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

COMMENT – T-7

Source: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Summary of Comment

The indicator 'Impact to Groundwater' seems to be more of a technical sub-account. The description of the indicator focuses on the management of the seepage collection ponds. There does not appear to be a direct link to groundwater quality for this indicator.

Proposed Action

In the multiple accounts analysis of the Alternatives Assessment for Mine Waste Disposal, include the use of other metrics (e.g. hydraulic conductivity of the domain, depth to the bedrock, as well as depth to the groundwater, perched water tables and presence of springs) as described in the EIS Guidelines for the 'impact to groundwater' indicator.

Reference to EIS

Appendix 4.1 Mine Waste Disposal Alternatives Assessment Version 2

Response

At the TMA-3 (base case) location, there has been some characterization of the detailed hydrogeological information necessary to evaluate the suggested metrics (hydraulic conductivity, depth to the bedrock, groundwater depth, etc.). This type of information is not available for the other alternative locations. Therefore, an evaluation and comparison of the hydrogeological conditions could not be fully completed using the suggested metrics.

Canadian Malartic Corporation has committed to installing seepage collection systems for the mine waste disposal areas and these systems will be designed, based on site specific conditions, to collect and capture seepage. The general foundation conditions for the alternatives have been considered and deemed feasible for construction of a TMF and effective seepage collection system. With these collection systems in place, the relative potential for groundwater release to the environment is related mainly to the complexity of the collection system. In the evaluation of this indicator, it is considered that the complexity of the collection system increases with the number of required collection ponds. Therefore, the relative potential for groundwater release to the environment is evaluated based on the number of collection ponds required by the collection system.