

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tannery Bay is located along the south shore of the St. Mary's River upstream of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. Tannery Bay is within one of the 31 U.S. Areas of Concern (AOC) within the St. Mary's Remedial Action Plan. The Site is also defined by the USEPA to be part of the Cannelton Superfund Site.

In 1999, an EPA-approved Remedial Action was implemented at the Cannelton Site, which included shoreline stabilization, site regrading, impacted (source) soils removal, and off-Site disposal. The Site is currently being monitored.

The proposed removal and off-Site disposal of the impacted sediments within Tannery Bay and two mercury-impacted 'hotspot' sediment areas located within the Tannery Point Wetlands would be completed as a voluntary action by Phelps Dodge Corporation (PDC), and would accelerate improvements to the St. Mary's River. The implementation of the project would improve public/stakeholder confidence in quality of the St. Mary's River, and the management of historical impact within Tannery Bay and the Wetlands.

PDC's proposed approach, conditional on funding by this application, of sediment removal within Tannery Bay and 'hotspot' removal within the Wetland, represents a direct "on-the-ground" remediation project, which will remove a potential source of heavy metals within an U.S. AOC, and provide permanent restoration of the sediments. Various public stakeholders, which include the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC), have expressed preference for removal of the sediments. The project implementation will also facilitate the appropriate use and redevelopment of the Site and local resources.

PDC is making available and voluntarily committing the minimum 35 percent non-federal match of the total project costs, and 100 percent of the future operation and maintenance costs as a measure to further improve the environmental conditions at the Site.