Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)
Date of Submission: August 21, 2025
Yellowhead Copper Project – Taseko Mines Limited (Proponent)
Registry File: 89694

Please complete the following:

Department/Agency	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
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1. **Will your department or agency exercise a power, perform a duty or function, or provide financial assistance, related to the project to enable it to be carried out in whole or in part?**

As relevant,

a) **Specify the power, duty or function, or financial assistance, and the likelihood that it will be required to construct the project, based on the Initial Project Description, as either Required, Potential, Likely, Unlikely or Not Required**

Please note the following requirements that may apply to this project:

***Species at Risk Act* permits: Potential**

The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) prohibits the following:

a. Kill, harm, harass, capture, possess, buy, sell, trade individuals (SARA s.32)
b. Damage or destroy the residence of one or more individuals (SARA s.33)
c. Destroy any part of critical habitat for a listed species for which an order has been issued (SARA s.58)

The prohibitions apply to species identified on Schedule 1 of the SARA as Threatened, Endangered, or Extirpated on federal lands (unless otherwise instructed by an order) for terrestrial species (SAR Public Registry). Please note that for species at risk that are either Migratory Birds (identified under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*) or Aquatic Species, these prohibitions apply on all lands and waters in Canada.

If proposed activities are anticipated to contravene these prohibitions, a SARA permit is required.

For more information about how critical habitat may be protected, please visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-education-centre/your-responsibility.html. Please note that impacts to critical habitat often result in impacts to individuals and residences through loss of habitat, resources and behaviour.

Some species of birds that are listed as Endangered, Threatened or Extirpated on Schedule 1 of the SARA are also protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. For these species, SARA s.32 (protection of individuals) and s.33 (protection of residences) apply to all land tenure types in Canada. When occupied, i.e., typically during the breeding season, the residences (e.g., nest sites) of all migratory birds listed as Endangered, Threatened or Extirpated on Schedule 1 of SARA are protected on all land tenure types.

For Endangered, Threatened or Extirpated migratory birds that subsequently re-use their residences (e.g., nest sites), the residences are protected under SARA s.33 year-round.

A full list of species-at-risk migratory birds can be found here: https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/migratory-birds.

Please note that the protection afforded may differ between the two pieces of legislation, although both pieces of legislation/protection apply.

Information on the SARA can be found at https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/permits-agreements-exceptions/general-questions-answers.html and on the Public Registry (https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/permits-agreements-exceptions.html).

Information on migratory bird residence and protection requirements can be found at: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/residence-descriptions.html.

Furthermore, prohibitions may be in force on land other than federal land pursuant to other orders or regulations under SARA. It is possible that additional prohibitions may come into force in the future through orders made by the Governor in Council for individuals, residences and critical habitat on non-federal lands and / or for critical habitat on federal lands. It is also possible that, over the course of the assessment or after the assessment, additional species could be listed under SARA; permits may be required for project activities that affect these additional species. Proponents are advised to monitor for such developments on the SARA Registry (https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html).

Migratory Birds Convention Act permits: Potential

The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) and its regulations (revised July 2022) protect migratory birds and their eggs and prohibit the disturbance, damage, destruction or removal of migratory bird nests that contain a live bird or a viable egg.

Migratory birds are protected at all times; all migratory bird nests are protected when they contain a live bird or viable egg; and the nests of 18 species listed in Schedule 1 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (MBR) 2022 are protected year-round.

These general prohibitions apply to all lands and waters in Canada, regardless of ownership.

The MBCA also prohibits the deposit of substances that are harmful to migratory birds in waters, or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area.

Proponents are reminded to develop beneficial management practices, guiding principles, and measures to reduce risk to contravening the MBCA. For more information, please visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html.

ECCC notes that there is no mechanism available to provide a permit for activities that do not directly target but may harm protected migratory birds, their nests, and/or eggs (e.g., vegetation clearing) under the MBCA and its regulations.

MBR Damage or Danger permits (to scare migratory birds, destroy eggs or nests, relocate birds or their nests, or kill birds in instances where the birds, nests, or eggs are causing damage to property or threaten public health and safety) are available in certain limited situations and applications are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

For information about which species are legally defined as migratory birds under federal legislation, please visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-birds-legal-protection/convention-act.html. For more information, please visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html.

Authorization to use a water body frequented by fish as a Tailings Impoundment Area under subsection 5(1) of the *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations* of the *Fisheries Act*: Potential

ECCC is responsible for the administration of subsection 36(3) to (6) of the *Fisheries Act* and the implementation of *the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations* (MDMER). Subsection 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* prohibits the deposit of a deleterious substance in waters frequented by fish unless

authorized by regulations. The MDMER authorizes the deposit of a deleterious substance under specified conditions, including deposits into a Tailings Impoundment Area (TIA) that is a water or place set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

The use of waters frequented by fish for mine waste disposal can only be authorized by amending the MDMER to list the water body in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, designating it as a TIA. ECCC, on the expert advice from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, will determine the water bodies that require listing in Schedule 2 of the MDMER.

Project components with the potential to use waters frequented by fish for mine waste disposal may include the tailings storage facility, the waste rock storage facility, and the ore and overburden stockpiles.

The Governor in Council (Treasury Board), on the recommendation of the Minister of the Environment, makes the final decision to list water bodies in Schedule 2 of the MDMER.

The timeline for completion of the regulatory process is between 12-18 months following the completion of consultation with Indigenous groups and the public on the assessment of alternatives for mine waste disposal and the fish habitat compensation plan. For projects that meet certain conditions, however, a streamlined approach for approvals may be recommended to the Governor in Council. Additional information is available in the Department's *Guide to the regulatory process for listing water bodies frequented by fish in Schedule 2 of the* Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations, found at: https://canada-preview.adobecqms.net/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-pollution/sources-industry/mining-effluent/metal-diamond-mining-effluent/tailings-impoundment-areas/guide-process-listing-water-bodies-fish-schedule-2.html#toc8.

In the Detailed Project Description (DPD), the Proponent should provide information on water bodies that may require listing on Schedule 2 of the MDMER. More specifically, maps or figures identifying the water bodies and information regarding fish studies or any other information that could support a determination on the presence of fish in the area that may be impacted by the disposal of mine waste.

For more information, contact the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations inbox, ec.mdmer-remmmd.ec@canada.ca.

Further information regarding amendments to Schedule 2 of the MDMER will be provided in the Permitting Plan.

b) Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines

***Species at Risk Act* permits:**

In the event that a SARA permit is required, ECCC would evaluate and determine consultation requirements, if any.

ECCC-led Indigenous consultations related to the issuance of SARA permits will be coordinated with consultation during the impact assessment where possible. During the analysis of a permit application (i.e., prior to regulatory decision), ECCC may undertake additional Indigenous consultations, as required under s.73(4) and (5) of SARA.

If applicable, ECCC encourages proponents to submit clear and complete permit applications at least 4 – 6 months prior to the anticipated start of project activities that require a SARA permit.

Authorization to use a water body frequented by fish as a Tailings Impoundment Area under subsection 5(1) of the *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations* of the *Fisheries Act*:

Where possible, consultations on amendments to Schedule 2 of the MDMER will be coordinated with the consultations undertaken during the impact assessment.

c) Describe any associated information requirements (e.g., alternative means assessment, habitat offsetting), and specify those that may be coordinated with the impact assessment process, if an impact assessment is required

***Species at Risk Act* permits:**

If the Proponent has identified that a SARA permit is required, they can apply for the permit concurrent to the impact assessment process. Note that a SARA permit cannot be issued prior to an impact assessment decision under the IAA.

Information on SARA permits can be found at the following links:

- https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/permits-agreements-exceptions/general-questions-answers.html
- The Public Registry: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html.
- Guidelines for permitting under Section 73 of SARA: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/policies-guidelines/permitting-under-section-73.html
- Permits Authorizing an Activity Affecting Listed Wildlife Species Regulations: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2013-140/FullText.html

- Information on how to submit a SARA permit application can be found at the SARA e-permitting site: https://splep-saraps.az.ec.gc.ca/

Where offsetting may be required, the Proponent may refer to guidance in ECCC's Operational Framework for the Use of Conservation Allowances.

Authorization to use a water body frequented by fish as a Tailings Impoundment Area under subsection 5(1) of the *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations* of the *Fisheries Act*:

Section 27.1 of the MDMER requires the development and implementation of a fish habitat compensation plan (FHCP) to offset the loss of fish habitat that would occur as a result of the use of a fish-frequented water body for mine waste disposal. The owner or operator of a mine is also required to submit an irrevocable letter of credit to cover the plan's implementation costs. The mining Proponent must also demonstrate that the disposal of tailings (including effluents) in these water bodies is the best approach from an environmental, technical, economic and socio-economic perspective in accordance with Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Guidelines for the Assessment of Alternatives for Mine Waste Disposal" (https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-pollution/publications/guidelines-alternatives-mine-waste-disposal.html). Providing this information during the impact assessment can reduce the time required for the regulatory amendment process under the MDMER, following the completion of the impact assessment. The timing of the submission of the assessment of alternatives and the FHCP is however determined by the Proponent.

d) Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the Proponent should be aware, or information the Proponent should provide.

Proponents are encouraged to consider baseline information needs early in the impact assessment process (i.e., pre-impact assessment/project planning), as the collection of baseline data relevant for the prediction of the Project's effects within federal jurisdiction may take time. Starting baseline collection early will avoid delays and uncertainties in the impact assessment process. ECCC is available to provide advice on baseline study design or baseline study results during the pre-EA/Early Engagement phase of the Project.

Proponents are also encouraged to consider the Environmental Code of Practice for Metal Mines (https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/canadian-environmental-protection-act-registry/publications/code-practice-metal-mines.html).

ECCC will require detailed information on the potential effects of the project, including locations and/or occurrences of species at risk, their use of habitat and critical habitat within the project area, and specific effects on federal land (if applicable), before ECCC can determine whether a SARA permit is required.

Links to publicly available documents:

- Guidelines for permitting under Section 73 of Species at Risk Act https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/policies-guidelines/permitting-under-section-73.html
- Species at Risk Permitting Policy https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/consultations/2983

The DPD and Summary of Issues should describe any anticipated need for species at risk permits during all phases of the Project. The Proponent is encouraged to collect and submit the information necessary to determine if a SARA permit is required during the impact assessment process, and to submit their application well in advance of the proposed activities to avoid delays.

Further information regarding species at risk permits will be provided in the Permitting Plan.

Additional information that can assist the Proponent in their assessment and development of mitigation measures for a variety of key issues is available through the Open Science Data Platform (OSDP). The OSDP provides information relevant to cumulative effects and development activities across Canada and is publicly available at the following website: https://osdp-psdo.canada.ca/dp/en.

More specifically, the platform provides a single window to access data and scientific knowledge relevant to understanding cumulative effects from existing federal, provincial, and territorial on-line databases and registries, including publications from the federal government and its scientists. It provides an interactive geospatial mapping tool to enable mapping of multiple datasets from multiple sources. It offers various features, including keyword-based searching, interactive data visualization on maps, and educational resources covering key topics such as cumulative effects, water, air, climate, biodiversity, land, economy and industry, health, and society and culture.

OSDP information may be of value to persons preparing and reviewing projects assessments, including cumulative effects assessments. The following are some examples of ECCC information available on the OSDP.

Water – quality and quantity

- National long-term water quality monitoring data
- Real-time hydrometric data
- Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN)
- National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)
    - Facilities that reported releases to water
- Find additional water-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Biodiversity (e.g., birds, species at risk, wetlands)

- Critical habitat for species at risk (terrestrial)
- Range map extents – Species at risk

- Canadian wetlands
- Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD)
- Canadian Breeding Bird Census plots
- Priority places for species at risk
- Find additional biodiversity-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Air Quality

- National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), including:
    - Facilities that reported release of criteria air contaminants
- Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI), including
    - Average ambient fine particulate matter concentrations
    - Peak ambient ozone concentrations
    - Ambient volatile organic compound concentrations
    - Average ambient sulphur dioxide concentrations
    - Peak ambient nitrogen dioxide concentrations
- Find additional air-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Climate, including climate change

- Hourly and daily climate observations
- Monthly climate observation summaries
- Climate normals, averages and extremes 1981-2020
- Homogenized surface air temperature
- Adjusted precipitation
- Find additional climate-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Beyond ECCC's mandate, the OSDP also contains resources on topics led by departments and other levels of government (e.g., human health, economy and industry). The OSDP also provides access to regulatory registries that list government authorizations of other developments (e.g., *Fisheries Act* Registry), which can be useful in understanding the cumulative pressures on an area.

2. **Using Table 1, identify project- and context- specific key issues, based on the expertise within your mandate[1] and the information in your possession, including the Initial Project Description, any exchanges with the Proponent or others related to the project and known means to address the effects of the project. For each key issue:**

    a) Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location)
    b) Specify the project component or activity linked to the key issue
    c) Explain why it's a key issue based on:
        i. biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity

[1] Refer to the Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC.

ii. **concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate**
iii. **the issue being material[2] to decision making under the *Impact Assessment Act***

d) **Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through means other than an impact assessment**
e) **Identify additional information the Proponent could provide including to give confidence on how the issue can be addressed through other means.**

See responses in Table 1 below.

Christie Spry, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer (ECCC)
Name and title of Departmental / Agency Responder

August 21, 2025
Date

[2] An issue is material to decision making if its analysis is anticipated to affect the conclusions on (1) whether adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct and incidental adverse effects (collectively adverse federal effects) are likely not significant, or of low, medium or high significance; (2) appropriate mitigation measures for significant adverse federal effects; or (3) justification in the public interest.

Table 1: Key Issues to inform the impact assessment process

This table should outline key issues to inform the impact assessment process, including whether an impact assessment is required and, if so, the scope of the assessment and tailoring of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines/Application Information Requirements in a substituted assessment.

Key issues are the major concerns directly related to a project component or activity, the analysis of which is anticipated to be material to decision-making under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Federal authorities' advice should be guided by the identification and resolution of key issues. If an impact assessment is required, it will be focused on key issues.

Comment ID	a) Key issue	b) Project component or activity	c)(i) Biophysical effect pathway(s)	c)(ii) Concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate	c)(iii) Material to federal decision-making	d) Means for issue resolution	e) Additional information from the Proponent
Identify comments by organization and comment number. *e.g.: IAAC-01*	*Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location).*	*Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.* *Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity or the component or activity.*	*Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).*	*Describe why it's a key issue within the mandate of your department or agency, including in terms of priorities of the federal government and in terms of anticipated likelihood, severity or uncertainty of effects.* *Identify if the key issue is common for projects of this nature or in this sector, or whether it's unique to this project due to its complexity, size or novelty; a sensitive or rare receiving environment; and/or proximity of sensitive environmental or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples).*	*Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:* • *an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:* ○ *federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;* ○ *presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);* ○ *novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;* ○ *high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;* ○ *unknown or unproven mitigation; or* • *a factor for the justification in the public interest anticipated to be material to decision-making such as a likely positive effect contributing to sustainability, to Canada's environmental obligations or climate change commitments or in supporting governmental priorities, such as reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.*	*Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:* • *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;* • *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;* • *Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or* • *Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).*	*Describe information the proponent can provide, or commitments the proponent can make, in their Response to the Summary of Issues that would provide confidence that the issue can be resolved by existing means.* *Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.*
ECCC-01	Air quality	Mining operations, processing, and activities associated with combustion (including transportation by road or rail) can result in the emission of contaminants such as sulphur oxides (SOx), nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10 and Total Particulate Matter (TPM)). Activities which cause a	The emission of air contaminants can result in local or regional degradation of ambient air quality or the settling of contaminants out of the air and into the surrounding environment, which may result in potential impacts on the health of Indigenous Peoples.	ECCC provides expertise on the fate of air emissions to help support Health Canada's assessment of potential impacts on Indigenous health.	The assessment of impacts on Indigenous health falls under the purview of Health Canada.	ECCC recommends that the principles of continuous improvement and the protection of unpolluted regions in the context of airshed and air zone management within the Air Quality Management System are considered within the assessment. Air quality impacts may also be addressed through well-understood or standard mitigation measures, such as fugitive dust management or best practices such as minimizing	Should impacts from the Project on air quality be shown to be an effect within federal jurisdiction and material to the Project decision, ECCC recommends the following be included in the Proponent's Impact Statement to assess potential impacts to air quality: • Baseline and reference ambient air quality, including quantified emission sources for all relevant contaminants, including but not limited to: particulate matter, metals, NOx, SOx, VOCs, any other products of fossil fuel combustion, and other relevant pollutants from mobile, stationary, and fugitive sources.

Comment ID	a) Key issue	b) Project component or activity	c)(i) Biophysical effect pathway(s)	c)(ii) Concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate	c)(iii) Material to federal decision-making	d) Means for issue resolution	e) Additional information from the Proponent
		physical disturbance to land and ore material, such as earth moving, land clearing, blasting, drilling. and transportation, can also introduce particulate matter (e.g., dust and soot) to the surrounding region.				idling or keeping equipment well maintained.	• Consideration of the impact of wildfires on baseline air quality data. If applicable, refer to the British Columbia active wildfire map available at https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map. • Comparison of ambient baseline and reference air quality with applicable provincial and federal standards. • Inventory and description of Project activities and equipment that have the potential to impact air quality. • Quantitative prediction of air pollutants that will be generated during all Project phases. • Comparison of the predicted levels of air pollutants with baseline air quality data, and the strictest federal (CAAQS) or provincial air quality standards; if applicable. • An air quality management plan that includes a dust management plan. This should encompass sources of air pollution, common mitigation measures for air contaminants (including a detailed complaint resolution process), the performance effectiveness of air contaminant control devices, best practice programs, as well as monitoring and follow-up.
ECCC-02	Water quality and quantity	The activities linked to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of mining projects (e.g., waste rock and tailings management, open pit development, effluent discharges, land or streambed disturbance for transmission lines, etc.) can have adverse effects on the quality of groundwater and surface water through the release of metals, suspended solids, and other contaminants to surrounding waters through metal leaching and/or acid rock drainage, erosion, sedimentation, seepage, or runoff processes. Furthermore, mining activities may impact water quantity through site re-contouring, drawdown of the water table, surface water management (e.g., diversions, ponds, water treatment facilities), changes in land cover, etc. These adverse effects have the potential to affect the hydrological and hydraulic regime (e.g., timing and magnitude of peak flows, range of seasonal and/or inter-annual flow variation) within affected watercourses and the channel morphology because of erosion	Adverse impacts to water quality and quantity could, in turn, result in adverse impacts to fish, terrestrial species at risk and migratory birds through direct impacts (e.g., minimum flow requirements, habitat alteration, etc.) or exposure to contaminants in the water or via food web interactions. Indigenous health could also be impacted via dietary exposure, including for bioaccumulative substances such as mercury and selenium.	Impacts to water quality and quantity can often cause effects for complex mining projects. Impacts are project-specific as they are linked to the mine design and mining plan, which are unique to each project.	Water quality and quantity can result in adverse impacts to fish and fish habitat, which are effects within federal jurisdiction.	ECCC is responsible for the administration of subsections 36(3) to (6) of the *Fisheries Act,* which prohibits the deposit of a deleterious substance in waters frequented by fish unless authorized by regulations (e.g., the *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations*). For more information on the pollution prevention provisions of the Fisheries Act, please visit https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-pollution/fisheries-act-registry/frequently-asked-questions.html. Water quality impacts of the Project can also be mitigated through proper mine design, including source control, and implementation of measures to manage and treat mine contact water (e.g., tailings storage facilities, water management ponds, active water treatment, etc.). Please refer to the Environmental Code of Practice for Metal Mines for more information.	ECCC recommends that the Impact Statement describe and, whenever possible, quantify all potential effects, including direct and indirect effects, of project components or activities, including changes to water quality and quantity during all Project phases. The Impact Statement should also describe mitigation strategies and assess applicability of these strategies to the Project. Thus, ECCC recommends the following information requirements be captured in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (or provincial equivalent) for the Project: • **Baseline Conditions:** Characterize and quantify baseline and reference conditions for surface water and groundwater quality and quantity for all impacted water courses within the Project site and the local and regional assessment areas (Table 8-1 of the IPD), including groundwater-surface water interactions. • **Mine Waste Quantity and Reactivity**: Characterize all mine wastes and develop geochemical source terms for water quality predictions, preferably in accordance with *The Prediction Manual for Drainage Chemistry from Sulphidic Geologic Materials* (Price, 2009) and *Guidelines for Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage at Minesites in British Columbia* (Price and Errington,1998). • **Contaminant Identification**: Identify all potential contaminants of concern. • **Water Management**: Describe surface water and groundwater management strategies, including any applicable water treatment measures and their effectiveness, throughout all Project phases.

Comment ID	a) Key issue	b) Project component or activity	c)(i) Biophysical effect pathway(s)	c)(ii) Concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate	c)(iii) Material to federal decision-making	d) Means for issue resolution	e) Additional information from the Proponent
		and changes in sediment transport patterns.					• **Mine Waste Management**: Describe management and mitigation strategies for all mine wastes, including their effectiveness during all Project phases. • **Closure Plan**: Provide a detailed description of closure and post-closure plans. • **Water Quantity and Quality Predictions**: Provide quantitative predictions of surface water and groundwater quantity and quality for all Project phases, including assessment of prediction uncertainties. • **Water Monitoring Programs**: Describe monitoring plans for surface water and groundwater quantity and quality across all Project phases in both the local and regional areas. • **Fish and Fish Habitat Impact Assessment**: Assess Project-related impacts on fish and fish habitat resulting from changes in surface water and groundwater quantity and quality. This assessment should take into consideration the hydrological impacts caused by climate change, including water management and mitigation measures that can be implemented during extreme events (e.g., flooding, drought, etc.). • **Cumulative Effects Assessment**: Assess cumulative effects of the Project on fish and fish habitat due to changes in surface water and groundwater quantity and quality.
ECCC-03	Terrestrial species at risk and their habitat Species at Risk that are likely to occur in the project area include, but may not be limited to: -American Badger - Bank Swallow - Barn Swallow - Black Swift - Common Nighthawk - Grizzly Bear - Little Brown Myotis - Long-billed Curlew - Northern Myotis	The activities linked to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a mine and associated infrastructure could adversely affect species at risk (e.g., amphibians, arthropods, birds, terrestrial mammals, reptiles, etc.) listed under SARA, and their habitat and critical habitat. The IPD states that the transmission line crosses many watercourses and wetlands between 100 Mile House and the Project site, which may provide valuable habitat for species at risk and migratory birds.	The construction of the Project may also increase public access to the region for activities such as hunting or recreation. Species at risk could also be affected by sensory disturbances during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project. Some examples of potential sources of sensory disturbance include noise from various Project activities, lights, vibrations from grading and compaction, the operation of machinery, and the presence of workers. The duration, frequency, and timing of noise are important to understand potential effects. Sensory disturbance may make adjacent habitats unsuitable for use by species at risk and cause avoidance effects in many species. The pathway through which potential effects are conveyed will depend on the land, air, and water	Species at risk and their habitat (including wetlands) are within the mandate of ECCC pursuant to the SARA.	Adverse effects within federal jurisdiction include: - Impacts to terrestrial species at risk which are also migratory birds; and - Impacts to terrestrial species at risk which may result in a non-negligible adverse impacts on the physical and cultural heritage or the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g., hunting, trapping, gathering, etc.). Additionally, the entity responsible for the impact assessment (IAAC in this case) has obligations under s.79 of SARA to ensure that measures are taken to lessen or avoid impacts and monitor effects to listed species at risk in a manner that is consistent with existing recovery strategies or action plans.	Please refer to Question 1 of the FAAR for information on the Proponent's responsibilities under the SARA and the potential requirements for permits, as well as links to guidance documents. The Proponent should: - Identify all species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of SARA and any critical habitat (including wetlands), and known residences, that may interact with the Project and describe how they may be adversely affected by the Project; - Describe what measures will be taken to avoid or lessen the effects of each Project activity and stage for species which fall under federal jurisdiction for impact assessment, and how these measures will be implemented and effects monitored to ensure they are avoided, minimized or whether	The Proponent should identify all species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of SARA and any critical habitat that may interact with the Project and describe how, for species which are under federal jurisdiction for impact assessment, how they may be adversely affected by the Project. They should describe what measures will be taken to avoid or lessen the effects of each project activity and stage, as well as how these measures will be implemented and effects will be monitored to ensure they are avoided, minimized or addressed through adaptive management. Additionally, there is always the possibility that species assessed by COSEWIC may be added to Schedule 1 of SARA with potential critical habitat identified. As best practice it is recommended to also consider species assessed by COSEWIC to implement measures to lessen or avoid impacts and to monitor them. ECCC recommends that the following be included in the Proponent's Impact Statement to assess potential impacts to terrestrial species at risk and their habitat: • Characterization of baseline conditions for species at risk that is informed by desktop surveys as well as project-specific baseline surveys and habitat suitability mapping. Surveys should be designed to identify seasonal and annual variation, distribution, and habitat use (requires adequate scope, survey effort, and consideration of locations, etc.) and be in

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	- Olive-sides Flycatcher - Western Bumble Bee - Western Screech-owl - Western Toad - Wolverine - Southern Mountain Caribou - Western Grebe - Northern Rubber Boa - Western Painted Turtle - Evening Grosbeak - North American Racer - Western Rattlesnake - Rusty Blackbird - Yellow-breasted chat - Lewis's Woodpecker - Northern Goshawk		constituents associated with the site along with the behavioural adaptability, presence and interaction with the species limiting factor (e.g. habitat supporting staging, nesting, roosting or foraging) and population resilience.			adaptive management may be required. ECCC also recommends that Proponents design their projects to be consistent with Recovery Strategies for relevant terrestrial species at risk and in alignment with principles of the mitigation hierarchy. Standard mitigation measures that may be applicable include the following examples: - Applying activity restriction guidelines for sensitive wildlife; - Limiting and orienting lighting to minimize light pollution; - Placement of deterrents for stormwater ponds; - Giving wildlife the right of way and adjusting speed limits; and - Applying exclusion techniques to prevent access to project infrastructure.	alignment with the best available standards and scientific literature, including, but not limited to those developed by BC's Resource Inventory Standards Committee (RISC) and ECCC. • Assessment of impacts to terrestrial species at risk and their habitat, including critical habitat and wetlands, in the Project area, local assessment area and regional assessment area. • Description of all potential effects, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects, of the Project on terrestrial species at risk, including their habitat. • Application of the mitigation hierarchy: avoid, reduce, and finally offset for the unavoidable loss of habitats that support species at risk, including a description of how effects will be avoided. • Design of mitigation measures and monitoring that is based on the best available standards, guidelines, best management practices, and scientific literature.
ECCC-04	Migratory Birds	Activities linked to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project and associated infrastructure, such as site preparation, right-of-way maintenance and project dismantling, could impact migratory birds resulting in individual mortality and the destruction of their habitat (including wetlands), nests, and eggs. Mortality in migratory birds could also occur because of collisions with vehicles or infrastructure related to the Project. Accidental oil or chemical spills could also have adverse effects if these substances make their way into the habitats frequented by migratory birds.	Activities associated with mining can result in mortality of individuals and/or the destruction of nests and eggs or any other structure necessary for the reproduction and survival of migratory birds during all Project phases. There is a higher risk that these effects would be more severe for migratory birds that are also species at risk. Noise, vibrations, artificial lighting/flaring and disturbances from construction, operation and decommissioning activities may result in injury, mortality, sensory disturbance and change in habitat use. Attraction to lights at night or in poor visibility conditions may cause birds to collide with lit structures or their vertical support structures, resulting in injury or death. Accidental release of	Migratory birds are within the mandate of ECCC pursuant to the MBCA and its regulations (i.e., MBR 2022).	Adverse impacts to migratory birds are defined as effects within federal jurisdiction.	The MBCA and the MBR 2022 protect migratory birds and prohibit the disturbance or destruction of migratory bird nests when they contain a viable egg or a migratory bird themselves (young or adult). Schedule 1 of MBR 2022 provides year-round nest protection for 18 species, with Pileated Woodpecker having the potential to occur in the Project area. The legislation and regulations apply to all lands and waters in Canada, regardless of ownership. Regarding disturbance or harm to nesting birds, with the exception of the 18 species listed on Schedule 1 that are protected year round, the principal risk factors are location and time of year with the breeding season being the main sensitive period to consider.	ECCC recommends that the following be included in the Proponent's Impact Statement to assess potential impacts to migratory birds: • Characterization of baseline conditions for migratory birds that is informed by desktop surveys as well as project-specific baseline surveys. • Assessment of Project impacts on migratory birds in the Project area, local assessment area and regional assessment area. • Description of all potential effects, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects, of the Project on migratory birds. • Application of the mitigation hierarchy: avoid, reduce, and finally offset for the unavoidable loss of habitats the support migratory birds, including a description of how effects will be avoided. • Design of mitigation measures and monitoring based on the best available standards, guidelines, best management practices, and scientific literature.

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			harmful substances to the onsite stormwater ponds could also have adverse effects on migratory birds that frequent the ponds. There is a higher risk that these effects would be more severe for migratory birds that are also species at risk and species where habitat is sensitive to disturbance (e.g. wetlands) or where there is already a high degree of cumulative effects to habitat or individuals. Destruction and/or disturbance of habitat can have increased impacts on migratory bird species at risk individuals, residences and their critical habitat, which can lead to changes in prey and predator dynamics, loss of food resources, loss of breeding areas, and changes in migration or movement. In some cases, construction can create features that are attractive for species and increase their mortality risk. For example, certain migratory bird species at risk (e.g. Bank Swallow, Common Nighthawk) may nest in large piles of soil or graveled areas left unattended/unvegetated during the most critical period of the breeding season, making them vulnerable to construction activities. To help avoid the risk of adverse effects to migratory birds, project activities and components can be planned to coincide with least-risk timing windows and locations.		To aid in the planning of activities in order to reduce the risk of effects to migratory birds, their nest and eggs, consider the Guidelines to Avoid Harm to Migratory Birds, found here: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html. In accordance with these guidelines, ECCC recommends vegetation and habitat clearing activities occur outside of the migratory bird nesting period, to prevent the destruction of migratory birds and their eggs and nests. Lighting required for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project should be controlled and minimized to reduce cumulative adverse effects on migratory birds and species at risk. Other sources of collision risk should be identified and measures implemented to minimize those risks. ECCC also recommends the Proponent implement mitigation measures, including deterrents around waterbodies containing substances harmful to migratory birds.	
ECCC-05	Environmental emergencies	The proposed mining project includes a tailings storage facility, waste rock storage facilities, sewage waste management, fuel storage, reagent facility, explosives storage, and water management structures near a natural stream. As such, there is potential for adverse environmental effects from accidents and malfunctions, such as a failure of the tailings storage facility, spills of fuel, reagents or wastewater, and the danger of explosions.	Adverse effects to air quality, water quality, species at risk, fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, or changes to the environment resulting in non-negligible adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples of Canada could result from a malfunction of the tailings storage facility and the accidental release of hazardous substances.	Potential accident and malfunction scenarios are relevant due to the large scale of the open-pit mine, as well as the use and storage of hazardous materials including explosives, fuels, reagents (e.g., flotation agents), and process chemicals involved in copper ore processing and water treatment. The operation will handle large volumes of substances that, if released, could pose acute or chronic	Section 22(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* specifies, in part, that the effects of accidents and malfunctions that could occur in connection with a designated project, as well as the mitigation measures that are technically and economically feasible, must be taken into account in the impact assessment of a designated project. During construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project, accident and malfunction scenarios could result in the release of hazardous substances to the	Optimized spill prevention, preparedness, and response measures and systems will be important during all activities associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project, given the risk of release of hazardous substances to the environment. Some uncertainties remain regarding the mitigation measures outlined in the Initial Project Description (IPD) to address accidents and malfunctions. The IPD does not clearly specify the quantities of hazardous materials that	The Proponent is encouraged to adopt all relevant industry best practices related to spill prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in the event of accidents and malfunctions. The Proponent's Impact Statement should include a robust analysis of potential accidents and malfunctions, including an assessment of their geographic extent, likelihood, potential consequences, and residual risks that take into account the proposed mitigation measures. It is expected that this analysis will be supported by reliable modelling of contaminant behavior in the event of releases to air, land, or water.

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				risks to both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Additionally, the tailings and waste rock storage facilities represent long-term risks of seepage, structural instability, or failure, especially under extreme weather conditions or seismic events. While accidents and malfunctions such as fuel spills, chemical leaks, or tailings pipeline ruptures are not unique to the Project and are common across the mining sector, the scale of the Project and its proximity to sensitive receptors, including fish-bearing watercourses and downstream Indigenous communities, elevate the potential for serious adverse effects. The site's geography and climatic variability also introduce uncertainty regarding the fate and transport of contaminants, underscoring the need for robust emergency preparedness, predictive modelling, and contingency planning. ECCC provides environmental emergency management planning advice and guidance related to potential accidents and malfunctions involving unplanned or uncontrolled releases or spills of hazardous substances into the environment, including scenarios where such releases could result in non-negligeable adverse environmental effects within ECCC's mandate (i.e., air quality, water quality, species at risk, fish and fish habitat, migratory birds) or changes to the environment resulting in non-negligible adverse	environment, with potential adverse effects to air quality, water quality, species at risk, fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, and changes to the environment resulting in non-negligible adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples of Canada. To mitigate the potential for spills and minimize their impacts, the Proponent has proposed to implement various mitigation measures, including use of secondary containment for storage of hazardous substances, and the production of various plans including an environmental construction plan, spill response plan, and emergency response plan. Assessing the risk of accidents and malfunctions and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures, is an important component of understanding the overall potential adverse effects of the project on areas under federal jurisdiction.	will be used or stored on-site, nor does it provide sufficient detail on containment methods, facility configurations, or associated measures to prevent or control spills. Additionally, the document does not include information on the development of a preliminary spill contingency plan. The IPD outlines several mitigation measures to address potential accidents and malfunctions. These include the design of a water management system capable of accommodating variability in flow, including peak freshet events; provision of on-site fire suppression equipment and supplies; and deployment of mine rescue personnel trained in firefighting techniques. The selection of appropriate design earthquake events for pit slopes, waste rock storage areas (WRSAs), and tailings storage facility (TSF) embankments will follow regulatory and technical guidance, including the Canadian Dam Association's Dam Safety Guidelines, the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia, and the Guidelines for Mine Waste Dump and Stockpile Design. In addition, the development of appropriate management plans, such as an emergency response plan and emergency communication protocols, will help mitigate the risk of spills and minimize environmental impacts should such events occur. Part 8 of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) on environmental emergencies (sections 193 to 205) addresses the prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from environmental emergencies caused by uncontrolled, unplanned, or accidental releases. It also addresses the reduction of any foreseeable likelihood of releases of toxic or other hazardous substances listed in Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2019*. This act may apply if Schedule 1 substances onsite	

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				impacts to Indigenous Peoples of Canada. ECCC also has specialized experts in the atmospheric transport and dispersion modelling of airborne contaminants, the fate and behaviour of contaminants, and hydrologic trajectory modelling of contaminants in water.		meet or exceed the threshold to be regulated under CEPA. Technical Guidelines for the *Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2019* may be found at: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-emergencies-program/regulations/technical-guidelines.html. ECCC also recommends that the Proponent review and incorporate ECCC's National Wildlife Emergency Response Framework, available at: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/national-wildlife-emergency-framework.html.	
ECCC-06	Climate change resilience	Climate over the lifetime of the Project is likely to be different from past and current climate in the Project area. Given that the operational lifetime of the project is 25 years with a proposed closure period of 7 years, climate change is an important consideration. In the IPD, the Proponent indicates that site water management is subject to potential effects from extreme precipitation and drought events. These climate hazards are expected to change with climate change in the future.	There is potential for climate change to affect the Project which, in turn, may have impacts on the surrounding environment (e.g., through accidents or malfunctions, fish and fish habitat, etc.). Climate changes in the Project area, such as possible changes in mean and extreme precipitation and temperature and related environmental conditions, may alter baseline conditions, with implications for climate sensitive aspects of Project design and associated effects within federal jurisdiction.	There is potential for climate change to affect the Project which, in turn, may have impacts on the surrounding environment (e.g. through accidents or malfunctions).	There is potential for climate change to affect the Project which, in turn, may have impacts on the surrounding environment (e.g. through accidents or malfunctions).	IPD states on page 33 that: "*The Application will include an assessment of the Effects of the Environment on the Project, which will include consideration of climate change and discussion of mitigations to reduce climate change influences on the Project.*" The Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC) was published in 2020 and works in conjunction with the *Impact Assessment Act* to provide guidance on how to consider climate change throughout federal impact assessments. Proponents may find the technical guidance of the SACC helpful in assessing the impacts to climate change and in ensuring consistent, predictable, efficient and transparent consideration of impacts to climate change. Information typically requested for the project description is outlined in the SACC (including section 4.1) and the draft Technical Guide (including sections 2.4, 3.3, and 4.2).	The SACC provides guidance related to climate change throughout the impact assessment process. The SACC outlines information that the Proponent should provide during the impact assessment process related to climate change resilience. More details are provided in the "*Draft technical guide related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: Assessing climate change resilience*" published in March 2022. Links: Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: https://www.strategicassessmentclimatechange.ca Draft technical guide related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change- Assessing climate change resilience: https://www.strategicassessmentclimatechange.ca/28896/widgets/117114/documents/77106
ECCC-07	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change	The construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Project is likely to result in the emissions of GHGs and impacts to carbon sinks.	N/A	ECCC has GHG expertise and technical guidance available that can inform the assessment of impacts to GHGs and carbon sinks.	Although it is not an effect within federal jurisdiction, the assessment of GHG emissions and carbon sinks from the Project would be relevant in considering the extent to which the effects of the designated Project hinder or contribute to Canada's	See comment ECCC-06.	The Project's GHG emissions and climate change impacts should be assessed and mitigated consistent with guidance in the SACC. Technical guidance on the SACC can be found at: https://www.strategicassessmentclimatechange.ca/24391/widgets/98155/documents/62220.

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		Following review of the IPD, ECCC notes: - An emission estimate was provided for the Construction and Operations phases of the Project, but not for the Decommissioning/ Closure phase. - The IPD states there will be 4,000 ha of land disturbance from the Project, but emissions from land-use change are not included in the emissions estimate. - No information is provided on the Project's impacts on carbon sinks.			ability to meet its environmental obligations and its commitments with respect to climate change (IAA s.22(i) factor to be considered).		ECCC recommends that the DPD be updated to include: - The maximum annual GHG emissions for Decommissioning/Closure phase (see section 4.1.1 of the SACC and sections 2.1 and 2.1 of the draft Technical Guide); - GHG emissions from land-use change, including land clearing, deforestation, biomass decay, etc. (see draft Technical Guide Annex B); and - Information on the Project's impacts on carbon sinks, including a description of the activities that would result in an impact on carbon sinks and the land areas expected to be impacted by the Project, by ecosystem type (e.g., forests, cropland, grassland, wetlands, built-up land, etc.) over the course of the Project lifetime, including any areas of restored or reclaimed ecosystems (see section 4.1.2 of the SACC and section 4.2 of the draft Technical Guide).