



Do the BC Liberals really support Families, Economic Development and Job Creation?

The final draft of the Environmental Assessment report of the EAO concluded that there are no significant adverse effects caused by the Morrison Project that cannot be mitigated.

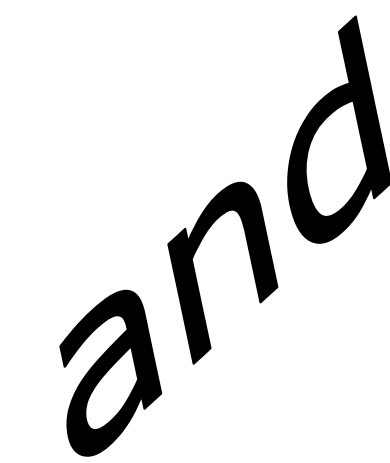


Executive Director of the EAO, **Derek Sturko**
Appointed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture on Oct 2, 2012

"I recommend that an Environmental Assessment Certificate not be issued in connection with its application for the Morrison Copper/Gold Mine Project."



Rich Coleman
Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing and Deputy Premier



Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

refused to issue an Environmental Assessment certificate for Morrison Copper/Gold Project in spite of the Environmental Assessment report concluding that: There are no significant adverse effects; First Nations consulted and accommodated appropriately; Adequately and reasonably addressed all the issues raised by government agencies, First Nations and the public. Draft Federal Comprehensive Study report concluding that there are no significant adverse effects. Assessment supported by an EAO commissioned independent 3rd Party Review.

Effects on Families, Jobs and Economic Development

Loss of 1,117 jobs: Loss of \$893.5 million in tax revenue to the Crown; Loss of \$1,258 million in GDP (Gross Domestic Product). 1,100+ shareholders suffer approximately \$120 million loss of invested funds and potential returns. These losses impacted many individual investors and their families, forcing some seniors to defer their retirement. Loss of jobs and opportunity for First Nations to including funds that would be received from the resource revenue.

Approval of the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan
(Morrison Project is located within the LRMF)

MAY - 1 2007

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Honourable Rich Coleman
Minister of Forests and Range

Honourable Richard Neufeld
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Honourable Kevin Krueger
Minister of State for Mining

Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment

Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Honourable Stan Hagen
Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of Cabinet, I am pleased to confirm the approval of the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), and convey it to all participating ministries for implementation. The Skeena Region Managers Committee is responsible for co-ordinating implementation activities.

This document will assist government agencies by providing policy direction on the management of important land and resources in the Morice LRMF area, and provide direction for the establishment of landscape level legal objectives. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau – Skeena Region, is now responsible for ensuring that the Morice LRMF is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

I wish to thank members of the Morice LRMF planning table and provincial agency representatives for their considerable dedication and effort in developing this plan for the management of land and resources in the Morice LRMF area. The ability of participants to work together to achieve consensus on land and resource management is a significant achievement. We encourage planning table members to continue to participate in plan monitoring and implementation processes, as identified in the plan.

Government-to-government discussions with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Lake Babine Nation, Haida's Hereditary Chiefs, and Y'ekonche First Nation have enriched the Morice LRMF through the inclusion of traditional and cultural information and perspectives in the Morice LRMF area. I would like to commend the achievement of these partnerships in creating a new relationship between First Nations and the Province which will form the basis for implementing the Morice LRMF.

Yours truly,

Pat Bell
Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Letter of Commitments for CEAA

PACIFIC BOOKER MINERALS INC.
#1103 - 1166 Alberni Street Vancouver, BC V6E 3Z3
Telephone: (604) 681-8556 Toll Free: 1-800-747-9911 Fax: (604) 687-5329
mail: info@pacificbooker.com Symbols: bkm:tsx venture / pjm:NYSE MKT Website: pacificbooker.com

September 20, 2012

Robyn McLean
Project Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
410-701 West Georgia St
Vancouver BC V6V 1G8

Re: Morrison Copper-Gold Mine Project, Pacific Booker Minerals Compliance with Table of Commitments and Follow-up Program Requirements under CEAA

This letter is intended to respond to the request made by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to state categorically that Pacific Booker Minerals Inc. will comply with the environmental related commitments summarized in the Table of Commitments (Comprehensive Study Report, Appendix E). The Table of Commitments summarizes commitments made by Pacific Booker Minerals, through various environmental assessment and consultation activities to date related to the Morrison Copper-Gold Mine Project.

This letter is also intended to state categorically that Pacific Booker Minerals will undertake the Follow-up Program under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act as specified in Section 9 of the Comprehensive Study Report prepared for the Morrison Copper-Gold Mine Project.

Sincerely,
Sturko
Derek Sturko
Associate Deputy Minister and Executive Director
Environmental Assessment Office

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Received in July 2013 from unknown source, an envelope containing a revised Recommendations document
(Envelope and final page of document shown Full document online at <http://www.pacificbooker.com/pdf/AffidavitTorquist.pdf>)

130714 03-19 6212

Erik Torquist
Pacific Booker Minerals Inc.
1103-1166 Alberni St.
Vancouver, BC
V6E 3Z3

RECOMMENDATION:
The Executive Director recommends that an Environmental Assessment Certificate be issued to Pacific Booker Minerals Inc. for the Morrison Copper-Gold Mine Project on terms and conditions that require Pacific Booker Minerals Inc. to comply with all design and mitigation conditions set out in the attachments to the proposed Certificate.

OR 2222
I recommend Ministers consider, in addition to the Assessment Report prepared by my delegate which indicated no potential for significant adverse effects, and that First Nations had been consulted and accommodated appropriately, the following factors when making a decision to assess the project for more information:

- The long term value of this project particularly as it relates to provincial policy on MILDARD prevention.
- The financial liability to the Province should the project be approved.
- The Province be unable to resource long term closure plans.
- Use of the dilution capacity of Morrison Lake as the primary mitigation for the long term discharge of mine effluent.
- The proximity of the project to a highly valued population of sockeye salmon used by First Nations.
- Views of the Gitksan and Ojicwan Nations and the Lake Babine Nation.
- The strength of claim of the Lake Babine Nation in particular their moderate to strong prima facie case for Aboriginal title.
- The economic benefits to the Province, including tax revenue and job creation.

Submitted by:

Derek Sturko
Associate Deputy Minister and Executive Director
Environmental Assessment Office

MLA letter to MoE disclosed in Freedom of Information request

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Fax: 250-266-6471
website: www.parliament.ca

130714 03-19 6212

December 4, 2013

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC

Dear Minister Polak:

Re: Morrison Mines and Core Review of EAO

My constituent owns shares in Pacific Booker which is/was the proponent of the Morrison Mines Project which passed, it appears, environmental review but was rejected by the Minister or Ministers of the day.

This project has continued to be raised by my contacts in the mining exploration/development industry as an inoperable decision.

When he came to see me about this matter, I forewarned my constituent that since this issue is before the courts – and the topic of another Globe and Mail story by Justine Huron today – I am unable to get into the middle of any legal dispute, nor express any opinion on merits pro or con, and I think he understands that, and is furthermore not, it appears, actually involved with the company itself, but merely a concerned bystander.

Based on the information and points he made to me, and without any attempt by myself to verify or challenge his perceptions, the following are some tentative private conclusions which should perhaps guide the process of mine permitting in the future.

- It appears that this project particular passed environmental muster, but was rejected nevertheless. It seems to me the grounds for rejection were never made clear, although it was reported to the press that it was for "environmental reasons." It has been suggested to me that Minister Lake apparently told CTV that this project was something "on the other side of the moon" which, if true, seems not to have been a very professional characterization. Further comments from two senior politicians were to the effect that the company proposing the project was "tiny".
- As one of the EAO officers remarked in the telephone briefing you offered to private members several days ago, the mistaken impression is abroad that once a project passes EAO,

and subject to subsequent multitude mine permits (the granting of environmental certificate apparently being reasonable grounds for assuming that permits are obtainable), then the mine is a "go" – which is manifestly not the case. I emphasized the contrary reality to my constituent. The Government has the last word.

3. Clearly, what has been lost in the translation is the reality, reportedly repeated again by Crown Counsel to the judge in the current court action, that "the government can do anything it wants" (famous quote of NDP Forest Minister David Dzinhelt in the 1990's). So your ministry has a further education task to fulfill; to instruct the mine exploration and development community that EAO is not the end of the trail, but only part way down the beginning of the trail.

4. If the fundamental reason Pacific Booker was rejected was the fact that it was "tiny" I think many of the hundreds of junior mining folks showing up for the AME Roundup Conference this coming January would find that news disturbing. But it seems that is what some of us said!

5. If the fundamental reason Pacific Booker was rejected was lack of confidence in the capacity of the organization to implement the plan presented for EAO screening, then I can understand that, but it seems to me that your ministry has an obligation to inform the exploration and development industry that "corporate capacity" and I suppose as well "corporate track record" will be an explicit box needed to be checked before the green light for further permitting will be given by the Minister. And prospectors and developers need to be informed of this reality.

6. In my view, it is a reasonable reality. It might lead, for example, to transfer of project ownership to stronger hands.

7. But if a project is declined due to lack of confidence in the ability of an organization to live up to the environmental plan, however excellent it may be, we should be brave enough to say that, clearly.

Assuming that the court case has cleared the docket, the upcoming Roundup Conference might offer a suitable platform for the government to make these points.

Yours truly,
Joseph
Ralph Sultan, MLA
West Vancouver-Capilano
cc: Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines

More comments from News Media sources

B.C. Liberals stain their 'mining-friendly' reputation
Vaughn Palmer: Vancouver Sun columnist January 7, 2014

Morrison Lake: copper mine or political football?
By Nelson Bennett | May 3, 2016.

Rejection raises serious miner concerns about Victoria's resource development system

The chief of the Lake Babine Nation is warning the B.C. government that its support for a natural gas pipeline for the Pacific NorthWest LNG project could be in jeopardy if the province does not stick to its guns in rejecting a proposed open-pit copper-gold mine next to Morrison Lake. But the provincial government has already had its knuckles rapped by the courts for the way it has treated Pacific Booker Minerals Inc. (TSX-V:BKM), which has been trying to get its Morrison Lake copper-gold mine approved since 2002. Pacific Booker recently applied to have its mineral lease at Morrison Lake converted to a mining lease, which triggered the band's warning to the government against approving the project. The province's handling of the \$512 million project raises serious questions about B.C.'s environmental review process because it suggests that even projects that meet all criteria can be rejected for reasons other than environmental concerns. On October 1, 2012, former B.C. environment minister Terry Lake denied an environmental certificate for the company's Morrison Lake copper-gold mine. Pacific Booker's stock dropped 67%, from \$14.95 to \$4.95, in a single day on October 2, 2012, erasing \$140 million in market capitalization. It now trades below \$1 per share. Pacific Booker challenged the decision in court in April 2013. Around the time it began its court action, an anonymous whistleblower provided the company with a report from the associate deputy minister for the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). It differed from the one that was publicly released and that formed the basis for a final recommendation. Based solely on environmental considerations, the EAO found no problem with the mine plan and made a positive recommendation. But the EAO official recommended the project be rejected, contrary to the assessment's findings. The leaked document was used in the company's court case. The BC Supreme Court found that "the process employed for applying for a certificate in this instance was fundamentally unfair." It ordered the EAO recommendation be sent back to cabinet ministers for reconsideration. Last summer, Environment Minister Mary Polak and Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett again decided against issuing an environmental certificate, and the company was asked to go through a supplemental application information requirements process. Pacific Booker CEO John Plourde said that is tantamount to "go and start over again." Plourde has a seven-foot-high stack of documentation to prove that his company has done everything it was asked to do as part of the EAO process, which was supposed to take 180 days but took 794 and cost the company \$10 million. According to the leaked document Pacific Booker obtained, although former EAO associate deputy minister Derek Sturko had recommended the project based solely on environmental issues, he added other points for consideration, including the views of three First Nations and, in particular, Lake Babine Nation's aboriginal title claim, which Sturko judged to be "moderate to strong." In other words, he appeared to be cautioning the government against triggering a potentially successful aboriginal title claim. The company initially had a memorandum of understanding with the Lake Babine Nation. Plourde believes some of the nation's leaders support the project, but said there is division within the community. Lake Babine Nation Chief Wilf Adam last week warned the provincial government that approving the mine might jeopardize its co-operation on other projects, including the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission line, which would feed the \$36 billion Petronas Pacific NorthWest LNG project. "If they overturn or change their decision in favour of PBM (Pacific Booker Minerals) to start this mine, then all gloves are off – and any agreement we made with the province," Adam told Business in Vancouver. "They made the proper decision in the first place. If they change their tune on that, then it's a different ball game. We're not against mining or any big projects within our territories," Adam added. "It just has to be done right." The question now, for Pacific Booker, is who gets to decide what "right" means: the B.C. government or Lake Babine Nation. If it ever gets approved and financed, the Morrison Lake project would produce an estimated 3000 tonnes of ore per day with a mine life of 21 years. The company estimates recoverable metals to be 625,000 tonnes of copper, 25 tonnes of gold and 4,559 tonnes of molybdenum.