



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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2nd Federal Panel gets it right again: Proposed New Prosperity Mine, an environmental and cultural disaster in the waiting

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – The First Nations Summit is once again urging the federal government to immediately reject Taseko Mining Limited (Taseko) Prosperity Mine Proposal as a result of the findings contained in the second federal environmental review panel report released October 31st, which finds the potential for devastating cultural and environmental impacts could result from the proposed mine.

“The second environmental review panel has clearly supported the findings of the first panel; that there would be significant adverse environmental and cultural effects as a direct result of the proposed Prosperity Mine. Clearly this report should provide the federal government the necessary evidence to immediately reject, yet again, Taseko’s Prosperity Mine proposal”, said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit political executive.

The second Federal Review Panel extensively reviewed Taseko’s revised proposal for the \$800 million Prosperity gold-copper mine near Williams Lake, BC, which attempted to mitigate some of the concerns raised in the first federal panel report released in July 2010.

The second Environmental Review Panel confirmed the findings of the initial panel by concluding:

“the New Prosperity Project would result in several significant adverse environmental effects; the key ones being effects on water quality in Fish Lake (Teztan Biny), on fish and fish habitat in Fish Lake, on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by certain Aboriginal groups, and on their cultural heritage. The Panel also concludes there would be a significant adverse cumulative effect on the South Chilcotin grizzly bear population, unless necessary cumulative effects mitigation measures are effectively implemented”.

“We will continue to support and stand with the Tsilhqot’in and Secwepemc Nations who have fought to protect their traditional territories and cultures from the clear threat that this project represents”, said FNS political executive member Robert Phillips.

“Minister Aglukkaq must make a similar conclusion as previous Minister of Environment Jim Prentice, that, based on the scathing and damning findings in the environmental review panel report, this project should be considered, once and for all, dead in the water”, added Phillips.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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