# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE CANADA BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT, R.S.C. 1985 c. C-44, as amended

AND IN THE MATTER OF NORTH AMERICAN TUNGSTEN CORPORATION LTD.

**PETITIONER** 

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Name of applicant: Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc. (the "Monitor") in its capacity as Courtappointed Monitor of North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. ("NATC" or the "Petitioner")

To: The Service List

TAKE NOTICE that an application will be made by the Applicant to the Honourable Madame Justice Iyer at the courthouse at 800 Smithe Street, Vancouver, B.C. on March 30, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for the orders set out in Part 1 below.

### Part 1: ORDERS SOUGHT

- 1. An order substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule "A":
  - (a) extending the Stay Period, as defined in the Amended and Restated Initial Order made July 9, 2015 (the "ARIO") to April 30, 2022;
  - (b) directing Her Majesty in Right of Canada as represented by the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs ("DCIRNA") to fund the Company's expenditures as set out the Thirteenth Cash Flow Statement, as that term is defined in the Monitor's Twenty Second Report to the Court dated March 16, 2021 (the "Twenty Second Report");
  - (c) directing the Monitor to notify DCIRNA of budget adjustments if the Monitor anticipates any material increase in the cumulative amount to be spent by the

Petitioner during the Budget Period, including without limitation with respect to the operating costs and environmental costs of the Petitioner and the fees and disbursements of the Petitioner, the Monitor and their respective counsel incurred during the Budget Period (a "Budget Adjustment"). The Monitor shall notify DCIRNA of such Budget Adjustment and DCIRNA shall notify the Monitor within three business days of such notice whether DCIRNA consents to an amendment to the Updated Budget to include the Budget Adjustment; and

(d) approving the activities of the Monitor as described in the Twenty Second Report with respect to those parties to whom notice of these proceedings has been given in accordance with the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 (the "CCAA").

#### Part 2: FACTUAL BASIS

#### BACKGROUND

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- 1. Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the ARIO.
- 2. On June 9, 2015, Mr. Justice Butler granted the Initial Order providing for a stay of proceedings to July 8, 2015.
- 3. On July 9, 2015, Mr. Justice Butler granted the ARIO, pursuant to which (among other things) the Stay Period was extended to 11:59 p.m. on July 17, 2015. The Stay Period has since been extended on a number of occasions, most recently to April 30, 2021, pursuant to the March 30, 2020 order of Madame Justice Iyer.
- 4. At the date of the Initial Order, NATC was in the business of mine development and tungsten concentrate production. Its key mining assets included one producing mine located in the Northwest Territories ("Cantung") and one development property located on the border of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories ("Mactung").
- 5. On October 26, 2015, the Company discontinued production at Cantung and transitioned the mine to care and maintenance. The care and maintenance plan was designed to,

among other things, enable the Company to remain in compliance with Cantung's water licence issued by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board ("MVLWB") and various environmental regulations, preserve the value of the Cantung mine site and mitigate reclamation liabilities associated with the mine. Since November 2015, funding for the care and maintenance program has been provided by DCIRNA (formerly known as the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or DIAND).

- 6. On November 16, 2015, the Court granted an order which, among other things, granted the Monitor exclusive authority to act in respect of NATC's property and business.
- 7. On November 17, 2015, the Court granted an order approving the sale of Mactung to the Government of the Northwest Territories (the "GNWT"), in part by way of offset of a portion of the secured debt owing to GNWT by NATC. The transaction to sell Mactung to GNWT closed on December 10, 2015.
- 8. In May 2017, NATC entered into a contract with Tetra Tech Canada Inc. ("Tetra Tech") to perform environmental and geotechnical investigations of the Cantung mine site (the "Phase III ESA") to assist with long-term planning for potential remediation. The field work to support the Phase III ESA, including sampling and drill programs, was undertaken during the summer and fall of 2018 and 2019. The analysis of the results continues to be performed and will continue until Tetra Tech submits various technical reports summarizing the results of its work, which is expected to be completed by around the end of June 2021.
  - 9. On May 24, 2019, the Monitor entered into a memorandum of understanding with DCIRNA and the GNWT (together, the "Governments") whereby the Governments retained and appointed the Monitor to jointly market for sale the Cantung mine and Mactung deposit (together, the "Assets").
  - 10. Subsequently, on July 16, 2019, Mr. Justice Grauer granted an order (the "Competitive Selection Process Order") approving a competitive selection process (the "Competitive Selection Process") having the purpose of transferring the Assets to the private sector to ensure timely development of the Mactung deposit towards a producing mine and to

evaluate the options for production at the Cantung mine and management of environmental liabilities.

# OPERATIONS AND RESTRUCTURING ACTIVITIES

- 11. Since March 16, 2020 (the date of the Monitor's Twenty First Report to the Court), the Monitor's primary activities have included:
  - (a) managing the care and maintenance activities at the Company's Cantung mine site;
  - (b) attending to environmental and regulatory matters including regular reporting to and discussions with the MVLWB and Environment and Climate Change Canada ("ECCC");
  - (c) attending to various applications and extensions of land use permits as well as updating various plans and holding discussions with DCIRNA and the various regulatory bodies regarding same;
  - (d) communicating with key stakeholders including DCIRNA. GNWT and representatives of relevant Indigenous groups and related communities;
  - (e) continuing discussions with interested parties and the relevant Indigenous groups and related communities to advance the Competitive Selection Process;
  - (f) completing the application to ECCC for recognized closed mine status;
  - (g) attending to general site and administrative activities such as road and equipment maintenance, environmental sampling, payroll administration and other related matters; and
  - (h) attending to general corporate reporting and administration matters.
  - 12. A detailed summary of the Company's operations and restructuring activities, geotechnical and environmental investigations, regulatory activities and engagement with Indigenous groups since March 16, 2020 is set out in Section 4 in the Twenty Second Report.

# COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS

13. The Monitor has continued to advance the Competitive Selection Process since the granting of the Competitive Selection Process Order.

- 14. As contemplated by the Competitive Selection Process, the Monitor prepared and administered an RFQ process to select a group of Shortlisted Proponents who were invited to participate in the Request for Proposals ("RFP") stage of the process.
- In order to facilitate discussions between the Shortlisted Proponents and various Indigenous communities, the Company invited and received letters of interest from various Indigenous communities. These letters were provided to the Shortlisted Proponents to aid in the facilitation of discussions between the Shortlisted Proponents and the various Indigenous communities. The Company also disclosed the identity of Shortlisted Proponents to Indigenous groups who entered into confidentiality agreements with the Company.
  - 16. As stated in the Twenty First Report, it was estimated that the RFP would be issued to the Shortlisted Proponents before the end of summer 2020. As a result of delays due to COVID-19 and in an effort to seek input from various Indigenous groups, the issuance of the RFP has been delayed until March 2021. The proposed timeline for RFP preparation accounts for anticipated consultation activities of the Governments but further delays may occur due to factors beyond the Monitor's control including COVID-19 issues and longer than anticipated consultation with Indigenous groups.
  - 17. A detailed summary of the Company's activities with respect to the Competitive Selection Process is set out in Section 5 of the Twenty Second Report.

# EXTENSION OF THE STAY PERIOD AND NEXT STEPS

- 18. The Monitor, on behalf of the Company, seeks to extend the Stay Period until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2022. The Monitor recommends that the court grant the application, including for the following reasons:
  - (a) the extension provides for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Cantung mine site to preserve the asset and will allow for continuing compliance with the Company's environmental obligations and the terms of the Company's water licence;
  - (b) the extension will enable the Company to advance the Competitive Selection Process;

- (c) DCIRNA has committed to fund care and maintenance expenses of the Company through to the proposed extension date, and the Thirteenth Cash Flow Statement indicates that the Company will have sufficient liquidity during that period;
- (d) the Monitor does not believe that there will be any material prejudice to any of NATC's creditors, employees, suppliers or other stakeholders, including the relevant Indigenous groups, as a result of an extension of the Stay Period; and
- (e) the Company's prospects of effecting a viable restructuring and/or transaction involving the Cantung mine would be enhanced by an extension of the Stay Period.

#### Part 3: LEGAL BASIS

- 1. The Monitor relies on ss. 11 and 11.02, of the CCAA and the inherent jurisdiction and statutory discretion of this Honourable Court.
- 2. The extension of the Stay Period will enable the Company to continue the care and maintenance program for the Cantung mine as well as to continue the environmental assessment work undertaken by Tetra Tech in order to manage the environmental liabilities at the Cantung mine.
- 3. The extension of the Stay Period will allow for the advancement and implementation of the Competitive Selection Process which enhances the Company's prospects of effecting a viable restructuring and/or transaction involving the Cantung mine.
- 4. DCIRNA is the primary stakeholder in the Company, as it is ultimately responsible for the environmental liabilities at the Cantung mine, and is supportive of the Monitor's application to extend the Stay Period and has agreed to fund the ongoing activities of the Petitioner as provided for in the Thirteenth Cash Flow Statement.
- 5. The Petitioner has been, and is, acting in good faith and with due diligence.

### Part 4: MATERIAL TO BE RELIED ON

- 1. Monitor's Twenty First Report to the Court dated March 16, 2020;
- 2. Monitor's Twenty Second Report to the Court dated March 16, 2021; and

3. Such further and other materials as counsel may advise and as this Court deems admissible.

The applicant estimates that the application will take 15 minutes.

This matter is not within the jurisdiction of a master. Madame Justice Iyer heard the prior application in this matter (March 30, 2020) and the Monitor has requested that she hear this application.

TO THE PERSONS RECEIVING THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION: If you wish to respond to this Notice of Application, you must, within 5 business days after service of this Notice of Application or, if this application is brought under Rule 9-7, within 8 business days after service of this Notice of Application,

- (a) file an Application Response in Form 33,
- (b) file the original of every affidavit, and of every other document, that
  - (i) you intend to refer to at the hearing of this application, and
  - (ii) has not already been filed in the proceeding, and
- (c) serve on the applicant 2 copies of the following, and on every other party of record one copy of the following:
  - (i) a copy of the filed Application Response;
  - (ii) a copy of each of the filed affidavits and other documents that you intend to refer to at the hearing of this application and that has not already been served on that person;
  - (iii) if this application is brought under Rule 9-7, any notice that you are required to give under Rule 9-7(9).

Date: March 16, 2021

Signature of lawyer for filing party Fergus McDonnell

P: 60 M. 631.3220

E: fmcdonnell@fasken.com

To be completed by the court only:			
10 be c	,ompreted by the east		
Order i	made		
	in the terms requested in paragraphs of Part 1 of this Notice of Application		
	this Notice of Appression		
	with the following variations and additional terms:		
Date:			
	Signature of ☐ Judge ☐ Master		

The Solicitors for the Monitor are Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, whose office address and address for delivery is 550 Burrard Street, Suite 2900, Vancouver, BC V6C 0A3 Telephone: +1 604 631 3131 Facsimile: +1 604 631 3232. (Reference: Fergus McDonnell/285937.00010)

### APPENDIX

# THIS APPLICATION INVOLVES THE FOLLOWING:

discovery: comply with demand for documents
discovery: production of additional documents
other matters concerning document discovery
extend oral discovery
other matter concerning oral discovery
amend pleadings
add/change parties
summary judgment
summary trial
service
mediation
adjournments
proceedings at trial
case plan orders: amend
case plan orders: other
experts

### **SCHEDULE "A"**

No. S-154746 Vancouver Registry

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE CANADA BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44

AND

IN THE MATTER OF NORTH AMERICAN TUNGSTEN CORPORATION LTD.

**PETITIONER** 

# ORDER MADE AFTER APPLICATION

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE	)	March 30, 2021
MADAME JUSTICE IYER	)	

THE APPLICATION of Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc. in its capacity as court-appointed monitor of the Petitioner (the "Monitor") coming on for hearing at Vancouver, British Columbia on this day, and ON HEARING Fergus McDonnell, counsel for the Monitor and Tom Isaac, counsel for Her Majesty in Right of Canada, as represented by the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and no one else appearing, although duly served; AND UPON READING the material filed, including the Monitor's Twenty Second Report to the Court dated March 16, 2021 (the "Twenty Second Report");

### THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES THAT:

### Extension of Relief

- 1. The relief granted in the Initial Order made herein on June 9, 2015, as amended and restated by the Amended and Restated Initial order made herein on July 9, 2015, and as extended by Orders of this Court made herein on July 17, October 14, November 16, 2015, February 26, September 12, 2016, September 11, 2017, December 5, 2018 and March 30, 2020 is hereby continued and extended to 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2022.
- 2. Her Majesty in Right of Canada as represented by the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs ("DCIRNA") shall fund the Petitioner's expenditures as set out in the Cash Flow Statement attached as Appendix "A" to the Monitor's Twenty Second Report (the "Updated Budget") for the period March 6, 2021 to April 30, 2022 (the "Budget Period"), including any Budget Adjustment (as defined herein) consented to by DCIRNA.
- 3. If the Monitor anticipates any material increase in the cumulative amount to be spent by the Petitioner during the Budget Period, including without limitation with respect to the operating costs and environmental costs of the Petitioner and the fees and disbursements of the Petitioner, the Monitor and their respective counsel incurred during the Budget Period (a "Budget Adjustment"), the Monitor shall notify DCIRNA of such Budget Adjustment and DCIRNA shall notify the Monitor within three business days of such notice whether DCIRNA consents to an amendment to the Updated Budget to include the Budget Adjustment.
  - 4. The activities of the Monitor as described in the Twenty Second Report are hereby approved with respect to those parties to whom notice of these proceedings has been given in accordance with the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36.

THE FOLLOWING PARTIES APPROVE THE F TO EACH OF THE ORDERS, IF ANY, THAT A CONSENT:	ORM OF THIS ORDER AND CONSENT RE INDICATED ABOVE AS BEING BY
Signature of Fergus McDonnell Lawyer for the Monitor, Alvarez & Marsal Canada	Inc.
Signature of Tom Isaac Lawyer for Her Majesty in Right of Canada.	
	BY THE COURT
	REGISTRAR

Schedule "A"
(List of Counsel)

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AND IN THE MATTER OF NORTH AMERICAN TUNGSTEN CORPORATION LTD.

### ORDER MADE AFTER APPLICATION

## FASKEN MARTINEAU DuMOULIN LLP

Barristers & Solicitors 2900 - 550 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC, V6C 0A3 604 631 3131

Counsel: Fergus McDonnell Matter No: 285937.00010