
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release

Environmental Assessment Office

2026ENV0003-000074

Jan. 26, 2026

Tahltan, B.C. make history with consent-based decisions on Eskay Creek mine

VICTORIA – The Province of British Columbia has issued an environmental assessment certificate to Eskay Creek Mining Ltd., a subsidiary of Skeena Gold+Silver, to restart gold and silver mining at the site of the former Eskay Creek mine in Tahltan territory.

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) carried out a collaborative assessment process with the Tahltan Central Government (TCG), the first to be guided by a consent agreement, representing a major milestone in government-to-government decision-making for major projects.

Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks, and Jagrup Brar, Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals, made the decision to issue the certificate after reviewing the EAO's comprehensive report and recommendations, along with the Tahltan Risk Assessment Report.

TCG's board of directors provided notice of Tahltan consent for the project as part of a consent-based decision-making agreement for Eskay Creek Project, established under sections 7 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and Environmental Assessment Act.

The ministers applied 38 legally binding conditions on the project. These include specific conditions co-developed with TCG to mitigate impacts identified in Tahltan's risk assessment and provide for an ongoing role for Tahltan in monitoring compliance throughout the life of the project. Many conditions, developed with input also from Skeena, require the company to incorporate Tahltan knowledge and input on plan development.

Other conditions include requirements to:

- monitor and manage effects to water, fish, air quality and human health to ensure mitigations are effective and effects do not exceed those predicted in the assessment
- minimize community effects, including local health services, in ways that are culturally appropriate for First Nations
- address effects from increased traffic along key highways to avoid and reduce impacts on wildlife, road users and First Nation communities
- manage and mitigate impacts to Tahltan quiet enjoyment of land, food sovereignty and way of life
- require Skeena's participation in and/or support of provincial or Tahltan-led regional initiatives on cumulative, social and environmental issues

With these conditions, proposed permitting requirements and federal mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects are expected from the Eskay Creek revitalization project.

The EAO conducted the assessment on behalf of both the provincial and federal governments. One assessment carried out by the EAO is used for decisions by both levels of government, eliminating the need for two assessments for a single project.

The EAO's assessment featured unprecedented collaboration with provincial permitting agencies, federal regulators and TCG to streamline the reviews, share expertise and determine the best-placed regulator to oversee various conditions. These efforts improved efficiency, reduced duplication and increased clarity for regulators and the company.

Provincial permits and federal approval are also required for the project to proceed. These decisions are expected soon.

Nisga'a Lisims government, which the EAO consulted as a treaty partner, provided letters of support for the project. The EAO also consulted Gitanyow Nation, Tsetsaut Skii km Lax Ha Nation and Alaska Tribes, as well as Métis Nation of B.C. on behalf of the federal government.

If fully approved, the project is expected to generate positive economic benefits for local communities, Tahltan Nation and the Province, providing about 1,000 jobs during peak construction and more than 770 jobs during peak operations, along with projected capital expenditure of \$713 million and approximately \$1.2 billion in provincial revenues.

Under the environmental assessment certificate, the Eskay Creek mine must be substantially started by 2036.

Every project that undergoes an environmental assessment is assessed thoroughly on the specific and individual aspects of that particular project, including its potential environmental, economic, social, cultural and health effects and impacts on First Nations and their rights.

Learn More:

- Ministers' reasons for decision:
https://www.projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/6977c1fc33c2c6e2d797627c/download/SIGNED%20Eskay_Creek_Ministers_Reasons_For_Decision_FINAL.pdf
- Documentation ministers considered in making their decision:
https://www.projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/60f078d3332ebd0022a39224/documents?keywords=Eskay_Creek_Revit_DM&sortBy=-score¤tPage=1
- For more information about the environmental assessment process, visit:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/environmental-assessments>

A backgrounder follows.

Contact:

Ministry of Environment and Parks
On behalf of the Environmental Assessment
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BACKGROUNDER

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Ministry of Environment and Parks

What to know about the Section 7 consent-based decision-making agreement

- In June 2022, the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) and the Province entered into the first-ever consent-based decision-making agreement in B.C. under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act for the environmental assessment of the Eskay Creek revitalization project.
- Sections 7 of the Environmental Assessment Act and the Declaration Act enable the Declaration Act Consent Decision-Making Agreement for Eskay Creek Project. The agreement:
 - recognizes Tahltan authority over land and resource decisions for a major project in Tahltan territory
 - requires Tahltan consent to proceed
 - places Tahltan values, knowledge and laws at the centre of decision-making
 - respects Tahltan title and rights
- Through a collaborative process, TCG and the EAO each defined their decision criteria for the project and co-designed the assessment to support their separate decisions.
- The EAO, Major Mines Permitting Office and other provincial permitting and federal agencies worked on co-ordinated regulatory processes with TCG that meet the consent agreement requirements and recognize Tahltan's decision-making role in the area where the project is situated.
- The agreement represents a step forward in the co-governance relationship between the B.C. government and TCG. Consent agreements such as the one for the Eskay Creek assessment advance reconciliation, provide clarity and predictability in the environmental assessment process and establish innovative, new ways for the EAO, Tahltan and project proponents to work together.
- A second Section 7 consent agreement, signed between the Province and TCG in November 2023, is in place for the Red Chris mine.

Learn More:

- To view the Declaration Act Consent Decision-Making Agreement for Eskay Creek Project: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/environmental-assessments/declaration_act_consent_decision-making_agreement_for_eskay_creek_project.pdf
- For more information about consent agreements for environmental assessments, visit: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=B5737A3A620146219ABED73B5066DEC6#consent_agreements
- For more information about consent-based decision-making agreements between the Province and First Nations, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples/making->

[decisions-together](#)

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