



Sent by email

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SUBJECT: Summary of Issues for the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project

Sylvie St-Jean:

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) conducted a comment period from October 6, 2023 to December 4, 2023, inviting participants to provide feedback related to the Initial Project Description of the Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project (the Project) proposed by Torngat Metals Ltd. All submissions received will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry; Reference number 85969).

As you know, on October 13, 2023, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) issued its decision on the constitutionality of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). Following this decision, the Government of Canada released the Statement on the Interim Administration of the IAA Pending Legislative Amendments on October 26, 2023 (Interim Statement) to ensure that projects currently in the assessment process have an orderly and clear path forward. Following these announcements, you indicated your intention to collaborate with the Agency to initiate the impact assessment process, by video-conference, on October 27th. The interim measures will be applied until amendments come into force to address the issues identified by the SCC.

A Summary of Issues document, which reflects the comments received by the Agency during the comment period, is enclosed with this letter. As it is a general summary, the Agency encourages you to review the original submissions posted on the Registry to inform your understanding of the issues and the context in which the Indigenous communities, public, and organizations provided their comments.

Please note that some participants may not have had the opportunity or capacity to provide comments during the comment period on the Initial Project Description. The Agency will continue to accept comments from participants. You are encouraged to review and consider any comments submitted after the close of the comment period when preparing the response to the Summary of Issues. The Agency will consider all comments received in the next steps in the impact assessment process.

The Agency is continuing to engage with Indigenous communities on the Project and may receive further comments on the Initial Project Description. As a result, the Agency may bring to the proponent's attention other relevant issues.

As a next step, you are encouraged to provide the Agency with a Detailed Project Description that details how you intend to address the issues documented in the Summary of Issues. Please consult the Guide to Preparing an Initial Project Description and a Detailed Project Description for further guidance on the information that could be included in your Detailed Project Description.

For the Detailed Project Description and the Summary of the Detailed Project Description, you are encouraged to include the information from the Initial Project Description with new information integrated throughout the main body as appropriate to respond to the issues. This will facilitate understanding by participants, including the public and Indigenous communities. For ease of reference, the Agency also encourages you to provide the response to the Summary of Issues in a table with cross-references to other parts of the Detailed Project Description, as warranted.

The Agency suggests that the Detailed Project Description, and Summary of the Detailed Project Description, include all engagement up to the time of submission with Indigenous communities and the public, along with a detailed overview of future planned engagement during all phases of the Project. The Agency also suggests that the Detailed Project Description describe how comments and input from Indigenous communities and the public informed the analysis of potential effects and the development of mitigation measures. Any commitments that you made to address issues should be detailed in the document. Where you believe potential issues can be resolved now, or narrowed in scope, you are encouraged to provide your perspectives, and the supporting information and rationale, in the Detailed Project Description.

The Agency encourages you to submit your Detailed Project Description, including the response to the Summary of Issues and the affiliated geospatial files¹, at your convenience. The Agency is available to support you in advancing the assessment and encourages you to proactively share expected timelines regarding the submission of your Detailed Project Description.

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guidance-submitting-geospatial-data.html#toc3>

Upon receipt of the Detailed Project Description, the Agency will review the information provided and will form an opinion as to whether the Project, as presented, could involve activities falling under a federal head of power or activities likely to have clear impacts on a federal head of power, which could result in potential adverse effects in areas of federal jurisdiction. The Agency will then form its opinion on whether an impact assessment is required. If the Agency is of the opinion that an impact assessment is required for the Project, the Agency will provide you with Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The Agency will carefully consider the potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction in developing the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Along with other key information, these potential effects will be used to inform the key issues related to the Project, the scope of the factors for the impact assessment, and the information or studies that may be specified in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines pending amendments to the IAA.

Important note: Any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file and may be posted online via the Registry (Reference Number 85969), subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy² describes what submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice³. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Élisabeth Gagnon or StrangeLake@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Best regards,

<Original signed by>

Élisabeth Gagnon
Project Manager, Quebec Regional Office

Enclosure: Summary of Issues – Strange Lake Rare Earth Mining Project

² <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

³ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>