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

COMMENT – T-49

Source: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Summary of Comment

Chapter 5 of the EIS does not refer to this Explosives Plant Holding Pond in either the text or on Figure 5-10 Surface Water Drainage Plan. Ammonia and nitrate are derived primarily from the use of explosives and occurs in a wide range of metal mining effluents across Canada. Ammonia and nitrate releases may be associated with spillage during explosives preparation and hence has the potential to impact water quality.

Proposed Action

Provide a revised Figure 5-10 to include the location of the Explosives Plant Holding Pond (EPHP).

Identify the assumptions that have been made about the water quality of the EPHP, especially in regards to contaminants associated with explosives (e.g. ammonia, nitrate, petroleum hydrocarbons).

Reference to EIS

Hammond Reef Gold Project Site Water Quality TSD Appendix 3.II Site Wide Water Balance

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Chapter 5 Project Description Figure 5-10 Surface Water Drainage Plan

Response

The emulsion plant (i.e., the explosives plant) will be equipped with a site runoff collection pond to prevent release of potentially contaminated water to the environment. It is this pond that is being referred to in Appendix 3.II of the Site Water Quality TSD as the 'Explosives Plant Holding Pond'. The emulsion plant will be graded to direct runoff and any potential spills to a collection system that will convey these waters to the collection pond. Natural runoff will be diverted around the plant area, therefore, the required pond volume will be relatively small. The pond will be located within the footprint area of the emulsion plant as shown on the exiting Figure 5-10. Effluent from the collection pond will be direct to the Processing Plant Collection Pond (PPCP) where it will be combined with the overall site water management system. The use of explosives (e.g. ammonia, nitrate) has been accounted for in the site water quality assessment as noted in Section 4.2.3 of the Site Water Quality TSD.

Chapter 8, Section 8.2.4 includes a commitment to develop an emergency preparedness and response plan and spill management plan for the Project. These plans will include plans for the emulsion plant.