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August 13, 2026

CIAR: [80468](#)

Jacinthe Belec

Acting Director, Regional and Strategic Assessments
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Subject: Department of National Defence FAAR update and Responses to Information Requests for Ring of Fire Area Regional Assessment

Dear colleague,

This return was drafted in response to a two-part request from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) dated November 14, 2025. As requested, an updated Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) from the Department of National Defence (DND) for the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area in Northern Ontario may be found in Appendix A. DND submitted an initial FAAR in [2021](#). This updated FAAR aligns with the information previously provided. DND does not anticipate having a regulatory role and conducts limited activities in the identified study area.

Additionally, responses to Request #1 and #2 from the Requests to Federal Departments and Agencies (Package 1) are noted in Appendix B.

Critical minerals are increasingly recognized as strategically important to Canada's defence and security interests. Modern military capabilities depend on secure and resilient supply chains for the minerals used in advanced defence technologies, manufacturing, communications, energy systems, and other critical applications. From a defence perspective, access to these materials contributes to operational readiness, defence industrial capacity, and broader supply chain resilience. DND's role is focused on understanding defence requirements and supply chain considerations to enable Canada's defence industrial sector.

Although DND has a limited role to play in the planning and design of the regional assessment, DND appreciates the continued engagement through the assessment process.

Sincerely,

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Sarah Evans

Director General, Environment and Sustainable Management

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