Knight Piésold CONSULTING

Going further together

Environmental and Permitting Support

The development of defensible environmental and social impact assessments is a requirement for mining projects across global jurisdictions. It is the foundation of the project approval process and the basis of review with governments, financing institutions, Indigenous peoples, and communities.

Our integrated environmental and engineering professionals provide clients with environmental services throughout all stages of the mine life cycle, from exploration through to operation and closure.

We have the technical capabilities to undertake full environmental baseline studies, environmental management plans, environmental and social impact assessments, social studies and community engagement, and permitting for all types of resource developments. These studies are integral to the ESG standards of the projects we serve.

We use a multidisciplinary approach with teams drawn from the company's technical staff supported by specialists in specific fields and geographic locations to undertake detailed studies of impacts of new projects throughout the world.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessments

Environmental Baseline Studies

Social Studies and Community Engagement

Environmental Analysis and Modelling

Environmental Management Plans and Monitoring

Environmental Auditing and Due Diligence

Environmental and Social Impact Assessments

The development of defensible environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) is a requirement for resource projects across global jurisdictions. It is the foundation of the project approval process and the basis of review with governments, financing institutions, Indigenous groups, and communities. The studies we undertake incorporate environmental and social mitigation measures to achieve project designs that maximize project benefits, reduce impacts, and achieve a fusion of development with environmental protection and sustainability.

Baseline Studies

We provide our clients with a full complement of technical specialists to conduct baseline and other studies in order to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the physical, chemical, biological, and social environment. These areas include air quality, climate, hydrology, hydrogeology, water quality, geochemistry, soil, flora and fauna, fisheries and aquatics, wetland assessment and delineations, and traditional use/knowledge studies.

Social Studies and Community Engagement

We work with our clients to foster meaningful engagement that satisfies public expectations, regulatory requirements, and lender requests, with due consideration of project realities. Our team of social specialists is highly experienced in the practical development and execution of social baseline investigations, socio-economic analysis, impact assessments, management systems, action plans, resettlement plans, and stakeholder consultation and engagement.

Environmental Analysis and Modelling

The synthesis of baseline and project design is incorporated in order to produce predictive models and assess mitigation measures to reduce impacts. In order to defensibly assess the potential impacts of a project, we employ a range of analytical tools. These include specialized software to model water quality and discharge parameters, conducting air quality and noise models that represent different phases of project development, and other model and analyses such as GIS-based assessment of physiography or landscape, including changes to aesthetics, habitat, and ecological function.

Environmental Management Plans and Monitoring

Environmental management plans (EMPs) provide a framework for dealing with risks to the environment and socio-economy during a project's life cycle. Our team develops EMPs to comply with legal or procedural requirements and assist with project acceptance by local communities and stakeholders. Effective monitoring of EMP implementation is a critical measure of success. We offer environmental and socio-economic parameter monitoring for all stages of a project life cycle, from pre-development through to post-closure.

Environmental Auditing and Due Diligence

Third-party audits of environmental and social programs can assist proponents to demonstrate regulatory compliance, eligibility for certification, and increased transparency for stakeholders. We offer clients specialized review and assessment of environmental and social performance. Similarly, clients that are contemplating investment in other projects benefit from our ability to conduct environmental and social due diligence on their behalf.

Permitting

Resource projects usually require numerous permits or licenses that allow the construction and operation to lawfully proceed. In many jurisdictions, these permits can be issued only after the project has successfully completed a review of an ESIA. Permit requirements rely on detailed engineering in order to specify environmental controls and comply with local laws and company commitments. Without a proper understanding of project engineering, permit application processes can be lengthy, with potentially serious consequences.

Knight Piésold's integrated expertise in regulatory requirements across global jurisdictions, coupled with our in-house engineering design capabilities allow us to offer a highly efficient permitting approach. We understand which permits are needed and when they are needed, and we provide well thought out permit packages.