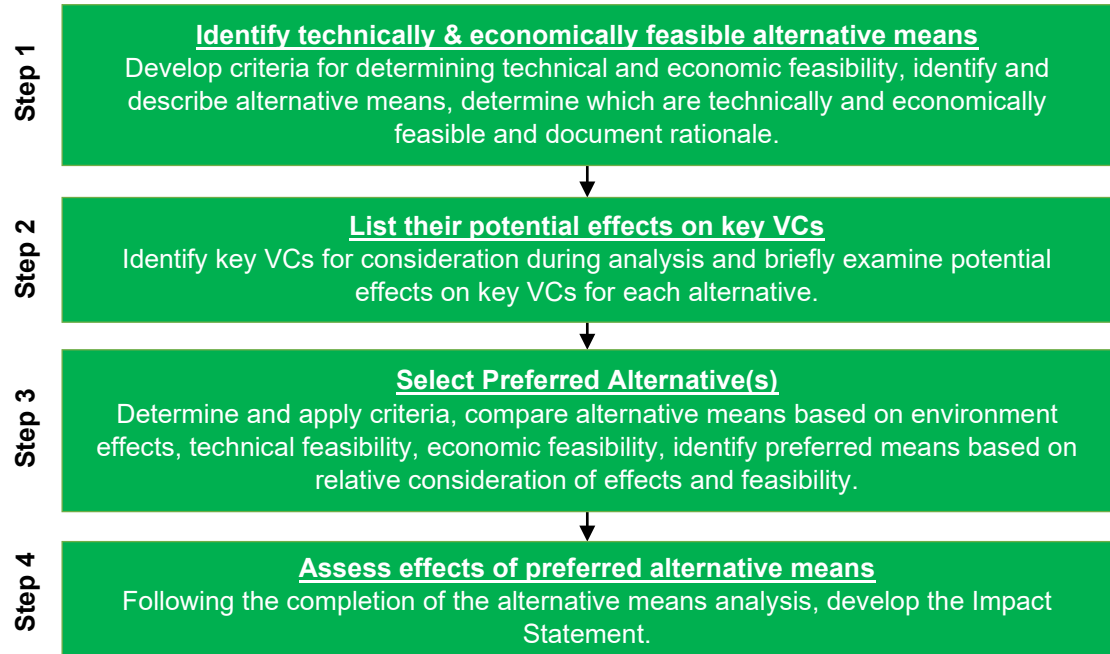


# CRAWFORD NICKEL PROJECT

## Understanding the Approach to Conducting an Alternatives Assessment

To provide rationale for the design of the Project, and to support preparation of the Impact Statement, Canada Nickel will be preparing an assessment of the “alternatives to” the Project and the “alternative means” of carrying it out.



### Approach to Determining Alternatives to the Project

The “alternatives to” assessment compares a designated project to other technically and economically feasible ways to meet a project’s need and achieve its purpose. Given that the Project is a mining operation, alternatives to the Project are limited by the fact that the Project can only be carried out at sites where the resource exists.

Two “alternatives to” were considered at a high-level:

- Develop the Project at the proposed location
- No-action, where the Project is not pursued

To achieve the intended purpose of the Project and address the need that has been identified, development of a mine is required. Canada Nickel is currently focused on its holdings at the Crawford Nickel Project to achieve this purpose.

The “no-action” alternative will be used as a benchmark against which “alternative methods” and the Project overall will be evaluated and compared.

### Key Project Elements to be Addressed in Alternative Means Analysis (in TIS Guidelines)

- Project layout and/or component size and locations
- Route or corridor options (i.e., Highway, Hydro)
- Energy and power sources
- Water supply sources
- Aggregate supply sources
- Water crossing structures and diversion routes
- Mining-related activities (i.e., operations, processing)
- Mine storage management (i.e., tailings, waste rock)
- Water and wastewater management
- Waste management (e.g., landfills, disposal facilities)
- Timing options for Project components and phases
- Suspension, decommissioning, or abandonment
- Workforce hiring, scheduling and accommodation

### Approach to Alternative Means of Carrying out the Project

“Alternative means” are the various technically and economically feasible ways, including using best available technologies, which would allow a designated project and its physical activities to be carried out. The process to identify and evaluate a reasonable range of alternative means of carrying out the Project involves a four-step evaluation process.

In some cases, only one economically and technically feasible alternative may be identified during Step 1. In such a case, rationale will be provided and no comparative analysis will be conducted.

The assessment of alternative means (Step 2) will consider the potential effects on key valued components (VCs) of the environment, and criteria will be established specific to each VC to comparatively assess and describe the potential effects on the VCs for each alternative means.

Where the initial screening identifies multiple technical and economically feasible alternatives, a comparative analysis will be undertaken to select a preferred alternative, or alternatives, for that Project component (Step 3). The criteria will be grouped into the following categories:

- Biophysical environment
- Health conditions
- Social conditions
- Economic conditions
- Indigenous Peoples
- Technical Feasibility
- Economic Feasibility

The results of the alternatives means analysis will be incorporated into the Impact Statement (Step 4).