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

COMMENT – T-42

Source: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Summary of Comment

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment commented on the location of monitoring wells: Monitoring well locations for water levels are focused on the Marmion Lake reservoir (located along the shore). However, as water will generally discharge back to the reservoir, it is not really the sensitive "receptor".

Rather, it would be the smaller surface water features beyond the 11 impacted watersheds identified in Table 2-13. It would be better that the monitoring program focus on assuring that features that were not to be impacted are not impacted. Monitoring wells should be more to the east of the pits, towards surface water features beyond the predicted drawdown.

And in this case, monitoring need not be limited to groundwater levels - water levels in surface water features should also be monitored. Surface water features to be monitored should include those within the drawdown cone, just beyond the cone, and some well beyond the cone as background to differentiate dewatering effects from natural. A reduction in local groundwater levels from pit dewatering could also result in reduced flow in smaller surface water features located within the drawdown cone from the dewatering. Most of the surface water features located within this drawdown cone are located in areas that will be significantly disrupted by the excavation of the mine and the construction of stockpiles, but there are some smaller features located beyond this area which could be impacted.

The proposed monitoring program should be revised to ensure that surface water features that are not anticipated to be impacted by mining activities are also monitored to confirm these predictions of impact.

The proponent's response indicates that monitoring locations will be located as appropriate, and that monitoring programs will be refined as site data refines the conceptual model.

This commitment is adequate for the purposes of the EA. A detailed monitoring plan will be required to be submitted for approval in support of any permits and approvals for the Project.

Proposed Action

Provide confirmation that the impact of groundwater lowering on small surface water features will be monitored.

Reference to EIS

6.1.3.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.5.2

Response

Yes, water levels in surface water features will be monitored. Canadian Malartic Corporation understands the importance of reference sites and the role of environmental monitoring in the verification of predictions. Groundwater monitoring programs will be refined as site data refines the conceptual groundwater model.

As outlined in Chapter 8 Environmental Management Planning, Canadian Malartic Corporation will work with the applicable regulatory agencies to develop appropriate monitoring programs that will meet the permitting requirements and allow for adaptive management strategies if necessary.
