HAMMOND REEF GOLD PROJECT
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON FINAL EIS/EA

COMMENT –A- 8

Source: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Summary of Comment

According to Table 4-15, the predicted Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) maximum concentration is above the screening threshold of 0.003 µg/m^3 at all receptor locations. When considering the added contribution of vehicles exhaust emissions (i.e. Haul trucks) throughout every phase of the Project, HC notes that DPM (carcinogenic) was considered in the assessment for this Project. However, for the same reason mentioned above (no threshold for PM, comment HC-11 above), it would also be informative to evaluate the DPM concentrations with regards to non-carcinogenic health effects.

Proposed Action

Discuss DPM (non-carcinogenic) in the air quality assessment in order to more accurately determine potential health effects from this Project or provide a rationale as to why DPM (non-carcinogenic) is excluded in the assessment.

Reference to EIS

HHERA TSD, Section 4.6.4.1

Response

The concentrations of Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) were assessed for their potential to result in non-carcinogenic health effects. The air quality assessment predicted maximum concentrations of DPM and considered both stationary and mobile emissions, and included both maximum concentrations and annual deposition at locations specified for human health and ecological receptors. The predicted maximum DPM concentrations were then shared with the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) team who undertook an evaluation of health risks.

The non-carcinogenic effects of DPM were evaluated in the HHERA by screening the maximum concentrations against the threshold of 5 µg/m³ developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for protection of systemic, non-cancer effects. The screening assessment identified that the maximum concentration of DPM at all receptors was below the threshold of 5 µg/m³. Therefore, it was concluded that DPM does not pose a health concern for non-cancer health outcomes.