

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPONENT:** Tantalum Mining Corporation of Canada Ltd.  
(TANCO)  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** Tailings Reprocessing Facility Project  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Mining  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 1906.50

As part of the [environmental assessment and licensing process](#), the purpose of this document is to summarize comments received from the public and government's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and how they are addressed. It includes a recommendation to inform the director's licensing decision.

### INTRODUCTION

Tantalum Mining Corporation of Canada Ltd. (TANCO) submitted a proposal dated November 9, 2023, for the construction and operation of a new 3000 tonnes per day mill, concentrate loadout building, ore storage pad, and additional supporting infrastructure located on the existing TANCO mine site in section 15-17-15 EPM in Division No. 19 Unorganized.

The proposal was advertised in the Lac du Bonnet Clipper on December 7, 2023, and in the Winnipeg Free Press on December 9, 2023, and placed in the online Public Registry: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/1906.5/index.html>.

The proposal was distributed to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members on November 30, 2023.

The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was January 6, 2024.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Forty-nine public comments were received. Public comments are provided in full in the public registry at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/1906.5/index.html>. The following summarizes the two main public comments received:

Table 1

<b><u>Public Concern Raised</u></b>	<b><u>Mitigation Options</u></b>	<b><u>Disposition and Draft Licence Condition</u></b>
<u>Traffic and Road Safety on Provincial Highway 315</u>  Concerns regarding road safety, dust, noise, maintenance and overall conditions of the existing highway and potential	Upgrades and maintenance to provincial highway 315 as determined by Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI).	MTI reviewed the proposal and additional information provided by TANCO and has no concerns with the proposed development or potential traffic impacts.

<p>impacts resulting from increased traffic due to the proposed development.</p>		<p>The requirement for a traffic impact study conducted by TANCO, and acceptable to MTI, is included in clause 34 of the draft licence.</p>
<p><u>Water Quality</u></p> <p>Concerns regarding potential downstream water quality effects on the Bird River, Bird Lake and surrounding area.</p>	<p>Continued requirement and enforcement of water quality effluent limits in accordance with provincial standards and as required under the federal Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulation (MDMER).</p>	<p>TANCO is currently required to meet provincial and federal effluent quality limits at the mine and will be required to continue to meet all effluent quality limits with the operation of the tailings reprocessing facility project.</p> <p>The draft licence includes water quality limits, terms and conditions, sampling, monitoring, and reporting requirements.</p> <p>Clause 57 of the draft licence prescribes effluent discharge limits.</p> <p>Clauses 61 and 62 (and Appendices A and B) of the draft licence include wastewater effluent sampling and monitoring requirements.</p> <p>Clause 63 of the draft licence requires downstream water sampling.</p> <p>Clause 66 of the draft licence requires the licensee to carry out an environmental effects monitoring program as required by the federal Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations, in consultation with the Manitoba government.</p>

## **COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) responses are listed in Table 2 below. Substantive comments and their dispositions follow the table. TAC comments are provided in full in the public registry at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/1906.5/index.html>.

Table 2 Tantalum Mining Corporation of Canada Ltd. (TANCO)  
Technical Advisory Committee Comments

<b>No</b>	<b>Technical Advisory Committee Member</b>	<b>Response Provided</b>
1	<b>Environment and Climate Change</b>	
	Environmental Approvals Branch	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Quality Management</li> </ul>	
	Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Office</li> </ul>	January 4, 2024
	Office of Drinking Water	November 30, 2023
	Environmental Programs and Remediation Branch	
	Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch	December 8, 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Use Licensing Section</li> </ul>	December 6, 2023
	Water Science and Watershed Management Branch	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Quality Management Section</li> </ul>	February 1, 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groundwater Management Section</li> </ul>	
	Climate Change and Clean Technology	
	Parks Branch	
2	<b>Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources</b>	
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (wildlife)	
	Wildlife and Fisheries Branch (fisheries)	
	Forestry and Peatlands Branch	January 5, 2024
	Lands and Planning	
	Crown Land Specialist	
	Mines Program	December 21, 2023
	Petroleum Program	
	Lands Branch	
3	<b>Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources Branch</b>	December 29, 2023
4	<b>Municipal and Northern Relations</b>	
	Community Planning Branch	December 13, 2023
	Office of the Fire Commissioner	
5	<b>Labour and Immigration - Inspection and Technical Services</b>	

6	<b>Transportation and Infrastructure</b> - Environmental Services and Consultation Branch	
	Highway Design Branch – Roadside Development Section	December 29, 2023
7	<b>Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care</b>	December 29, 2023
8	<b>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</b>	

**Water Science and Watershed Management Branch - Water Quality Management Section**

Detailed comments submitted included requests for the Environmental Effects Monitoring reports to be shared for review and the recommendation for increased monitoring to confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and increasing effluent water quality monitoring.

TANCO provided additional information on February 16, 2024, and the information was shared with Water Quality Management Section and posted on the public registry. Environmental Effects Monitoring reports were also shared with Water Quality Management Section.

**Disposition:**

Following review of the additional information, Water Quality Management Section was satisfied with the responses provided by TANCO.

Effluent water quality limits, terms and conditions are included in the draft licence to meet provincial water quality standards as well as federal Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations.

**Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure – Roadside Development Section**

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) requested additional information from TANCO regarding potential traffic impacts due to the development.

TANCO provided additional information on February 16, 2024, and the information was shared with MTI and posted on the public registry.

MTI confirmed that the department does not have concerns with the proposed development and asked that TANCO provide a Traffic Impact Study.

**Disposition:**

A Traffic Impact Study conducted by TANCO, and acceptable to MTI, is included in clause 34 of the draft licence.

**Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources - Mines Branch**

Mines Branch requested information from TANCO including the chemical composition of the tailings and tailings volumes.

TANCO provided additional information on February 16, 2024, and the information was shared with Mines Branch and posted on the public registry.

**Disposition:**

Following review of the additional information, Mines Branch was satisfied with the responses provided by TANCO.

Clause 67 of the draft licence includes the requirement for the licensee to comply with Manitoba Regulation 67/99, or any future amendment thereto, issued under The Mines and Minerals Act, respecting closure plans for mining developments.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The decision to not hold a public hearing was made by the director and communicated to the proponent on April 5, 2024. The decision was placed on the public registry on April 9, 2024.

**CROWN-INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION**

The Government of Manitoba recognizes that it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with Indigenous communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of the Indigenous rights of that community.

The Initial Assessment conducted for the tailings reprocessing facility project has concluded that the licensing decision does not have the potential to adversely affect the exercise of an Aboriginal or Treaty right. Crown-Indigenous consultation will not be undertaken for the TANCO tailings reprocessing facility project licensing decision.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the development be issued the attached revised draft Environment Act Licence. The draft licence includes previous approvals for the mine and includes limits, terms and conditions for the entire development including the tailings reprocessing facility project. Administration of the licence should be assigned to the Eastern Region of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

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July 9, 2024