

From: kearneygraphitemine [mailto:kearneygraphitemine@stantec.com]

Sent: September-29-11 4:11 PM

Subject: Notice of Study Commencement of an Environmental Screening under the Environmental Assessment Act - Kearney Graphite Mine Power Supply

Good afternoon,

Ontario Graphite Limited is undertaking an Environmental Screening (as required under Ontario Regulation 116/01 of the Environmental Assessment Act) for the proposed installation of three diesel generators with a total nameplate capacity of approximately 4.0 MW at the Kearney Graphite Mine (the Project). The Kearney Graphite Mine is located approximately 12 kilometres north of the town centre of Kearney and 4 kilometres west of Algonquin Provincial Park.

The Mine previously operated during the period from 1989 to 1994, and has been in a State of Temporary Suspension since then. It has had several ownership changes until the current firm, Ontario Graphite Limited, acquired the Kearney Graphite Mine in 2006. Ontario Graphite Limited has conducted ongoing maintenance activities and environmental monitoring at the mine site since 2006. Ontario Graphite Limited proposes to re-start production at the Kearney Graphite Mine within the next two years and operate the Mine for six to seven years.

As it did in past, the re-activated Kearney Graphite Mine will produce flake graphite, a valuable mineral product used in refractory materials, powder metallurgy, flame retardants, catalysts, and battery anodes and in brake pads, fuel cells, and advanced composites. This Environmental Screening is being undertaken in order for the Kearney Graphite Mine to have a reliable power supply. Although the Kearney Graphite Mine was operational in the past, components necessary to supply power for mining operations were removed in 1994 when the Kearney Graphite Mine entered into a State of Temporary Suspension. The installation of three diesel generators with a total nameplate capacity of approximately 4.0 MW will generate the energy required to operate the Kearney Graphite Mine for the anticipated operational period of six or seven years.

Given the Kearney Graphite Mine is a brownfield site and based on the nature of the surrounding land uses, we do not anticipate significant environmental impacts from the diesel generators on climate, bedrock, groundwater/soils, aquatic habitats and fisheries, vegetation, wildlife, air quality, noise/social impacts and heritage resources. However, we are interested in any feedback you may have on the proposed installation of the three diesel generators.

The Process

The Project is subject to a Category B screening-level assessment as outlined in the Ministry of the Environment's Environmental Screening Process for electricity projects, as set out in its "Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects" (January 2011).

The environmental study will assess the potential impact of the installation of the diesel generators on the bio-physical and socio-economic environment. The purpose of this letter and the attached Notice of Study Commencement is to bring to your attention that an Environmental Screening Report is under preparation and will be available for your review and comment in the near future.

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Request for Comment and Information

You are invited to provide comments on the proposed study, and/or to ask to be placed on the Power Supply Project's mailing list. In order to further the consultation process, we are requesting submissions outlining any comments, concerns or additional information that you may have regarding the proposed Power Supply Project. Submissions may be in reference to any facet of the Project including, for instance, potential impacts to:

- Surface and Ground Water
- Natural Environment
- Air Quality and Noise
- Resources
- Socio-Economic Features
- Heritage and Culture
- Aboriginal Communities
- Land Uses
- Residential/Community Facilities

After completion of the assessment of potential impacts, an Environmental Screening Report will be prepared and made available for a 30-day public review period. The public and other stakeholders will be notified of this review opportunity at the appropriate time through a newspaper advertisement.

Comments and information regarding this Project are being collected to assist the Project Team in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Any comments received will be maintained for reference and will become part of the public record. Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.

Comments, information requests or questions, including a request to be placed on the mailing list for the Project, may be directed to:

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Sincerely,

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