

## Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)

**FAAR Response must be submitted by August 22, 2025**

Yellowhead Copper Project – Taseko Mines Limited (proponent)

Registry File: 89694

### Please complete the following:

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada
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Telephone	
Alternate Contact	

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
- b) Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines
- 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
- d) Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide.

**Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will not be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project as it is not responsible for approving or issuing licences, permits or authorizations for the assessment of this project.**

2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context- specific **key issues**, based on the expertise within your mandate<sup>1</sup> 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:

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the [Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC](#).

- 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
  - ii. concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate
  - iii. the issue being material<sup>2</sup> 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.

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Name and title of Departmental /  
Agency Responder

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Date

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<sup>2</sup> 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	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
<p><i>Identify comments by organization and comment number.</i></p> <p><i>e.g.: IAAC-01</i></p>	<p><i>Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location).</i></p>	<p><i>Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.</i></p> <p><i>Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity or the component or activity.</i></p>	<p><i>Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).</i></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p>	<p><i>Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;</i></li> <li>○ <i>presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);</i></li> <li>○ <i>novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;</i></li> <li>○ <i>high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;</i></li> <li>○ <i>unknown or unproven mitigation; or</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>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</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;</i></li> <li>• <i>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;</i></li> <li>• <i>Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or</i></li> <li>• <i>Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.</i></p>

					<i>reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.</i>		
ISC - 01	Safety of First Nations communities	<p>Table 6–7 notes First Nation concerns on the community impacts related to the increase of employees and contractors through the construction operation of the mine.</p> <p>In particular, the large workforce needed to construct and operate the mine would dramatically increase the population in the area (i.e., 2180 direct jobs, and 1120 indirect jobs vs. 200 residents in Chu Chua).</p>		<p>An influx of transient workers can create rapid social changes and can be accompanied by racial and sexual violence, substance abuse, crime, and adverse effects on family and home life for Indigenous people. This issue is common in resource development projects and has been well documented.</p> <p>Support for the wellbeing of Indigenous people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), falls within the mandate of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). In addition, the Government of Canada is committed to addressing the Calls for Justice outlined in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.</p>	<p>There is a potential adverse effect of mining development on the health, safety and security of First Nations communities, and in particular, women girls and gender-diverse people.</p> <p>The potential adverse effects of extractive industries on Indigenous communities have been well documented. In particular, the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls identified the potential to exacerbate gender-based violence, and calls on extractive industries to consider the wellbeing of Indigenous women, and gender diverse people in all phases of project development.</p>	<p>The help mitigate potential safety risks, the proponent could articulate its commitments, including in the Impact Statement and provide measures to promote safety and wellbeing in First Nations communities.</p>	<p>While the proponent does indicate that they are committed to engaging on safety concerns throughout the project (Table 6–7), the proponent should specify mitigation measures, including in response to the Summary of Issues and/or in the Impact Statement. These measures should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-led social impact studies on safety and gender-based violence</li> <li>• safety protocols</li> <li>• cultural awareness training</li> <li>• culturally appropriate support for Indigenous workers</li> <li>• the inclusion of women’s groups and gender diverse individuals in the Impact Assessment planning/consultation</li> </ul>
ISC-02	Wellbeing and Sustainability of Communities	<p>Section 8.2.2 notes that project will rely on local communities for source employment and housing, while domestic waste will be disposed offsite at licenced facilities (Section 4.5.4)</p>		<p>The project proposes to leverage local employees and resources to construct and operate the proposed mine could affect services and infrastructure requirements in First Nations communities.</p> <p>As part of its mandate to support the</p>	<p>There is a potential adverse effect on First Nations living on reserve lands, as sourcing employment from First Nations communities can place pressure on existing community resources and infrastructure.</p> <p>First Nations can face challenges to attract and retain skilled workers in their communities. Drawing on existing labour pools in communities could affect community capacity to deliver local services (i.e., local works, trades, etc.).</p>	<p>The proponent could make commitments to support community-led baseline studies on the socio-economic impacts of the proposed development.</p> <p>ISC programs may generally help mitigate the potential effects to community infrastructure to accommodate population changes.</p>	<p>The proponent should support community-led impact studies that examine how the proposed employment opportunities will affect community resources such as housing, infrastructure, social services, and local works.</p> <p>These activities should occur in all First Nations communities affected by the proposed mine (the IPD</p>

				wellbeing and sustainability of Indigenous Peoples, ISC provides funding to support service delivery in key areas that could be affected by the proposal, such as housing, local works (waste management, water, infrastructure etc.) and social services.	In addition, the majority of affected First Nations members identified in the proposal currently live off-reserve (e.g., Simpcw has 895 members, with 695 members off-reserve), which would increase demand on local services and infrastructure should members want to live on reserve in order to take part in any employment opportunities.		identifies Simpcw First Nation, Neskonlith Indian Band, Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw, Adams Lake Indian Band, Tsq̓ éscen̓ First Nation, Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band, and Stswēcer̓c Xgāt'tem First Nation).
ISC -03	Socio economic opportunities for First Nations Communities	Section 8.2 indicates that this project has the potential to influence the social and economic characteristics of the region, including First Nations communities. This section also discusses the opportunities for local employment and corollary business development.		<p>The project could bring substantial economic development to the region, including First Nations communities.</p> <p>As part of its mandate, ISC offers a variety of programs to support training and economic development in First Nations communities. In addition, ensuring that First Nations people can meaningfully benefit from economic development opportunities also aligns with broader government commitments to build the economy.</p>	<p>There is a potential adverse effect to First Nations communities, if they face barriers to benefitting from economic opportunities contemplated in the project compared to non-Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Historically, economic development in First Nations communities has been limited by colonial policies and inequalities that have, among other things, limited access to capital for business development, reduced opportunities to attract investment, and created educational/training gaps needed for skilled workers.</p> <p>As a result, First Nations communities may require unique strategies to ensure that members are employed in skilled jobs and that business development is supported.</p>	<p>The proponent could make commitments supporting Indigenous groups' opportunities to benefit from the project, including: providing culturally appropriate training, advancement opportunities and procurement strategies to support First Nations businesses.</p> <p>ISC programs may generally support community and business readiness to pursue and benefit from related economic opportunities. ISC also possesses some tools that may be useful in determining socio-economic impacts, such as Community Wellbeing Index, which measures socio-economic wellbeing for individual First Nations communities across Canada, as well as the ISC's Economic Estimator Tool, which estimates that impact of proposed projects on Indigenous communities and identifies key variables that influence project effects on economic conditions.</p>	<p>The proponent should provide information about the overall project workforce, with specific information on how the project will affect nearby First Nations communities, including local job creation and hiring practices. Wherever possible, demographic information should disaggregate First Nations communities from non-Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The proponent should provide information on their procurement strategy for First Nations businesses, and a baseline analysis of the existing First Nations businesses that could participate in the project, as well as potential opportunities to develop joint business ventures.</p>

Please insert additional rows as necessary.