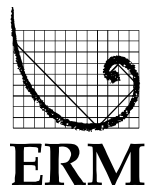


BRUCEJACK GOLD MINE PROJECT
Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate /
Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix 20-A
Thresholds for Characterization Criteria



Appendix 20-A. Thresholds for Characterization Criteria

The thresholds for characterization criteria are as follows:

- **Magnitude:** This refers to the expected magnitude or severity of the residual effect. The corresponding significance levels are defined as:
 - *Low:* differing from the average value for baseline conditions to a small degree, but within the range of natural variation and well below a guideline or threshold value;
 - *Moderate:* differing from the average value for baseline conditions and approaching the limits of natural variation, but below or equal to a guideline or threshold value; or
 - *High:* differing from baseline conditions and exceeding guideline or threshold values so that there will be a detectable change beyond the range of natural variation (i.e., change of state from baseline conditions).
- **Geographic Extent:** This refers to the spatial scale over which the residual effect is expected to occur. The corresponding significance levels for biophysical and heritage receptors are defined as:
 - *Local:* an effect is limited to the Project footprint;
 - *Landscape:* an effect extends beyond the Project footprint to a broader watershed area;
 - *Regional:* an effect extends across the regional study area; or
 - *Beyond Regional:* an effect that extends possibly across or beyond the province of BC.
- The corresponding **geographic extent** significance levels for social, economic, and health receptors are defined as:
 - *Individual/Household:* an effect limited to individuals, families and/or households;
 - *Community:* an effect extending to the community level;
 - *Regional/Aboriginal peoples:* an effect extending across the broader regional community or economy, or an effect extending to one or more Aboriginal groups; or
 - *Beyond Regional:* an effect extends possibly across or beyond the province.
- **Duration:** This refers to the length of time the effect lasts; the duration of an effect can be short-term to long-term. The corresponding significance levels are defined as:
 - *Short-term:* an effect that lasts approximately 1 to 5 years;
 - *Medium-term:* an effect that lasts between 6 to 25 years;
 - *Long-term:* an effect that lasts between 26 and 50 years; or
 - *Far Future:* an effect that lasts more than 50 years.
- **Frequency:** This refers to how often the effect occurs; the frequency of an effect can be frequent to infrequent. The corresponding significance levels are defined as:
 - *Once:* an effect that occurs once during any phase of the Project;
 - *Sporadic:* an effect that occurs at sporadic or intermittent intervals during any phase of the Project;
 - *Regular:* an effect that occurs regularly during any phase of the Project; or

- *Continuous*: an effect that occurs constantly during any phase of the Project.
- **Reversibility**: This refers to the degree to which the effect is reversible. The corresponding significance levels are defined as:
 - *Reversible Short-Term*: an effect that can be reversed relatively quickly;
 - *Reversible Long-Term*: an effect that can be reversed after many years; or
 - *Irreversible*: an effect cannot be reversed (i.e., is permanent).
- **Resiliency**: This refers to the capacity of a VC to resist or recover from major changes in structure and function following disturbances, without undergoing a shift to a vastly different regime that is very difficult to reverse. The corresponding significance levels are defined as:
 - *Low*: the receptor is considered to be of low resiliency following disturbances;
 - *Neutral*: the receptor is considered to be moderately resilient following disturbances;
 - *High*: the receptor is considered to be highly resilient following disturbances.