

Appendix 1. Technical Review Form for Federal Authorities -
Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project Impact Statement

Contact Information

Date of Submission	2026-06-18
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Federal authorities must complete Table 1 to list the comments identified in the Impact Statement and the corresponding recommended clarifications. The comments consist of missing information that is both required in the tailored environmental impact statement guidelines (guidelines) and **essential for the Joint Assessment Committee to determine and assess the project’s adverse federal effects¹ and the key issues relevant to decision-making²**. This determination includes, in particular, the significance of adverse federal effects, the identification of appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures, and whether the adverse federal effects can be justified in the public interest³. Federal authorities should provide feedback that is proportionate to the risks and solution-oriented. If [standard mitigation measures](#) could apply, please also indicate this in the last column on the right.

Table 1. Identification of Comments on the Impact Statement and Recommended Clarifications

Identification No.	Impact Statement Reference	Guidelines Reference	Description of comment (context and rationale)	Recommended clarification
Air Quality				
ECCC-01	Volume 1. March 2026. Chapter 6 - Description of the receiving environment Section 6.2.2 Ambient air, pp. 6–14 and 6–19	Chapter 5 Indigenous Peoples Section 5.4.1.1 Biophysical determinants of health	Ambient air quality Section 6.2.2 presents the baseline contaminant concentrations and the methodology used to determine them. The methodology is based on data from a monitoring station located in Radisson, approximately 250 km from the site, together with the values prescribed for northern projects. For substances not covered by these references, generic baseline concentrations from the <i>Quebec Air Quality Standards and Criteria</i> were used (Volume 1, Section 6.2.2, pp. 6–14). Although this approach provides an order-of-magnitude estimate of background concentrations, it has limitations regarding the representativeness of local and regional conditions. It does not provide a complete picture of the factors that may influence air quality, including interannual variability linked to weather conditions, the growing impact of wildfires, the effects of climate change, and the contribution of other existing or planned projects or emission sources in the region. These concerns were also raised by residents of the area. Accordingly, the current description of air quality in the local and regional study areas remains incomplete. The purpose of characterizing ambient air quality is to establish a baseline that is representative of existing conditions before the project is carried out. It must take into account all sources of emissions, both anthropogenic and natural, as well as phenomena that may affect the dispersion and concentrations of air contaminants. A more comprehensive description would improve the reliability of the assessment of the project’s impacts on key issues, such as the health of Indigenous groups and fish and fish habitat, and would provide better context for the atmospheric modelling results. For example, the Impact Statement mentions the influence of wildfires on certain environmental components. This factor should be incorporated into the air quality analysis, particularly by documenting the frequency, intensity and spatial distribution of fires in the study area, as well as their contribution to concentrations of particulate matter and other atmospheric contaminants. In addition, a summary analysis of historical trends (where data are available), including episodes of degraded air quality, would help to better define the natural variability of the environment and the extreme conditions that may influence the results.	Improve the description of ambient air quality for local and regional study areas by: Identifying and, where possible, quantifying the main existing sources of emissions (natural and anthropogenic) that may

