related to Mad Cow Disease. Unfortunately this meeting never took place.

January 5, 2002 Public Information Seminar

On January 5, 2002 the Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture hosted a Public Information Seminar regarding Bennett's proposed high temperature thermal oxidizer facility for the Town of Kirkland Lake. The TFA contacted Bennett in mid December 2001 to invite representatives from Bennett to deliver a presentation as well as debate the merits and risks of the proposal.

Mr. Danny Ponn, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Bennett as well as Dr. William Mills, President of Mills Consulting and Dr. Robert Willis, Principal with Cantox, and Vice-President, Environmental Sciences, participated in the event on Bennett's behalf.

The minutes of the Public Information Seminar can be obtained from the Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture in Englehart.

12.1.3. Information Dissemination

12.1.3.1. Media

As indicated in the Terms of Reference, Bennett notified *The Temiskaming Speaker*, and *The Northern Daily News* regarding all EA milestones to date and will continue to do so for the final EA in order to provide an opportunity for the public to comment. The *Kirkland Lake Gazette* unfortunately ceased publication in September 2001.

Bennett also notified local radio stations including, CJKL Radio, CJTT Radio New Liskeard and CBC Sudbury, as well as MCTV (Timmins/North Bay) regarding EA milestones to date.

Bennett published notices announcing Public Open House and Information Exchange Sessions in the local newspapers prior to each event in addition to running 10 radio spot announcements, which ran the entire week prior to an Open House. A copy of the newspaper advertisement and the radio spot announcement are contained in Appendix 2-1.

12.1.3.2. Internet Communication

As specified in the Terms of Reference, Bennett utilized its website (<http://www.bennettenv.com/kirkland.html>) to make EA documentation available on-line, to notify the public of upcoming EA process milestones and progress in the EA planning process, and to provide on-line opportunities for comment. Documents which were made available on-line included:

- The Information Summaries presented at the Open House and Information Exchange Sessions,
- Notices of Public Open House and Information Exchange Sessions and;
- All press releases
- Main Volume of the Draft EA

Bennett will also provide a copy of the Final EA document, so that it can be viewed on line and will provide on-line opportunities for comment.

12.1.4. Offices of Public record

As indicated in the Terms of Reference, Bennett made use of the following offices of public record:

- Environmental Assessment and Approval Branch in Toronto;
- Ministry of the Environment, Northern Region Office in Thunder Bay;

- Ministry of the Environment, District Office in Timmins;
- Bennett's Kirkland Lake Office and;
- Local Public Libraries including:
 - Northern College Library
 - Kirkland Lake Public Library
 - New Liskeard Public Library
 - Englehart Public Library

Copies of EA documentation were sent to the above locations as it became available. A completed copy of the Draft EA including Appendices A to N were sent by courier on December 4th, 2002, Bennett asked that these documents be made available to the public during regular hours of operation. Other documents, such as the information summaries presented at open houses, were also forwarded to the above locations to offer those individuals, who were unable to attend, an opportunity to review the results of the impact assessment reports at their leisure.

Only, the Town of Kirkland Lake in addition to the local libraries including: Northern College Library, Kirkland Lake Public Library, New Liskeard Public Library and Englehart Public Library received copies, sent by courier on October 17, 2001, of the following completed consultant Impact Assessment Reports;

- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Economic Impact Assessment
- Spill Contingency Plan
- Biophysical Impact Assessment and;
- Agricultural Impact Assessment

These completed Impact Assessment reports were sent to those Offices of Public Record due to public interest and to provide interested parties with additional time to review and comment in preparation for the Draft EA Report. Appendix 2-24 contains the covering letters, which accompanied the reports.

12.1.5. Key Stakeholders

12.1.5.1. Local Municipalities

As stated in the Terms of Reference document, the following members of local municipalities were provided with a copy of the Draft EA document, which was sent by courier on December 3, 2001, for their review and comment:

- Clerks of members of the Temiskaming Municipal Association (TMA);
- Clerks of the Towns of Black River-Matheson, Temagami and Iroquois Falls;
- Contacts from the Local Roads Boards of Ingram, Otto, Pacaud/Catherine, Robillard, Crystal Lake, and Marquis;
- Contacts from the Bayly-Marter, Lebel (Harvey), Lebel (King), Marter, and Ossian Statute Labour Boards; and
- Contacts from the Local Services Boards of King-Lebel, Round Lake and Area, Savard and Area, Kenogami and District, Maisonville, and Bourkes.

In addition, Bennett made a request to meet with the Temiskaming Municipal Association (TMA) as well as those towns and boards listed above who are not a part of the TMA to give a

presentation of the Draft EA. Appendix 2-25 contains a sample of the letters sent out inviting representatives from the local municipalities and a distribution list as well as a log of follow up calls.

Meeting with Local Municipalities

On January 8, 2002, Bennett held a meeting to discuss the contents of the Draft EA with the local Municipalities. Approximately 12 representatives from 7 municipalities attended the meeting. Appendix 2-26 contains a list of representatives from the local municipalities who attended the meeting. Bennett opened with a brief presentation on the company in addition to a detailed description of the Environmental Assessment process. After the presentation, informal discussions took place with a short question and answer period. Appendix 2-20 contains a copy of the presentation.

12.1.5.2. Federal and Provincial Government Representatives

As described in the Terms of Reference, Bennett advised Benoit Serré (MP) and David Ramsay (MPP) of the Temiskaming-Cochrane District of the Draft EA and invited them to comment.

12.1.5.3. General public/local/environmental groups

As indicated in the Terms of Reference, Bennett invited those interested parties, who provided comment prior to Bennett volunteering to do an EA, as well as those who commented on the newspaper series, at the Open Houses, through members of the Citizen Advisory Committee, and other means, to review and comment on the Draft EA.

These and other local groups identified during the consultation and comment periods were notified, by direct mailings, of key milestones. Individual letters, announcing the date, time, locations and topics to be discussed during Open House and Information Exchange Modules, were sent out inviting interested parties to visit Bennett Staff, learn about recent developments, ask questions and provide feedback. Copies of the invitation letters are contained in Appendix 2-2. In addition, Bennett placed advertisements in the local Newspapers inviting other community members to attend the session. A copy of the Newspaper advertisement is contained in Appendix 2-1. The following groups expressed interest in the project and were included in the consultation process: the Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture, Northwatch, Temiskaming Tomorrow, and the Temiskaming Environmental Action Coalition.

As consultant impact reports were finalized and placed in the Offices of Public Record, announcements were sent out electronically as well as through regular mail to those individuals who requested notification on the availability of new material. Copies of those letters as well as a list of email recipients are contained in Appendix 2-27. Bennett placed announcements in the Northern Daily Newspaper as well as the Timiskaming Speaker to inform the general public where they could access new information and which reports specifically, were available for their review. Appendix 2-28 contains a copy of the Newspaper announcement.

On December 6th, 2001 Bennett officially released the Draft EA for public review and comment. To coincide with the release of the Draft EA, Bennett placed advertisements in the local newspapers to inform the public of the release in addition to the electronic notices to inform and invite any interested parties to comment during a five and a half week comment period, which

was established by Bennett. Appendix 2-28 contains a copy of the newspaper advertisements and Appendix 2-29 contains an electronic mailing distribution list.

In addition, as part of the consultation process to include and encourage the public to comment, Bennett held an Open House and Information Exchange Session in Kirkland Lake as well as in Englehart to discuss the contents of the Draft EA. Information request and feedback forms were available for the public to fill out so that they could be certain that their concerns would be addressed. Appendix 2-10 contains a list of those individuals who attended the session and contained in Appendix 2-11 are 17 completed Information Request and Feedback forms accompanied by Bennett's response.

The Terms of Reference required that there be regular updates to the general public and environmental groups throughout the EA process. Bennett has worked hard to ensure that all interested parties were advised of EA milestones to date and invited to participate during comment periods and Open Houses.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, in order to ensure that Bennett was able to respond effectively and in a timely manner to the feedback received regarding the Draft EA, and incorporate this feedback into the development of the Final EA, Bennett utilized a formal comment tracking system. The system logged each comment received and tracked its review and response. Information was summarized in tabular form indicating the commenter, the issues raised, the responses to the issues and who formulated the response. Bennett with the aid of their consultants reviewed each comment individually and provided a full response as accurately as possible.

Table 12-1 summarizes the comments received from members of the general public, and subsequent responses from Bennett and their consultants. Comments were received on line, via fax and by regular mail, during the five and a half week comment period.

12.1.5.4. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Role of the CAC

The Citizens Advisory Committee was established with the objective to function as an information exchange centre where information from Bennett, experts and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE) would be scrutinized, analysed and discussed to reassure the public of environmental compliance by Bennett.

The Committee was chosen as an independent and autonomous body representing the diverse interests of the residents of the Town of Kirkland Lake. The committee was also empowered to receive questions or concerns from the public and publish answers to those questions or concerns once they believed they had enough information to accurately do so. The Committee was accountable to the residents of Kirkland Lake when disseminating information to the public. Finally the committee was accountable to Bennett as an advisor and in keeping sensitive corporate information confidential.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference Bennett provided the CAC members with regular updates on their progress, which included making all EA documentation available and advising them on EA milestones, such as Open House Sessions. Bennett met with the CAC on several occasions prior to Open House and Information Exchange Sessions. An agenda was sent out electronically to each member a few days prior to the date. Chairman Robert Macdonald facilitated the meetings, which provided Bennett with an opportunity to address and clarify any questions and obtain feedback. It also allowed Bennett a chance to update the members on recent developments and ultimately discuss the next phase in the EA process. At least one representative from the Ministry of the Environment Northern Region (Daryl Firlotte or Ken Gibson or both) was present during the meetings.

Meeting with the CAC

On May 30, 2001 Bennett met with the CAC members one day prior to Module I. Discussions surrounded Queenston Mining Inc. and the issue of moving the facility back to avoid the ore body below the proposed property. Maps were used to illustrate the three options available and discussions focused on how it would impact the studies already underway by the consultants. During the meeting Bennett presented the members with an updated timeline, to reflect key milestones. Lastly, the discussions surrounded what's happening at the Open House session in Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard. A copy of the meeting agenda is contained in Appendix 2-30.

On August 27, 2001, the evening prior to Module II, Bennett met with the CAC members. Discussions focused on the location of the plant, the three studies being presented at the Open House, the search to replace the retired CAC members and the next Open House schedule for early September. A copy of the meeting agenda is contained in Appendix 2-30

On September 10, 2001, the evening prior to Module III, Bennett met with the CAC members. Discussion focused on the Impact Assessment being presented at the Open House, the outcome of Module II, the search for the New CAC members and what's next with regard to the EA process. A copy of the meeting agenda is contained in Appendix 2-30.

During the EA process two CAC members resigned from the committee due to other personal commitments. Those remaining began the task of replacing the retired members. Advertisements were placed in the local newspapers, calling for new members. Any interested parties were encouraged to forward an application to the CAC directly via a postal box address, controlled by the CAC chairman Robert Macdonald.

The CAC members were provided with all EA documentation including Information Summaries and finalized consultant reports prior to their public release. Bennett found this extremely useful in that it helped to recognize areas, which required further explanation and identify sections in the body of the text where the terminology was excessive and difficult to interpret.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, Bennett asked for the opportunity to give a presentation on the contents of the Draft EA to the CAC members and asked that they review and provide their comments on the report. In response to feedback received from members of the local community, the CAC choose to host a public meeting and invite any interested parties to attend and be part of the audience to hear the presentation and learn about the EA process. The meeting was scheduled for January 17, 2002 for 7:00 pm at the Northern College auditorium in Kirkland Lake.

Robert Macdonald, CAC Chairman, facilitated the event on behalf of the CAC members. Bennett representatives as well as five other consultants who summarized their methods of study and their conclusions gave presentations. Bennett brought along their technical experts, in anticipation that there would be question posed regarding the results of the Impact Assessments. Following the presentations there was a brief opportunity for the public to ask questions however after some disruption from one member of the public, the Chairman called the meeting to a close.

In February 2002, Mr. Robert Macdonald, Chairman of the CAC, resigned due to personal reasons. Soon after the CAC began to receive letters from interested parties within the community requesting to join the committee. After some thought the CAC choose three new members, Mr. Dave Enouy, Mr. Klaus Blum and Ms. Betty Birch, and welcomed them on board. Unfortunately about one month after he joined Mr. Dave Enouy stepped down from the committee because he was relocating as a result of a job opportunity outside of the province; as well Ms. Betty Birch too stepped down sighting other personal commitments. Today the CAC is made up of five local members of the Kirkland Lake community.

12.1.5.5. Government Review Team Prior to and During the Draft EA

As set out in the Terms of Reference for this Environmental Assessment, Bennett consults on an ongoing basis with the EA Special Project Officer, Ms. Ariane Heisey and members of the Government Review Team (GRT).

Designated by the Special Project Officer, the Government Review Team, prior to and during the distribution of the Draft EA, consisted of reviewers from the federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations government agencies. Pursuant to the Terms of Reference the following government agencies were asked to review and comment on the Draft EA:

The following federal government agencies were consulted during the distribution of the Draft EA:

- Environment Canada;

- The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; and
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans

The following provincial government agencies were consulted during the distribution of the Draft EA:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs;
- The Ministry of Natural Resources;
- The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines;
- The Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation;
- The Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat;
- The Ministry of Transportation;
- The Ministry of Environment and Energy: Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch in Toronto, Northern Region Office in Thunder Bay and the Timmins District Office; and
- The Province of Québec

The following municipal government agencies were consulted during the distribution of the Draft EA:

- The Town of Kirkland Lake; and
- Temiskaming Health Unit.

The following First Nation Organizations were consulted during the distribution of The Draft EA:

- Beaverhouse First Nation;
- Matachewan First Nation;
- Wahgoshig First Nation;
- Mattagami First Nation;
- Temagami First Nation; and
- Timiskaming First Nation

When EA documentation such as the consultant impact assessment reports were finalized, it was Bennett's intention to forward the reports to the appropriate government audience in order to offer additional time for review and comment prior to the completion of the Draft EA. Due to time restraints not all of the Impact Assessment Reports were forwarded to their respective agencies. The following is a list which details what document were sent to which government agency:

Mr. Paul Savoie of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans received the Biophysical Impact Assessment and the Agricultural Impact Assessment

Mr. Ray Valaitis of the Ministry of Agriculture, food and Rural Affairs received the Agricultural Impact Assessment.

Mr. Winston Wong of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation received the Stage 1&2 Archaeological Impact Assessment

Ms. Eleanor Moro and Mr. Larry Ferguson of the Ministry of Natural Resources received the Biophysical Impact Assessment

Mr. Ray Mantha of the Ministry of Transportation received the Traffic Impact Assessment and the Spill Contingency Plan

Mr. Steve Radcliffe of the Ministry of the Environment received the Traffic Impact Assessment and the Spill Contingency Plan

Mr. John Malczak of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines received the Economic Impact Assessment

Mr. Ken Gibson of the Ministry of the Environment received the Traffic Impact Assessment, the Spill Contingency Plan, the Stage 1&2 Archaeological Impact Assessment, the Economic Impact Assessment, the Biophysical Impact Assessment, and the Agricultural Impact Assessment

Ms. Ariane Heisey of the Ministry of the Environment received the Traffic Impact Assessment, the Spill Contingency Plan, the Stage 1&2 Archaeological Impact Assessment, the Economic Impact Assessment, the Biophysical Impact Assessment, and the Agricultural Impact Assessment

Beaverhouse, Matachewan, Wahgoshig, Mattagami, Temagami and Timiskaming First Nation received the Traffic Impact Assessment, the Spill Contingency Plan, the Stage 1&2 Archaeological Impact Assessment, the Economic Impact Assessment, the Biophysical Impact Assessment, and the Agricultural Impact Assessment.

Copies of the cover letters, which accompanied the documents, are contained in Appendix 2-31. First Nations Cover letters are contained in Appendix 2-18.

Prior to the release of the Draft EA report comments were received from Mr. Larry Ferguson of the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the Biophysical Impact Assessment, as well as from Mr. Ray Valaitis of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Agricultural Impact Assessment. Comments were also received from Mr. Paul Marleau of the Ministry of Transportation, Northern Regional Office, regarding the Spill Contingency Plan and the Traffic Impact Assessment. Appendix 2-32 contains their comments and recommendations, which were forwarded to Bennett. Bennett reviewed comments in conjunction with their consultants and the appropriate changes were incorporated into the documents.

A package including the Draft EA and respective Appendices depending on the receiver was couriered to members of the Government Review Team on December 3, 2001. A copy of the letters and Mailing list are included in Appendix 2-31

Bennett requested that all members of the Government Review Team provide comments on the Draft EA before January 15, 2002. All comments received to date from the Government Review Team members and subsequent responses from Bennett are included in Table 12-2

12.1.5.6. The Government Review Team for the Final EA

Designated by the Special Project Officer, the Government Review Team, for the final EA consists of reviewers from the federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations government agencies. Pursuant to the Terms of Reference the following individuals from the following government agencies will be asked to review and comment on the Final EA:

Ms. Ariane Heisey, Special Project Officer, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. Ian Parrott, Acting supervisor, Waste Unit- Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. Mohammed Dhalla, Supervisor Water and Wastewater Unit Ministry of Environmental and Energy
Mr. Neil Parrish, Supervisor Air and Noise Unit, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr Ray Potvin, APEP Supervisor, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. David Hollinger, Water resources Supervisor, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. Denis Durocher, District Manager, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. Steven Radcliffe, Supervisor, Hazardous waste Unit, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. George Crawford, Manager Ecological Standards and Toxicological Section Standards Development Branch, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. Harry Dale, Manager, Human Toxicology and Air Standards Section Standards Development Branch, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. John Mayes, Manager, Technology Standards Section, Ministry of Environment and Energy
Mr. Ray Valaitis, Rural Planner, Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Mr. Bruce Kewan, Dairy food Scientist, Food inspection Branch, Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Mr. Winston Wong, Heritage Planner, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Dr. Colin D’Cunha, Director, Public Health Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Mr. Bruce James, Director, Public Health Inspector, Timiskaming Health Unit
Ms. Eleanor Moro, Ministry of Natural Resources
Mr. John Malczak, Sr. Policy Advisor, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
Mr. Ray Mantha, Manager, Ministry of Transportation
Mr. Doug Carr, Director, Negotiations, Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat
Mr. Pat Allison, Fire Chief, Town of Kirkland Lake
Madame Edith van de Walle, Co-odonnatrice du secteur industriel, Ministère de l’environnement
Madame Renée L’Oiselle, Ministère de l’environnement
M. Daniel Gagne Régie Régionale de la Santé et des Services Sociaux du Saguenay-Lac St. Jean
Ms. Louise Knox, Regional Director, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Mr. Rob Dobos, Head EA Section, Ontario Region, Environment Canada
Mr. John Higham, Acting Manager, Department of Indian Affairs/Northern Development
Mr Paul Savoie Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Maria Ooi, Regional CEAA Coordinator, Health Canada
Chief Roy Meaniss Beaverhouse First Nation;
Chief Richard Wincikaby, Matachewan First Nation;
Chief Paul McKenzie, Wahgoshig First Nation;
Chief Boissoneau, Mattagami First Nation;
Chief Paul Alexander, Temagami First Nation; and
Chief Daniel Chief, Timiskaming First Nation
Chief Doug McKenzie, Teme Augama Anishnabai
Mr. Peter Di Gangi, Algonquin First Nation Secretariat
Directeur, Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni
Ms. Cindy McCarthy, Town of Charlton

Ms. Steph Palmateer, town of Cobalt
Mr. Brain Koski, Town of Englehart
Mr. James Smyth, Town of Haileybury
Mr. Donald Studholme, Town of Kirkland Lake
Mr. Kenneth Boal, Town of New Liskeard
Mr. Michel Lachapelle, Town of Casey
Mr. Michel Lachapelle, Town of Hudson
Mr. Michel Lachapelle, Town of Kearns
Mr. Robert Emmell, Township of Larder Lake
Ms. Gayle King, Township of Matachewan
Ms. Janet Gore, The Village of Thornloe
Pat Cyr, Township of Black River Matheson
Mr. Juergen Leukert, District School Board Ontario North East
Mr. Larry Yaguchi, North East Catholic District School Board

12.1.5.7. Notice of Submission of the Final EA

Appendix 2-33 contains the Notice of Submission, a copy of which will be published in the Northern Daily News and the Temiskaming Speaker to advise the public that the Environmental Assessment has been submitted. In addition to the aforementioned media channels Bennett will be sending a copy of the Notice of Submission to other local media outlets in the area including CJKL Radio Kirkland Lake; CJTT Radio New Liskeard; MCTV Timmins Ontario; CBC Radio – Timmins; The Englehart Press; CBC Radio Sudbury.