

Strange Lake rare earth project - Torngat Metals Ltd.
Reference number: 85969

Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project

Comments from the federal authorities on the draft version of the Joint Impact Statement Guidelines

Ministry/Agency	Fisheries and Oceans Canada		
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Instructions :

1. Please review the sections of the draft Joint Impact Statement Guidelines that apply to your department's or agency's mandate and expertise.
2. Using the table below, please include your recommendations on how the final Joint Impact Statement Guidelines should be modified:
 - Please indicate any corrections, additions or deletions to be made to the text. For each recommendation, please provide a clear justification. **For any additions, please ensure that the information is not already required and briefly explain the need for the addition.**
 - **Please take into account the context of the project** and draw on the elements contained in the [detailed project description](#) and the proponent's answers to the Summary of Issues (see Appendix A of the detailed project description).
3. Comments must be submitted no later than the end of **September 23, 2024** by e-mail to StrangeLake@iaac-aeic.gc.ca All comments submitted will then be published on the Registry website for the project (Reference number 85969).

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Comment number (e.g. ECCC-01)	Draft Joint Guidelines section	Item for comment or modification	Comment or proposed change and justification
DFO-01	15.2 Newfoundland and Labrador requirements and information (p.153)	Consider adding a summary list of Monitoring Programs required under the Environmental Effects Monitoring Program.	<p>The provincial guidelines are very specific in asking for the following Environmental Effects Monitoring Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species at Risk Impacts Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, this is a requirement from Section 8.11.5.2 • Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Plan, this is a requirement from Section 8.6.3.1 • Real-time Water Quality Monitoring Plan, there is no mention of water quality monitoring in the description of the Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Program Section 8.6.3.1, and • Avifauna Management Plan this is a requirement from Section 8.9.3.2
DFO-02	3.2.1.2 – Construction (p.14) 3.2.1.3 - Operation and maintenance, (pp.15-16) 3.2.1.4 - Decommissioning and Rehabilitation (p.16)	Suggest adding to the lists of Plans in these sections to include an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.	Suggest adding an “Erosion and Sediment Control Plan” to the lists of Plans in these sections A great deal of sections throughout have requirements to characterize the potential for and assess the effects of erosion and sedimentation but there is no mention of a Plan in mitigations.

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DFO-03	15.2 - Newfoundland and Labrador requirements and information (pp.153-154)	Suggest adding a description of the Plan requirements in this section to align with the Plan additions suggested above.	<p>We have been working with the province to include this in all provincial guidelines (when applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion and Sediment Control Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) that describes the methods and devices implemented to minimize erosion and sediment loss from the site as a result of clearing and soil disturbing activities throughout all phases of construction, operation and maintenance, decommissioning and rehabilitation. The ESCP shall be developed as per the erosion and sedimentation control techniques described in Section 3.1 of the Best Management Practices for the Protection of Freshwater Fish Habitat in Newfoundland and Labrador (DFO 2022). Available at https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/ffhpp-ppph/publications/nfl-freshwater-protection-eau-douce-tnl-eng.html.
DFO-04	Appendix 2, Fish and Fish Habitat, (pp.173-174)	Suggest addition of references	<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 1995. Freshwater intake end-of-pipe fish screen guideline. Available at https://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/Fs23-270-2004E.pdf</p> <p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2022. Best management practices for the protection of freshwater fish habitat in Newfoundland and Labrador. Available at https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41030217.pdf</p>

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			<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2024, January 10. Standards and codes of practice. Available at https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-practique-eng.html</p> <p>Wright, D.G., & G.E. Hopky. 1998. Guidelines for the use of explosives in or near Canadian fisheries waters. <i>Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 2107</i>. Available at https://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/Fs97-6-2107E.pdf</p>
DFO-05	8.8.3.1 Joint requirements and information (p.92)	Suggest addition of text “ or sediment ”. This aligns with the suggested requirement for an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.	measures for bank and shoreline erosion, including measures to reduce the potential for erosion or sediment impacted riparian or aquatic environments and their restoration;
DFO-06	8.11.3.1	Re-insert “provide baseline information that is representative of current conditions and justify the information and data sources used; “	The criteria has been removed. In situations where the proponent would use previous information (such as surveys or biological inventories), these sources must be justified as several factors (such as the year of survey, period of the year, location, habitat types, methodology) can influence the reliability of the source as baseline information.
DFO-07	7.2.3	Add below text in red, on the third row, first column of the table: “Fish and fish habitat (fish as defined by the Fisheries Act)”	As there has not been up to Chapter 7 a reference to the definition of fish and fish habitat, adding this clarification would help to avoid uncertainties.
DFO-08	15.1.1	Re-insert: - description of the methodology for tracking environmental, health, social and economic issues;	Several clauses from that section were removed. It is necessary to include the methodology in evaluating the proposed follow-up programs.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - description of the methodology and mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation; - description of the characteristics of monitoring where foreseeable (e.g. location of interventions, planned protocols, list of measured parameters, analytical methods employed, schedule, data management, human and financial resources required); 	
DFO-09	Appendix I : Compensation and offset plans	<p>Paragraph starting as “Each compensation plan to offset residual...”</p> <p>The two last sentences are not harmonized.</p>	Syntax comment

Insert as many lines as necessary.