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

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### COMMENT – T-21

**Source:** Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

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#### Summary of Comment

It is unclear from the discussion of “designated camp sites” whether these sites are intended for people who camp (i.e. tent) or whether there are more permanent structures in place. In the event that these sites are used for tent camping, it is expected that noise levels experienced indoors would be higher than in permanent structures with doors/windows/insulation. Predicted noise levels at these receptors should therefore assume limited to no attenuation between indoors and outdoors. Many noise guidelines are based on acceptable noise levels at the exterior of a building (assuming a noise level reduction of 10-15 dB between indoors and outdoors), thus, these noise guideline levels may not be appropriate for tents.

#### Proposed Action

Provide a discussion about the expected users of the “designated camp sites”. If tent camping is likely, provide a discussion about expected indoor noise levels (assuming limited/no attenuation between indoors and outdoors), whether these levels may result in increased annoyance, and whether or not provincial noise guidelines are applicable for these receptors.

#### Reference to EIS

Atmospheric Environment TSD

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#### Response (same as T-14)

Designated campsite PORs were removed from the Final EIS/EA Report as they are not considered “points of reception” in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment noise guideline NPC-300 and therefore do not require assessment in the Atmospheric TSD. The location and nature of these sites are undetermined and are not associated with any permanent structures, camping fees or services. These sites were initially identified as potential points of reception in the Draft EIS/EA Report but were later screened out based on the definitions in NPC-300 for the Final EIS/EA Report. Similarly, these sites no longer need to be identified in the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment TSD. Figure 3-5 of the Atmospheric Environment TSD has been updated in the Final EIS/EA Report identifying the POR's used in the assessment.

The HHERA evaluated the possible health effects to people who may occasionally access the area for recreational uses such as camping, fishing, hunting, and gathering within 10 km from the Mine Study Area. It was found that recreational use for short-term durations (few hours to a few weeks) does not pose a risk of any health concerns.