

Comment Form – Draft Permitting Plan and Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines – Federal Review Team

Crawford Nickel Project

Response required by: March 3, 2023

All comments should be submitted via the Submit a Comment feature available on the Project’s Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference #83857 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857>). Documents can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the registry directly at registry-registre@iaac-aeic.gc.ca. All comments submitted using this table will be posted on the Project’s Registry website.

Please note that this will be your final opportunity to make changes to the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The Agency is required to issue the final Guidelines and plans by day 180 of the Planning Phase, on April 1, 2023.

Department/Agency:	Fisheries and Oceans Canada		
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Section 1:

1. Confirm that all applicable legislative and regulatory oversight that may apply to the Project, under the authority of your department, is accurately listed in the draft Permitting Plan.

<p><u>Insert response here:</u></p> <p>All of DFO’s applicable legislative and regulatory oversight is accurately listed in the draft Permitting Plan.</p>

2. Indicate whether your department has identified any power that it will be unable to exercise to allow the Project to proceed, in whole or in part. For more information, refer to subsection 17(1) of IAA.

<p><u>Insert response here:</u></p> <p>Not at this time.</p>

Section 2:

1. Please review the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines) sections that are applicable to your department’s mandate.
2. Using the table below, given the context of the Project, please provide any comments and include your recommendation for how the final Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines should be adapted to address any comments.
 - Please indicate any recommended **additions or deletions** to the text. Please provide clear context and rationale for your recommendations.
 - As a reminder, the Guidelines should focus on key issues, effects and factors anticipated to be material and relevant to a public interest decision, and requirements should be clear and specific.

Department – Comment ID (e.g., ECCC-01)	Draft Guidelines Section	Context and Rationale (provide an explanation of your comments)	Recommendation: provide text to be inserted or deleted. Be specific on the location within the draft Guidelines that the text would be added/deleted.				
DFO-01	Abbreviations and Short Forms	DFO is not listed in the “Abbreviations and Short Forms” table. DFO should be included.	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED.</p> <p>Include DFO under the “Term” column and Fisheries and Oceans Canada under the “Definition” column to follow.</p> <p>Example:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="987 974 1414 1115"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="987 974 1130 1035">Term</th> <th data-bbox="1130 974 1414 1035">Definition</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="987 1035 1130 1115">DFO</td> <td data-bbox="1130 1035 1414 1115">Fisheries and Oceans Canada</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Term	Definition	DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Term	Definition						
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada						
DFO-02	6.3. Analysis and response to questions, comments, and issues raised. Page 26	Replace lake sturgeon with Lake Sturgeon, South Hudson Bay – James Bay population to specify the population and capitalize the name of the species throughout the document.	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <p>Bullet point listed under The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ follow-up and monitoring activities (e.g., long-term monitoring of fish, including lake sturgeon Lake Sturgeon, South Hudson Bay – James Bay population, and other game fish used as country food), as well as adaptive management strategies, should the Project proceed; and 				
DFO-03	7.2. Selection of valued	In the bullet point “Mattagami River, North Driftwood River, West Buskegau River and their	Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE .				

	components. Page 30.	<p>Tributaries;" Include Jocko Creek in this list of waterbodies.</p> <p>Jocko Creek was raised as a specific concern by Apitipi Anicinapek Nation in their review of the Initial Project Description. Although Jocko Creek will not be directly impacted, the removal of part of the drainage basin could result in flow reductions in Jocko Creek.</p>	<p>Based on comments from participants during the Planning Phase, the following components have been raised as important to consider in the assessment, but it is not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air quality (that is free of asbestos); • climate; • water quality and flows, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Mattagami River, North Driftwood River, West Buskegau River, Jocko Creek, and their tributaries;
DFO-04	7.2. Selection of valued components. Page 30.	<p>Replace bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ lake sturgeon, large-bodied game fish, suckers, and spawning habitat; <p>With:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, Northern Pike, Brook Trout and sucker species, including the spawning habitat of the aforementioned species; <p>Any proper fish names should be capitalized throughout the document.</p> <p>Included Walleye, Northern Pike, Brook Trout and sucker species as they were specified as species of concern for Wabun Tribal Council during their review of the IPD.</p>	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish and fish habitat, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ lake sturgeon-Lake Sturgeon, large-bodied game fish Walleye, Northern Pike, Brook Trout and sucker species, suckers, and including the spawning habitat of the aforementioned species;
DFO-05	8.6.1. Baseline conditions. Page 51.	<p>In the bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ approach used should take into account the need to provide information for use in fish habitat 	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide flow hydrographs and corresponding water levels for nearby streams and rivers showing the full range of

		<p>characterization and effects assessment; and</p> <p>Include: as guided by the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat’s science advisory report entitled <i>“Framework for assessing the ecological flow requirements to support fisheries in Canada”</i></p> <p>The CSAS guidance document provides a framework for determining when flow alterations may have negative effects on fish and fish habitat.</p>	<p>seasonal and inter-annual variations; as well as seasonal baseflow;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ hydrographs may be based on data from nearby gauging stations or from gauging stations on site; ○ approach used should take into account the need to provide information for use in fish habitat characterization and effects assessment as guided by the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat’s science advisory report entitled “Framework for assessing the ecological flow requirements to support fisheries in Canada” and
DFO-06	8.6.1. Baseline conditions. Page 52.	<p>Include bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the chosen approach should take into account the potential effect that changes to groundwater-surface water interactions have on fish and fish habitat; <p>This point should ensure that the Proponent ties groundwater and surface water into fish impacts.</p>	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● using traditional field and mapping techniques, provide a delineation and characterization of groundwater–surface water interactions, including an identification of groundwater-dependent ecosystems, wetlands, discharge and recharge areas that are potentially affected by the Project; ○ use this information to calibrate and verify numerical flow modelling; ○ the chosen approach should take into account the potential effect that changes to groundwater-surface water interactions have on fish and fish habitat;

<p>DFO-07</p>	<p>8.6.2. Effects to groundwater and surface water. Page 56.</p>	<p>Include bullet point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ describe any potential effects on Lake Sturgeon from the construction of the pipeline and effluent discharge in the Mattagami River <p>The Proponent must provide a description of any potential effects on Lake Sturgeon from the construction of the pipeline and effluent discharge in the Mattagami River.</p>	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe the quantity and quality of all effluent streams released from the site to the receiving environment, including effluent from treatment facilities, dewatering activities, seepage and surface run off from project components and site; ○ compare the quality of all effluent streams to applicable guidelines, objectives or standards to better identify possible adverse effects on the receiving environment; and ○ describe any potential effects on Lake Sturgeon from the construction of the pipeline and effluent discharge in the Mattagami River
<p>DFO-08</p>	<p>8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 63.</p>	<p>Remove “anthropogenic” from bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ substrate type, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation type and presence and anthropogenic barriers to fish; <p>All barriers need to be assessed.</p>	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● prepare a list of all waterbodies and watercourses (permanent and intermittent) that may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project and provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ type of water body or watercourse; ○ size and depths of the waterbody or watercourse ○ streamflow types, Strahler stream order and streamflow characteristics; ○ substrate type, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation type and

			presence and anthropogenic barriers to fish;
DFO-09	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 63.	Replace “water work” with “in-water work”, in bullet point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o description of any proposed water work; “In-water work” should be used here to remain consistent.	Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare a list of all waterbodies and watercourses (permanent and intermittent) that may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project and provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o type of water body or watercourse; o size and depths of the waterbody or watercourse o streamflow types, Strahler stream order and streamflow characteristics; o substrate type, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation type and presence and anthropogenic barriers to fish; o description of any proposed water in-water work;
DFO-10	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 63.	Impacts to fish in Victoria Creek was a concern from First Nations. Including these details should allow for the Proponent to provide more information and address concerns.	Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o for all crossings, describe the anticipated construction method of the crossing (trenched or trenchless) and any anticipated effects to fish and fish habitat as a result of the crossing. Provide additional information on the location and operation of the Victoria Creek crossing and how this may impact fish and fish habitat in Victoria Creek.
DFO-11	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 63.	Any waterbody/watercourse that has the potential to be frequented by fish is considered fish habitat, unless deemed fishless using appropriate gear and adequate effort.	Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for each potentially affected waterbody or watercourse that has the potential to be

			<p>frequented by fish, provide the location and area of potential and confirmed fish habitat and a detailed assessment of physical and biological habitat characteristics. Present information as maps using recent satellite imagery overlaid with relevant information and text description, with associated summary tables. Relevant physical and biological habitat characteristics for fish habitat include:</p>
DFO-12	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 64.	<p>Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, Northern Pike, sucker species and Brook Trout were listed specifically by the Wabun Tribal Council as being of concern.</p> <p>Lake Sturgeon is listed as Special Concern. Critical habitat has not been identified and therefore can be removed.</p>	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ habitat use or suitability for fish including Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, Northern Pike, sucker species, and Brook Trout and as well as other aquatic species present. Including Include critical habitat and residences for species at risk including lake sturgeon and habitat function (e.g., spawning, nursery, growth, prey, invertebrate population, food availability, foraging, migration, cover habitat, thermal and overwintering habitat) and sensitive times for these activities; and
DFO-13	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 64.	<p>The recommended bullet point was a concern from First Nations and the Proponent should provide this information to address their concern.</p>	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe any proposed fish relocation activities and the timing and methodology that will be used to undertake each fish relocation.

DFO-14	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 65.	Include Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, Northern Pike, sucker species, and Brook Trout since they were listed as a concern by the Wabun Tribal Council.	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the use of fish as country foods or for other traditional purposes, including a description of the particular species of importance including lake sturgeon Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, Northern Pike, sucker species, and Brook Trout. Identify and whether its their consumption has cultural importance for Indigenous Peoples, including medicinal use. All sites used in the local study area or historically important sites for the collection of country foods must be identified and mapped, such as important sites;
DFO-15	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 65.	The potential effects of noise and vibrations that result specifically from blasting and seismic activity on Lake Sturgeon and other potentially affected species is most relevant to the mining context.	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a summary of existing studies and research on potential effects of noise and vibrations, resulting from blasting (above ground and underground) and seismic activity on potentially affected aquatic species including lake sturgeon Lake Sturgeon; and including behavioural impacts, in the freshwater environment from all species at different life stages;
DFO-16	8.8.1. Baseline conditions. Page 65.	The proponent should confirm whether Lake Sturgeon is present or absent in the lower stretches of the North Driftwood River. This information is unclear.	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm the presence/absence of Lake Sturgeon in the lower stretches of the North Driftwood River.
DFO-17	8.8.1. Baseline	The Proponent should describe impacts to the downstream	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p>

	conditions. Page 65.	environment that includes fish/fish habitat resulting from flow reduction that will be due to overprinting of tributaries and loss of drainage area in the North Driftwood River, West Buskegau River, Mattagmi River and Jocko Creek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe any impacts to the downstream environment, including fish or fish habitat, resulting from reductions in flow caused by overprinting of tributaries and loss of drainage area in North Driftwood River, West Buskegau River, Mattagami River, and Jocko Creek.
DFO-18	8.8.2. Effects to fish and fish habitat. Page 66.	Include blasting and other seismic activities to remain consistent (DFO-17).	<p>Note: Add-ins are highlighted in RED and deletions are in BLUE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> risk of fish mortality, including that associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> noise and vibrations caused by project activities blasting (above ground and underground) and other seismic activities in or near the aquatic environment (e.g., blasting); and

Insert as many rows as applicable