



# Blackwater Mine



## Tailings Dam Safety Transparency Plan

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# Work Instructions

## Tailings Dam Safety Transparency Plan

<b>Version</b>	A.4
<b>Replaces</b>	A.3
<b>Creation Date</b>	July 19, 2024
<b>Scheduled Review Date</b>	
<b>Review Date</b>	
<b>Document Team Members</b>	
<b>Document Owner:</b>	
<b>Document Approver:</b>	
<b>Related Documents:</b>	
<b>Key Contacts:</b>	
<b>Change Requests:</b>	

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>Aboriginal Groups</b>	Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation, Ulkatcho First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Saik'uz First Nation, Stelat'en First Nation, and Nazko First Nation (as defined in the Project's Environmental Assessment Certificate #M19-01)
<b>AGMs</b>	Aboriginal Group Monitors
<b>Artemis</b>	Artemis Gold Inc.
<b>BC</b>	British Columbia
<b>The Project</b>	Blackwater Project or Blackwater Gold Project
<b>BW Gold</b>	BW Gold Ltd.
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>CM</b>	Construction Manager
<b>COO</b>	Chief Operating Officer
<b>DS</b>	Decision Statement
<b>EAC</b>	Environmental Assessment Certificate #M19-01
<b>EAO</b>	Environmental Assessment Office
<b>EM</b>	Environmental Manager
<b>EMS</b>	Environmental Management System
<b>ELoMC</b>	Environmental Life of Mine Committee
<b>EMLI</b>	Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
<b>ENV</b>	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
<b>EoR</b>	Engineer of Record
<b>EPCM</b>	Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management
<b>FSR</b>	Forest Service Road
<b>GM</b>	General Manager
<b>HSRC</b>	Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia (Revised April 2024)
<b>ITRB</b>	Independent Tailings Review Board
<b>km</b>	Kilometre
<b>LDN</b>	Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation
<b>M-246</b>	Mines Act Permit M-246
<b>MOE</b>	Ministry of Environment
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Forests
<b>NWFN</b>	Nadleh Whut'en First Nation
<b>“EAC” Condition</b>	Environmental Assessment Certificate #M19-01 condition
<b>QRP</b>	Qualified Registered Professional
<b>SFN</b>	Saik'uz First Nation
<b>SCP</b>	Sediment Control Pond
<b>StFN</b>	Stelat'en First Nation
<b>t/d</b>	Tonnes per day
<b>TDSTP</b>	Tailings Dam Safety Transparency Plan
<b>TSF</b>	Tailings storage facility
<b>UFN</b>	Ulkatcho First Nation
<b>VP</b>	Vice President

# 1 Project Overview

The Blackwater Gold Project (the Project) is a gold and silver open pit mine located in central British Columbia (BC), approximately 112 kilometres (km) southwest of Vanderhoof, 160 km southwest of Prince George, and 446 km northeast of Vancouver.

The Project is presently accessed via the Kluskus Forest Service Road (FSR), the Kluskus-Ootsa FSR and an exploration access road, which connects to the Kluskus-Ootsa FSR at km 142. The Kluskus FSR joins Highway 16 approximately 10 km west of Vanderhoof. A new, approximately 13.8 km road (Mine Access Road) will be built to replace the existing exploration access road, which will be decommissioned. The new planned access is at km 124.5. Driving time from Vanderhoof to the mine site is about 2.5 hours.

Major mine components include a tailings storage facility (TSF), ore processing facilities, waste rock, overburden and soil stockpiles, borrow areas and quarries, water management infrastructure, water treatment plants, accommodation camps and ancillary facilities. The gold and silver will be recovered into a gold-silver doré product and shipped by air and/or transported by road. Electrical power will be supplied by a new approximately 135 km, 230 kilovolt overland transmission line that will connect to the BC Hydro grid at the Glenannan substation located near the Endako mine, 65 km west of Vanderhoof.

The Blackwater mine site is located within the traditional territories of Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation (LDN), Ulkatcho First Nation (UFN), Skin Tyee Nation, and Tsilhqot'in Nation. The Kluskus and Kluskus-Ootsa FSRs and Project transmission line cross the traditional territories of Nadleh Whut'en First Nation (NWFN), Saik'uz First Nation (SFN), and Stellat'en First Nation (StFN; collectively, the Nechako First Nations) as well as the traditional territories of the Nazko First Nation (NFN), Nee Tahí Buhn Band, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, and Yekooche First Nation (BC EAO 2019a).

Initial project construction (ie., prior to gold pour) is anticipated to take two years. Mine development will be phased with an initial milling capacity of 15,000 tonnes per day (t/d) for the first five years of operation. After the first five years, the milling capacity will increase to 33,000 t/d for the next five-years, and to 55,000 t/d in Year +11 until the end of the 23-year mine life. The Closure Phase is Year +24 to approximately Year +45, ending when the Open Pit has filled to the target closure level and the TSF is allowed to passively discharge to Davidson Creek via a closure spillway. The Post-Closure phase begins in Year +46.

New Gold Inc. received Environmental Assessment Certificate #M19-01 (EAC) on June 21, 2019 under the *2002 Environmental Assessment Act* (BC EAO 2019b) and a Decision Statement (DS) on April 15, 2019 under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEA Agency 2019). In August 2020, Artemis Gold Inc. (Artemis) acquired the mineral tenures, assets, and rights in the Project that were previously held by New Gold Inc. On August 7, 2020, the Certificate was transferred to BW Gold LTD. (BW Gold), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Artemis, under the *2018 Environmental Assessment Act*. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada notified BW Gold on September 25, 2020 to verify that written notice had been provided within 30 days of the change of proponent as required in Condition 2.16 of the DS, and that a process had been initiated to amend the DS.

BW Gold received *Mines Act* Permit M-246 (M-246) on June 22, 2021, and *Environmental Management Act* Permit 110602 on June 24, 2021, authorizing early construction works for the Project. These works include clearing, grubbing ditching, and site levelling at the Plant Site location and sediment and erosion controls, including construction of ditches, diversions, and a sediment control pond (SCP). BW Gold received an amended M-246 in March 2023, approving the Mine Plan and Reclamation Program and superseding the previous version. BW Gold received *Environmental Management Act* Permit 110652 on May 2, 2023, authorizing discharge of effluent to the TSF, surface water, and ground from the Blackwater mine.



## 1.1 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Tailings Dam Safety Transparency Plan (TDSTP) is set out how and when BW Gold will communicate information related to tailings dam safety during construction, operations, closure, and post-closure. The objectives of the TDSTP are to:

- a) Identify and describe the reports, reviews, inspections and meetings pertaining to tailings dam safety that will be produced, undertaken or held by BW Gold;
- b) Identify the frequency and anticipated timing for the materials and activities listed in the point above;
- c) Set out how and when the information in paragraph a) will be provided to Aboriginal Groups in a timely manner;
- d) Provide a description of how the Holder will invite the Aboriginal Groups' monitors (AGMs) identified in Condition 17 of the EAC and other Aboriginal Group representatives to be included in the Holder's meetings and site inspections pertaining to tailings dam safety;
- e) Provide the parameters for the provision of an annual report, developed by a Qualified Professional, to the EAO, ENV, EMPR and Aboriginal Groups on dam safety, including changes to the status of the tailings dam and the status of ongoing investigations or actions being taken to address any safety issues. The report must include a summary written for a lay audience; and
- f) Provide for an annual dam safety meeting with Aboriginal Groups and EMPR, including the timing for offering the meeting.

The TDSTP fulfills the requirements of EAC condition 35.

## 1.2 Roles and Responsibilities

BW Gold has the obligation of ensuring that all commitments are met and that all relevant obligations are made known to mine personnel and site contractors during all phases of the mine life. A clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and level of authority that employees and contractors have when working at the mine site is essential to meet Environmental Management System (EMS) objectives.

Table 1.1 provides an overview of general environmental management responsibilities during all phases of the mine life for key positions that will be involved in environmental management. Other positions not specifically listed in Table 1.1 but that will provide supporting roles include independent environmental monitors, an Engineer of Record for each tailings storage facility and dam, an Independent Tailings Review Board, TSF qualified person, geochemistry QRP, and other qualified persons and QRPs.

Table 1.1: Blackwater roles and responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	The CEO is responsible for overall Project governance. Reports to Board.
Chief Operating Officer (COO)	The COO is responsible for engineering and Project development and coordinates with the Mine Manager to ensure overall Project objectives are being managed. Reports to the CEO.
Vice President (VP) Environment & Social Responsibility	<p>The VP is responsible for championing the Environmental Policy Statement and EMS, establishing environmental performance targets and overseeing permitting. Reports to the Chief ESG Officer.</p> <p>The VP or designate is responsible for development of this plan, consultation on the draft plan and submission for approval. The VO or designate is also responsible for plan amendments.</p>
General Manager (GM) Development	The GM is responsible for managing project permitting, the Project's administration services and external entities, and delivering systems and programs that ensure Artemis's values are embraced and supported: Putting People First, Outstanding Corporate Citizenship, High Performance Culture, Rigorous Project Management and Financial Discipline. Reports to the COO.
Mine Manager	The Mine Manager, as defined in the <i>Mines Act</i> , has overall responsibility for mine operations, including the health and safety of workers and the public, Environmental Management System (EMS) implementation, overall environmental performance and protection, and permit compliance. The Mine Manager may delegate their responsibilities to qualified personnel. Reports to the GM.
Construction Manager (CM)	The CM is accountable for ensuring environmental and regulatory commitments/ and obligations are being met during the Construction phase. Reports to the GM.
Environment Manager (EM)	The EM is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Project's environmental programs and compliance with environmental permits, updating EMS and Management Plans. The EM or designate will be responsible for reporting non-compliance to the CM, and Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) contractor, other contractors, the Company and regulatory agencies, where required. The EM informs the Environmental Monitors of current site conditions that may influence monitoring programs. Supports the CM and reports to the Mine Manager.
Departmental Managers	Departmental Managers are responsible for implementation of the EMS relevant to their areas. Report to the Mine Manager.
Indigenous Relations Manager	<p>Indigenous Relations Manager is responsible for Indigenous engagement throughout the life of mine. Also responsible for day-to-day management and communications with Aboriginal Groups. Reports to the VP Environment &amp; Social Responsibility.</p> <p>The Indigenous Relations Manager is responsible for providing the reports and reviews, and for providing information regarding meetings and inspections all in accordance with Table 2-1.</p>
Community Relations Manager	Community Relations Advisor is responsible for managing the Community Liaison Committee and Community Feedback Mechanism. Reports to the Indigenous Relations Manager.
Environmental Monitors	Environmental Monitors (Environmental Specialists and Technicians, including CPESC) are responsible for tracking and reporting on environmental permit obligations through field-based monitoring programs. Report to the EM.
Aboriginal Monitors (AGMs)	Aboriginal Monitors are required under EAC #M19-01 Condition 17 and will be responsible for monitoring for potential effects from the Project on the Indigenous interests. Aboriginal Monitors will be involved in the adaptive management and follow-up monitoring programs. Report to the EM.
Employees and Contractors	Employees are responsible for being aware of permit requirements specific to their roles and responsibilities. Report to Departmental Managers.
Qualified Professional and Qualified Persons	Qualified professionals (an individual registered with the appropriate professional organization in BC) and qualified persons will be retained to review objectives and conduct various aspects of environmental and social monitoring as specified in Environmental and Social Management Plans.
Engineer of Record	Engineer of Record has the responsibilities described in the prevailing version of the HSRC (Section 10.4.1 in the April 2024 version). The EOR does not have a mandate in implementing this plan.

BW Gold will employ a qualified person as an EM who will verify that the EMS requirements are established, implemented, and maintained, and that environmental performance is reported to management for review and action. The EM is responsible for retaining the services of qualified persons or qualified professionals with specific scientific or engineering expertise to provide direction and management advice in their areas of specialization. The EM will be supported by Environmental Monitors that will include Environmental Specialists and Technicians and by a consulting team of subject matter experts in the fields of environmental science and engineering.

During the Construction phase, BW Gold will be entering into multiple Engineering, Procurement and Construction contracts, likely for the Transmission Line, Process Plant, Tailings and Reclaim System, and 25 kV Power Distribution. Each engineer/contractor will have their own CM and there will be a BW Gold responsible project manager and/or Superintendent who ultimately reports to the GM Development. Some of the scope, such as the TSF and Water Management Structures will be self-performed by BW Gold, likely using hired equipment. Other smaller scope packages may be in the form of Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) contracts. The EPCM contractors will report to the CMs who will ultimately be responsible for ensuring that impacts are minimized, and environmental obligations are met during the Construction phase. For non-EPCM contractors, who will perform some of the minor works on site, the same reporting structure, requirements, and responsibilities will be established as outlined above. BW Gold will maintain overall responsibility for management of the construction and operation of the mine site and will therefore be responsible for establishing employment and contract agreements, communicating environmental requirements, and conducting periodic reviews of performance against stated requirements.

The CM is accountable for ensuring that environmental and regulatory commitments/obligations are being met during the construction phase. The EM will be responsible for ensuring that construction activities are proceeding in accordance with the objectives of the EMS and associated management plans. The EM or designate will be responsible for reporting non-compliance to the CM and EPCM contractor, other contractors, and regulatory agencies, where required. The EM or designate will have the authority to stop any construction activity that is deemed to pose a risk to the environment; work will only proceed when the identified risk and concern have been addressed and rectified.

Environmental management during operation of the Project will be integrated under the direction of the EM, who will liaise closely with Departmental Managers and will report directly to the Mine Manager. The EM will be supported by the VP of Environment and Social Responsibility to provide an effective and integrated approach to environmental management and ensure adherence to corporate environmental standards. The EM will be accountable for implementing the approved management plans and reviewing them periodically for effectiveness. Departmental area managers (e.g., mining, milling, and plant/site services) will be directly responsible for implementation of the EMS, management plans, and standard operating procedures relevant to their areas. All employees and contractors are responsible for daily implementation of the practices and policies contained in the EMS.

During closure and post-closure staffing levels will be reduced to align with the level of activity associated with these phases. Prior to initiating closure activities, BW Gold will revisit environmental and health and safety roles and responsibilities to ensure the site is adequately resourced to meet permit monitoring and reporting. The Mine Manager will maintain overall responsibility for management of closure and post-closure activities.

Pursuant to Condition 19 of the EAC #M19-01, BW Gold has established an Environmental Life of Mine Committee (ELoMC) to facilitate information sharing and provide advice on the development and operation of the Project, and the implementation of EAC conditions, in a coordinated and collaborative manner. Committee members include representatives of the BC EAO, UFN, LDN, NWFN, StFN, SFN, NFN, BC EMLI, BC ENV, and BC Ministry of Forests (MOF).



Pursuant to Condition 17 of the EAC #M19-01, Aboriginal Group Monitor and Monitoring Plan, BW Gold will retain or provide funding to retain a monitor for each Aboriginal Group defined in the EAC #M19-01 prior to commencing construction and through all phases of the mine life.

## 1.3 Compliance Obligations and Related Documents

### 1.3.1 Legislation and Regulations

Provincial legislation applicable to the TDSTP includes:

- *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2019;*
- *Mines Act, 1996;*
- *Health Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC, 2024;*
- *Code Guidance – Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia – Part 10 – Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF) and Dams, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, June 2024; and*
- *Environmental Assessment Act, 2018.*

### 1.3.2 Canadian and International Governance Standards

BW Gold is currently initiating a review of various Canadian and international governance standards with the goal of selecting a standard that BW Gold will commit to.

Within 1 year of the approval of the TSDTP and during the subsequent normal course update of the plan, BW Gold will reference the Canadian or international governance standard that it has committed to adhere to in the TDSTP (noting that as or if standards change or merge, BW Gold will not be considered out of compliance so long as the company adheres to another Canadian or international governance standard and a reasonable amount of time is provided in order for BW Gold to do so).

As part of the update, BW Gold will review and update other elements of the TDSTP as required for conformance to the selected Canadian or international governance standard and TDSTP requirements as set out in the condition.

### 1.3.3 Related Environmental Assessment Certificate, Federal Decision Statement Conditions, and Permitting Requirements

The TDSTP addresses EAC Condition 35, which requires the plan to set out how BW Gold will provide information to EMPR (EMLI), ENV, EAO and Aboriginal Groups regarding tailings dam safety. Aboriginal Groups is a defined term within the EAC and includes LDN, UFN, NWFN, SFN, StFN and NFN.

Related or plans with direct linkages to this plan include the:

- Aboriginal Group Monitor and Monitoring Plan (EAC Condition 17)

There are a number of related M-246 requirements, which are listed in Table 2.1.

## 2 Reports, Reviews, Inspections and Meetings

This section of the TDSTP:

- Identifies and describes the types of reports, reviews, inspections and meetings pertaining to tailings dam safety that are produced, undertaken or held by BW Gold;
- Provides the frequency and anticipated timing for the materials and activities identified in the first point; and
- Sets out how and when the information in the first point will be provided to Aboriginal Groups in a timely manner.

This information is set out in Table 2.1 below. BW Gold has attempted to align the reporting, reviews, inspections and meetings required by Condition 35 with the requirements of M-246, and HSRC to streamline reporting and reviews for all parties. BW Gold notes that EMLI has released 'Code Guidance – Part 10 – Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF) and Dams, June 2024' which provides guidance on application of the HSRC and to assist operations in understanding and complying with the HSRC. Where the HSRC is referenced in Table 2.1, BW Gold will be using the Code Guidance document (or as amended from time to time) to guide its activities. Note that one or more of the reports may be combined and submitted as one report package.

BW Gold will provide the reports and reviews to Aboriginal Groups in accordance with Table 2.1 unless otherwise requested by the Chief Permitting Officer or Chief Inspector. This is consistent with M-246 Condition A.8.

BW Gold is required to produce a number of other documents related to tailings dams. These documents are listed below for completeness as requested by reviewers, but are not subject to the requirements of the TDSTP because (1) they are not directly related to tailings dam safety and (2) there are pre-existing regulatory mechanisms requiring engagement with Aboriginal groups; adding additional requirements by way of this TDSTP would add administrative burden without improving transparency. These documents are listed below (along with the applicable regulatory requirement):

- TSF-C Detailed Design Report (M-246, Condition B.4(a)(iii))
  - M-246 requires this report to be provided 6 months prior to commencing foundation preparation or construction of TSF-C dams above an elevation of 1283 masl
- TSF-D Detailed Design Report (M-246, Condition B.4(a)(iv))
  - M-246 requires this report to be provided 6 months prior to commencing foundation preparation or construction of TSF-C dams above an elevation of 1283 masl
- TSF IFC designs, specifications, and QA/QC plans (M-246, Condition B.4.a.(vi))
  - M-246 requires this to be provided at least 30 days prior to commencing foundation preparation or construction
- BW Gold will provide an update on the anticipated timing for the three reports listed above annually at an ELoMC meeting.
- Finally, information regarding Quantifiable Performance Objectives (QPOs) and Trigger-Action Response Plans (TARPs) was provided in the TSF-Detailed Design Report, which was a part of the Mines Act permitting process, and will be provided in future in the following documents:
- TSF-C Detailed Design Report (M-246, Condition B.4(a)(iii))
- TSF-D Detailed Design Report (M-246, Condition B.4(a)(iv))

- Tailings Dam Safety Inspection (DSI) report (summary of how the facility is performing against QPOs; Table 2.1, report #1)
- Tailings Dam Independent Third-Party Review Report (will include a third-party review of QPOs and TARPs; Table 2.1, report #3)

Table 2.1: Reports, reviews, inspections, and meetings

#	Document/Engagement Type	Frequency and Timing	How and When Information will be Provided to Aboriginal Groups
<b>Reports and Reviews</b>			
1	Tailings Dam Safety Inspection (DSI) report (M-246, B.4(c)(i) and HSRC section 10.4.4(b))	Annually until no longer required by M-246 or HSRC; March 31	Via email on same timing and frequency
2	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Tailings Dam (M-246, B.4(c)(iv))	Once; prior to the tailings dam impounding water and/or tailings	Via email on same timing and frequency
3	Tailings Dam Independent Third-Party Review Report (M-246, B.4.(c)(vi))	Once; September 1, 2024	Via email on same timing and frequency
4	EoR Response Report (response to Report #3) (M-246, B.4.(c)(vii))	Once; September 1, 2024	Via email on same timing and frequency
5	EoR Response Report (M-246, B.4(c)(viii))	Once; at the time the TSF-C Detailed Design Report required by M-246, B.4.(a)(iii) is provided	Via email on same timing and frequency
6	EoR Response Report (M-246, B.4.(c)(viii))	Once; at the time the TSF-D Detailed Design Report required by M-246, B.4.(a)(iv) is provided	Via email on same timing and frequency
7	Tailings Dam Breach and Inundation Study Report (M-246, B.4.(c)(ix))	Once; prior to commencing operation of TSF-C	Via email on same timing and frequency
8	Report of the activities of the Independent Tailings Review Board (ITRB) established under section 10.4.2(1)(c) of the HSRC	Annually as required by HSRC	BW Gold has agreements with Aboriginal Groups that include sharing information from the ITRB. These agreements are confidential among the parties, and as such not disclosed in this Plan.  BW Gold will disclose ITRB information to Aboriginal Groups if required in accordance with those confidential agreements.
9	Dam Safety Review (DSR) report (M-246, B.4(c)(ii) and HSRC section 10.6.2(1))	BW Gold will engage Aboriginal Groups to identify if interested in receiving document 9 (HSRC 10.6.2(5)(a)); if interest expressed, document will be provided at the frequency set out in Table 10-6 of the HSRC; document will be provided by June 1 of the year following the year the report is required to be prepared (HSRC section 10.6.2(4)(a)).	Via email on same timing and frequency
<b>Inspections</b>			
1	Tailings Dam Safety Inspection (HSRC section 10.5.3)	Annually until no longer required by M-246 or HSRC; timing to be communicated annually to Aboriginal Groups, EMLI, and ENV.	BW Gold will disclose the inspection, if required, in accordance with its confidential agreements in place with Aboriginal Groups.
<b>Meetings</b>			
1	Independent Tailings Review Board Meetings	See column to right.	BW Gold has agreements with Aboriginal Groups in regards to sharing information regarding the ITRB. These agreements are confidential among the parties, and as such not disclosed in this Plan.  BW Gold will disclose ITRB information to Aboriginal Groups if required in accordance with its confidential agreements.
2	Meeting on Tailings DSI report (Report #1 above)	BW Gold will make an offer to hold a meeting within 60 days of providing report #1.	If a meeting offer is accepted by one or more Aboriginal Groups, a meeting will be scheduled at a mutually agreed time.  BW Gold will provide verbal summaries of material updates or changes to any of the reports listed in Table 2.1 during Meeting #2 if requested by Aboriginal Groups.

### **3 Aboriginal Group Monitor Participation**

Condition 17 requires BW Gold to develop a plan regarding Aboriginal Group Monitors (AGMs). BW Gold will invite AGMs to participate in meetings or inspections in accordance with the requirements of agreements between BW Gold and Aboriginal Groups.

### **4 Annual Report and Meeting**

#### **4.1 Annual Report**

An annual Tailings Dam Inspection Report (Report #1 in Table 2.1) will be prepared by a Qualified Professional and will be provided to EAO, ENV, EMLI and Aboriginal Groups on dam safety, including changes to the status of the tailings dam and the status of ongoing investigations or actions being undertaken to address any safety issues. A summary written for a lay audience will be provided at the same time. This report will be provided in accordance with the frequency and timing set out in Table 2.1 and will be provided by email to all parties, with the exception of EMLI where the document will be uploaded to MineSpace.

#### **4.2 Annual Meeting**

BW Gold will make an offer to hold an annual tailings dam safety meeting (Meeting #2 in Table 2.1) with Aboriginal Groups and EMLI within 60 days of providing the annual Tailings Dam Inspection Report (i.e., within 60 days of March 31). If the offer to hold the meeting is accepted by one or more of the Aboriginal Groups or EMLI, the meeting would be scheduled for a mutually agreed time. The meeting would be held virtually unless otherwise agreed to by BW Gold.

### **5 Schedule for Plan Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring**

BW Gold will implement this plan at the commencement of Operations, or upon approval of the plan by EAO (whichever comes first), unless otherwise directed by EAO. In accordance with EAC condition 35, the Plan will be implemented throughout construction (following approval by EAO as noted above), operations, closure and post closure, and following post-closure, or as otherwise directed by the EAO.

As this Plan has no proposed mitigation measures, no provisions for effectiveness monitoring of mitigation measures are required. That said, BW Gold will annually offer to add to the agenda of an existing meeting (e.g., ELoMC Meeting), an opportunity to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the TDSTP. Following a scheduled discussion on the effectiveness of the plan, BW Gold will accept written comments on the plan. BW Gold will respond to any written comments on the effectiveness of the plan in writing. If BW Gold determines that the comments require updates to the plan, the plan revision process in Section 6 will be followed.

Annual reporting on the implementation of this Plan will be in accordance with EAC Condition 5 (Compliance Verification and Reporting). Condition 5 requires that the Holder submit a report to the attention of the EAO and Aboriginal Groups on the status of compliance with this Certificate at the following times:

- a) at least 30 days prior to the start of Construction;
- b) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Construction;



- c) at least 30 days prior to the start of Operations;
- d) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Operations
- e) at least 30 days prior to the start of Closure;
- f) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Closure until the end of Closure;
- g) at least 30 days prior to the start of Post-Closure; and
- h) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Post-Closure until the end of Post-Closure

As the plan will be implemented starting at the commencement of operations, or upon approval of the plan by EAO (whichever comes first), the first reporting on plan implementation pursuant to EAC Condition 5 will be on or before the first March 31 following the commencement of operations. The report will be provided via email to EAO and Aboriginal Groups.

## 6 Plan Revision

As there are no provisions for effectiveness monitoring of mitigation measures in the TDSTP, updates to this document will occur as needed or considered in response to requests from Aboriginal Groups (defined in the EAC), EMLI, ENV and/or EAO. Additionally, the TDSTP may also be revised if deemed necessary following receipt of written comments by way of the effectiveness monitoring steps in Section 5. This plan is a living document and feedback from the parties and/or changes/evolution through the project lifecycle may lead to changes to the TDSTP.

Changes will be documented via a change log document including rationale for changes, which will be provided at the same time as submission of the revised TDSTP, unless otherwise communicated. As required by EAC #M19-01 Condition 35, the plan and any amendments thereto will be implemented by a Qualified Professional throughout construction, operations, closure, post-closure, and following post-closure, or as otherwise authorized by the EAO, and to the satisfaction of the EAO. Reviewers are invited to share and direct any comments, questions or concerns regarding plan revisions through the ELoMC or Aboriginal Group-specific tables as prescribed by agreements.

## 7 References

Definitions of the acronyms and abbreviations used in this reference list can be found in the Acronyms and Abbreviations section.

### Legislation

*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SBC 2019, c. 44.

*Environmental Assessment Act*, SBC 2018, c. 51

*Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia*, 2024.

*Mines Act*, RSBC 1996 c. 293.

*Code Guidance – Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia – Part 10 – Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF) and Dams*, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, June 2024.

### Secondary

BC EAO. 2019a. Assessment Report for Blackwater Gold Mine Project (Blackwater) With respect to the Application by New Gold Inc. for an Environmental Assessment Certificate Pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act, S.B.C. 2002, c. 43. Prepared by the Environmental Assessment Office. May 17, 2029.

BC EAO. 2019b. In the matter of the ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT S.B.C. 2002, c. 43 (the Act) and in the matter of an Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate (Application) by New Gold Inc. (Proponent) for the Blackwater Gold Project Environmental Assessment Certificate # M19-01.

CEA Agency. 2019. Decision Statement Issued under Section 54 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012. April 15, 2019.

Mining Association of Canada (MAC), 2024. Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM). <https://mining.ca/towards-sustainable-mining/>

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# **Appendix A Concordance with Environmental Assessment Certificate #M19-01 (June 21, 2019)**

Condition	Description	Location in Plan
2 Plan Development	<p>Where a condition of this Certificate requires the Holder to develop a plan, program or other document, any such plan, program or other document must, at a minimum, include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) purpose and objectives of the plan, program or other document;</li> <li>b) roles and responsibilities of the Holder and Employees;</li> <li>c) names and, if applicable, professional certifications and professional stamps/seals, of those responsible for the preparation of the plan, program, or other document;</li> <li>d) schedule for implementing the plan, program or other document throughout the relevant Project phases;</li> <li>e) means by which the effectiveness of the mitigation measures will be evaluated including the schedule for evaluating effectiveness;</li> <li>g) schedules and methods for the submission of reporting to specific agencies, Aboriginal Groups and the public and the required form and content of those reports; and process and timing for updating and revising the plan, program or other document, including any consultation with agencies and Aboriginal Groups that would occur in connection with such updates and revisions.</li> </ul>	Sections 1.1, 1.2, 3, 4, 5
5 Compliance Verification and Reporting	<p>The Holder must provide to the EAO and to the Aboriginal Groups any document, data or information requested by the EAO for the purposes of compliance inspection and verification. The Holder must provide any document, data or information requested within the timeframe and in the manner specified by the EAO.</p> <p>The Holder must submit a report to the attention of the EAO and Aboriginal Groups on the status of compliance with this Certificate at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) at least 30 days prior to the start of Construction;</li> <li>b) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Construction</li> <li>c) at least 30 days prior to the start of Operations;</li> <li>d) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Operations;</li> <li>e) at least 30 days prior to the start of Closure;</li> <li>f) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Closure until the end of Closure;</li> <li>g) at least 30 days prior to the start of Post-closure; and</li> <li>h) on or before March 31 in each year after the start of Post-closure until the end of Post-closure.</li> </ul> <p>The reports must be in a form satisfactory to the EAO. The EAO may adjust or extend this reporting requirement by providing written notice to the Holder.</p>	Section 5
35 Tailings Dam Safety Transparency Plan	<p>The Holder develop a Tailings Dam Safety Transparency Plan. The plan must be developed in consultation with EMPR, ENV, and Aboriginal Groups.</p> <p>The plan must include at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the identification and description of all types of reports, reviews, inspections and meetings pertaining to tailings dam safety that are produced, undertaken or held by the Holder;</li> <li>b) the frequency and anticipated timing for the materials and activities identified in paragraph a);</li> <li>c) how and when the information in paragraph a) will be provided to Aboriginal Groups in a timely manner;</li> <li>d) a description of how the Holder will invite the Aboriginal Groups' monitors (AGMs) identified in Condition 17 and other Aboriginal Group representatives to be included in the Holder's meetings and site inspections pertaining to tailings dam safety;</li> <li>d) the provision of an annual report, developed by a Qualified Professional, to the EAO, ENV, EMPR and Aboriginal Groups on dam safety, including changes to the status of the tailings dam and the status of ongoing investigations or actions being taken to address any safety issues. The report must include a summary written for a lay audience; and</li> <li>e) the provision of and timing for offering an annual dam safety meeting with Aboriginal Groups and EMPR.</li> </ul>	<p>Table 2.1</p> <p>Table 2.1</p> <p>Table 2.1</p> <p>Section 3</p> <p>Section 4.1</p> <p>Section 4.2</p>
35 Tailings Dam Safety Transparency Plan (cont'd)	<p>The Holder must provide the draft plan that was developed in consultation with EMPR, ENV, and Aboriginal Groups to EMPR, ENV, Aboriginal Groups and the EAO for review a minimum of 60 days prior to the planned commencement of Construction or as listed in the Document Submission Schedule required by Condition 10 of this Certificate.</p> <p>The plan, and any amendments thereto, must be implemented by a Qualified Professional throughout Construction, Operations, Closure, Post-Closure, and following Post-Closure, or as otherwise authorized by the EAO, and to the satisfaction of the EAO.</p>	<p>Procedural step which will not be documented in plan</p> <p>Plan revision process language included in Section 6.</p>