



# Meliadine Mine Extension Project Reconsideration

Presentation by Fisheries and  
Oceans Canada to the  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
Public Hearings, Rankin Inlet,  
NU  
September 12-21, 2023

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Lake Laberge, Yukon Territory, Canada. Shutterstock

# DFO Mandate and Legislation

- Protect **all fish and fish habitat** in Canada
- *Fisheries Act* – No death of fish and changing/destroying fish habitat
- *Species at Risk Act* – protect, recover and conserve all listed aquatic species

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## מטרת דפ"ר היא לשמור על כל הדגים והסביבה שלהם

- >מטרה היא לשמור על כל הדגים והסביבה שלהם
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  - דפ"ר היא לשמור על כל הדגים והסביבה שלהם – >מטרה, דפ"ר היא לשמור על כל הדגים והסביבה שלהם
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# Comments & Recommendations

## 13 Technical Comments:

1. **Scope**
2. **Changes since 2014**
3. **Baseline information on fish habitat**
4. **Downstream impacts**
5. **Road crossing design**
6. **Annual reporting**
7. **Aquatic invasive species**
8. **Underwater noise from shipping**

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# DFO-TRC-01

## Scope

- New Fisheries Act (2019) provides stronger protection for all fish and fish habitat
- DFO to review all components of the project broader scope
- Resolved

# DFO – TRC-01

## ԵՄԾՈՐ

- ՍժՐ ԷՎ յԵՄԴՆՐ R՞ ԾԴ յԴՐ (2019) ՎՔ ՎՐՈՐ ԼԵՄՈՂ յԸՎ ՆԴՈՒՐ ՍՐԿ ԷՎ Յ ԸյԳ ԼՍՐՐ ԷՐ
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# DFO-TRC-02

## Baseline Assessment

- Lack of baseline information on:
  - Fish community
  - Channels between waterbodies, and seasonally inundated areas
  - Important habitat
- Resolved

# DFO-TRC-02

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# DFO-TRC-03

## Hydrology

- Lack of information on impact on hydrology
  - Change direction and volume of flow
  - Cumulative impact
  - Seasonally used habitat
- Resolved

# DFO-TRC-03

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- Lack of information on fish habitat in watershed A, B, J , I, CH, W and X
- Impact of work on water levels, discharge, timing and duration of flows, fish migration and flow of nutrients
- Resolved

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## DFO-TRC-09

### Borrow pits

- Lack of information on impact of borrow pits on water balance, fish and fish habitat.
- Resolved

## DFO-TRC-09

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## DFO-TRC-10

### Road Location and Construction

- Lack of information on location and impact of new road infrastructure on fish and fish habitat.
- Resolved

## DFO-TRC-10

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# DFO-TRC-12

## Aquatic Invasive Species

- Monitoring impact on marine environment does not include aquatic invasive species
- Include a Non-Indigenous Species/ Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program around zones of higher risk.

# DFO-TRC-12

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# DFO-TRC-13

## Underwater Noise from Shipping

- Lack of information on underwater noise produced by shipping vessels
- Monitor and model underwater noise to understand impact on marine mammals

# DFO-TRC-13

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# Conclusion

- 10 TRC resolved
- 3 TRC outstanding
- Most information provided for Reconsideration process and work continues into water license and Fisheries Act authorization

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# APPENDICES (not for translation)



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-01
Subject / Topic	FEIS Addendum - Scope
References	FEIS Addendum
Summary	In order to assess the potential impacts on fish and fish habitat under the Fisheries Act 2019, DFO will need to reconsider the components necessary to allow work to be conducted on the Meliadine site and not only the proposed new components as suggested by AEM.
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to undertake the regulatory responsibility and conduct a Fisheries Act Authorization process in a timely manner will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the information requested was provided. With this information, DFO considers this comment RESOLVED.



<b>Review Comment #</b>	<b>DFO-TRC-02</b>
<b>Subject / Topic</b>	Baseline Assessment
<b>References</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum</li><li>• Information Request Response, Appendix 3, Conceptual Fish Offsetting Plan, Table 4.4-1,</li></ul>
<b>Summary</b>	DFO's ability to undertake its review and regulatory responsibility under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> in a timely manner will be impacted by the absence of baseline aquatic information.
<b>Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment</b>	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information. The lack of baseline information may result in additional consultation and extended regulatory review period.
<b>Recommendation / Request</b>	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-03
Subject / Topic	Hydrology
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 2.3.4</li><li>○ Section 7.</li></ul></li><li>• Appendix D26 and D35.</li></ul>
Summary	The operations at the mine to date and proposed works change the direction and volume of flows on the site, including snowmelt. Although many of these changes may appear small, cumulatively they can have an impact on Fish and Fish Habitat, especially when changes to seasonally used habitat result in limits to migration, fish stranding, or temporal limits to the use of that habitat.
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-04
Subject / Topic	Fish and Fish Habitat
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 7;</li><li>○ Appendix D26;</li><li>○ Appendix G7</li></ul></li><li>• Table 4.4-1, App 3, Conceptual Fish Offsetting Plan</li><li>• Page 708 of Volume 7 of the 2014 FEIS</li></ul>
Summary	Information missing on fish use and migratory changes in the <u>A Watershed</u> .
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-05
Subject / Topic	Fish and Fish Habitat
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 7;</li><li>○ Appendix D26; &amp;</li><li>○ Appendix G7;</li></ul></li><li>• Table 4.4-1, App 3, Conceptual Fish Offsetting Plan</li></ul>
Summary	Information missing on fish use and migratory changes in the <u>B Watershed</u>
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-06
Subject / Topic	Fish and Fish Habitat
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 7;</li><li>○ Appendix D26; &amp;</li><li>○ Appendix G7;</li></ul></li><li>• Table 4.4-1, App 3, Conceptual Fish Offsetting Plan</li></ul>
Summary	Information missing on fish use and migratory changes in the <u>J Watershed</u> .
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-07
Subject / Topic	Fish and Fish Habitat
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 7;</li><li>○ Appendix D26; &amp;</li><li>○ Appendix G7;</li></ul></li><li>• Table 4.4-1, App 3, Conceptual Fish Offsetting Plan</li></ul>
Summary	Information missing on fish Use and migratory changes in the <u>! Watershed</u> .
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.





Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-08
Subject / Topic	Fish and Fish Habitat
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 7;</li><li>○ Appendix D26; &amp;</li><li>○ Appendix G7;</li></ul></li><li>• Table 4.4-1, App 3, Conceptual Fish Offsetting Plan Volume 7 of the 2014 FEIS</li></ul>
Summary	Information missing on fish Use and migratory changes in the <u>CH, X,</u> and <u>W Watersheds</u> .
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-09
Subject / Topic	Borrow Pits
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 7;</li><li>○ Appendix D26; &amp;</li><li>○ Appendix G7;</li></ul></li><li>• Appendix D8</li></ul>
Summary	Information is missing on potential effects of borrow pits on water balances and impacts on fish and fish habitat.
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-10
Subject / Topic	Road Location and Construction
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEIS Addendum, Section 7;</li><li>• Appendix D26;</li><li>• Appendix G7;</li><li>• Appendix B-2, Table B-5; #6;</li><li>• Appendix D30 - Road Management Plan</li></ul>
Summary	Information is required to review the potential effects of new road infrastructure on fish and fish habitat.
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	DFO's ability to assess the potential effects on fish and fish habitat for the impact assessment from the proposed works will be impacted by the absence of information.
Recommendation / Request	DFO has worked closely with the proponent and the necessary information for the purpose of this Reconsideration was provided. With this information, DFO considers this technical comment RESOLVED. DFO will continue to work with the proponent through the regulatory process to collect more information and mitigate the impact to fish and fish habitat as needed.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-11
Subject / Topic	Fish and Fish Habitat Annual Reporting
References	New Term and Conditions on Fish and Fish Habitat reporting
Summary	The Meliadine Mine Project reporting does not include an appendix specific to fish and fish habitat with its annual reporting requirements. Such a report is provided by AEM for the Meadowbank complex and allows Fisheries and Oceans Canada to properly monitor compliance with the <i>Fisheries Act</i>
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	There is currently no requirement to report on important aspect of impacts to fish and fish habitat
Recommendation / Request	<p>Proponent to include to annual reporting an appendix including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report on death of fish;</li><li>• Report on Harmful Alteration, Disruption and Destruction of fish habitat;</li><li>• Report on fish passage issues;</li><li>• Fish-out activities;</li><li>• Measures implemented to avoid and mitigate impacts to fish or fish habitat; and</li><li>• Offsetting activities.</li></ul>



<b>Review Comment #</b>	<b>DFO-TRC-12</b>
<b>Subject / Topic</b>	Aquatic Invasive Species
<b>References</b>	New Terms and Conditions proposed
<b>Summary</b>	Current monitoring plans do not include a monitoring program for aquatic invasive species.
<b>Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment</b>	Protection of aquatic ecosystems against aquatic invasive species requires focus on preventing their introduction because remediation is often not feasible.
<b>Recommendation / Request</b>	Proponent to include a non-Indigenous Species/Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program around zones of higher risk. This monitoring plan should be developed by an expert, be reviewed and approved by DFO, and response measure should be added to the shipping management plan. Results of the monitoring program should be part of annual reporting.



Review Comment #	DFO-TRC-13
Subject / Topic	Underwater Noise from Shipping
References	Shipping Management Plan
Summary	<p>Underwater noise from shipping vessels has the potential to elicit disturbance effects on marine mammals by reducing their ability to travel, communicate, and find food.</p> <p>We have currently no information on noise generated by shipping vessels used by AEM. Without this information it is impossible to understand the impact it has on marine mammals and adopt appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.</p>
Importance of Issue to Impact Assessment	There is an increase in number of shipping vessels in the Arctic. More scientific evidence shows that shipping noise has cumulative impacts on marine mammals including behavioral effects.
Recommendation / Request	Proponent to monitor and model their noise footprint using expert support. This model should aim at evaluating the impact of shipping noise on marine mammals present on the shipping route. The Shipping Management Plan should be updated according to the model.