

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXCEL TEMPLATE:

1. Do not leave blank rows above or between comments.
2. Do not modify or delete the instructions or the column headings (*i.e.* the grey areas).
3. Each comment must have an associated topic and recommendation.
4. All formatting (*i.e.* bullets) will be lost when this file is uploaded to the Online Comment Table.
5. If necessary, adjust the cell width and height in order to view all text.
6. Cutting and pasting comments from WORD documents cannot include hard returns (spaces between paragraphs).
7. If you would like to create paragraphs within a single cell, please use a proper carriage return (ALT & ENTER).

TOPIC	COMMENT	RECOMMENDATION
<i>Be as specific as you think is appropriate; for example a section or page of the document, a recommendation #, general comment, etc.</i>	<i>Comments should contain all the information needed for the proponent and the Board to understand the rationale for the accompanying recommendation.</i>	<i>Recommendations can be for the proponent or for the Board. Recommendations should be as specific as possible, relating the issues raised in the "comment" column to an action that you believe is necessary.</i>
Sulphates	Since 2006, under-ice concentrations of sulphate have been above BC Ministry of Environment guidelines in Leslie and Moose (100 mg/L) lakes. This was also the case during the 2011 open water season. As there are no CCME guidelines for sulphate, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) has recommended 50 mg/L, [based on aquatic moss impacts] for the Snap Lake mine's Effluent Quality Criteria (EQC). The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) set the Snap Lake water license EQC at 75 (max avg.) and 150 (max grab). As Snap Lake is much larger than EKATI lakes it would likely have greater assimilative capacity, supporting the setting of a higher EQC.	The Agency is aware that BHPB has submitted a proposed Site-Specific Water Quality Objective for sulphates as part of the water licence renewal application. Considering all this, sulphate seems to be an issue that water licence renewal needs to address.
Selenium	The Agency noted that selenium levels in both the AEMP and reference lakes are now below the CCME guideline. The WLWB approved a new analytical method for selenium analysis in June 2011 (Collision Cell ICPMS).	The Agency would like to confirm whether the new analytical method for selenium is the cause of the decline of selenium concentrations detected in 2011.
Lake Sediment Sampling	In 2011, the company compared two different lake sediment sampling devices: the Ekman dredge which has been used throughout the history of the AEMP and a K-B corer. As the corer is more effective at providing a sample of the top centimetre of sediment, the results from these samples are generally a better reflection of the quality of recent sediment deposition downstream of EKATI.	The Agency believes the corer should be used in all future AEMP work so as to establish trends in contaminants of concern deposited to the lake bottoms. We agree with RESCAN's arguments regarding the continued use of the Ekman dredge to allow comparison with the historical record and to provide a consistent method of tracking sediment quality trends through the entire mine life. Given the respective merits of each sampling method, we recommend that both sampling devices be used and their results reported.
Analysis of Leslie-Moose stream data	Water samples from the stream connecting Leslie and Moose lakes have been taken now for the last two years. These data were not used in the effects analysis because historical data were not available.	Now that two years of data are available, consideration should be given as to how the information will be used in future effects analysis.
Endocrine Disrupting Compounds	A new emphasis on monitoring slimy sculpin will begin in next year's fish-monitoring program, a change the Agency endorses. There is evidence in the literature that endocrine disrupting compounds, which affect reproductive success, has caused a crash in a minnow population in a southern lake.	The Agency has asked the company to investigate whether endocrine disrupting compounds are flowing out of the LLCF. If so, we would like to know in what amounts and whether these concentrations could adversely affect the downstream sculpin populations being monitored.
Zooplankton Data	Unlike all other lakes sampled, there seems to have been only one replicate sample taken for zooplankton biomass and diversity in Nanuq (Table 3.6-1 and 3.6-2).	As there is no explanation in the main report or the data report, we would appreciate one as to why only one replicate sample was taken.