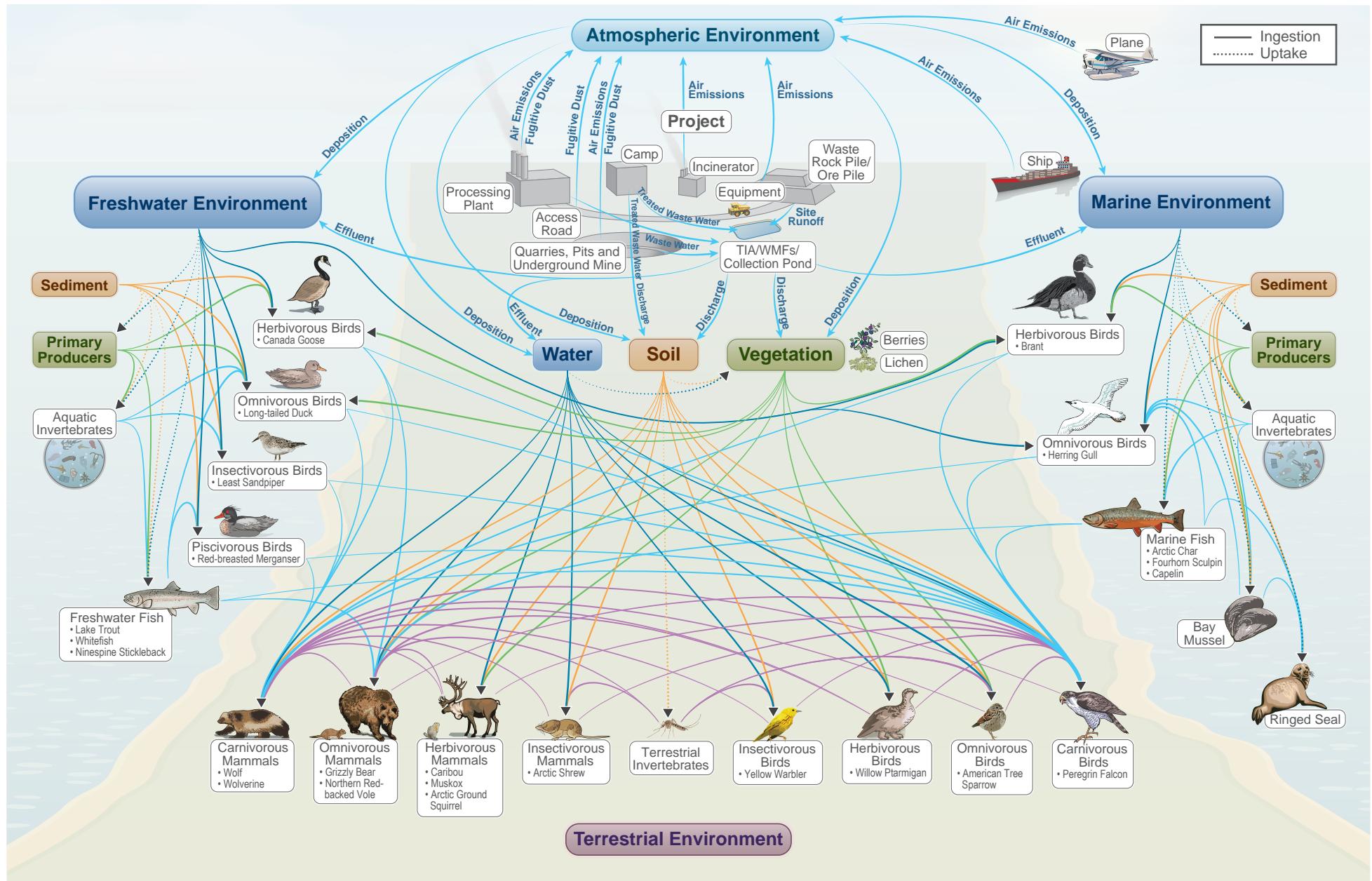


Figure 5.6-1

Conceptual Model for Potential Exposure to Phase 2 Project-related Contaminants of Potential Concern for Ecological Receptors



Zoonotic diseases identified to occur in the Arctic include those caused by: *Trichinella*, *Anisakis*, *Diphyllobothrium*, *Echinococcus*, and *Toxoplasma*, and potentially *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* (Polley, Hoberg, and Kutz 2010). Furthermore, the Arctic fox is a carrier for some strains of rabies, while Brucellosis is caused by the bacterial genus *Brucella* and can be transmitted from animals (e.g., bison, caribou, fox, bears, ringed seals, and beluga whales) to people upon contact or consumption (Leighton 2011). However, the identification of trends and prediction of future trends is not possible as the ecology of *Brucella* in caribou and marine mammals is currently too poorly understood (Leighton 2011). Zoonotic diseases can result in obvious clinical disease in humans; however, infected people do not necessarily display clinical symptoms. Potential zoonotic diseases in Nunavut and their wildlife vectors are presented in Table 5.6-3.

Table 5.6-3. Potential Zoonotic Diseases in Nunavut and Their Vectors

Disease	Disease Type	Vector
Anthrax (<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>)	Bacteria	Bison, cervids
Broad fish tapeworm (<i>Diphyllobothriasis</i>)	Parasite	Fish
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella</i> spp.)	Bacteria	Mammals
Cryptosporidiosis (<i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp.)	Parasite	Mammals, mosquitos
Filarial worms (<i>Dirofilaria</i> spp.)	Parasite	Black flies
Giardia (<i>Giardia</i> spp.)	Parasite	Mammals, birds
Hantavirus (<i>Bunyaviridae</i>)	Virus	Rodents (e.g., mice)
Herring roundworm (<i>Anisakiasis simplex</i>)	Parasite	Fish
Hydatid Disease (<i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> and <i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i>)	Parasite	Canine (dog, wolf, coyote, fox)
Leptospirosis (<i>Leptospira</i> spp.)	Bacteria	Beaver, deer, rodents, raccoon
Plague (<i>Yersinia pestis</i>)	Bacteria	Rodents, squirrels, mink, marten, bobcat, lynx, flea
Rabies (<i>Rhabdoviridae</i>)	Virus	Bat, any mammal
Raccoon Roundworm (<i>Baylisascaris</i> spp.)	Parasite	Raccoon
Ringworm (<i>Microsporum canis</i> and <i>Trichophyton verrucosum</i>)	Parasite	Mammals
Sarcoptic mange (<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i>)	Parasite	Canine (dog, wolf, coyote, fox)
Toxoplasmosis (<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>)	Parasite	Mammals
Trichinellosis (<i>Trichinella spiralis</i>)	Parasite	Bear
Tuberculosis (<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> and <i>Mycobacterium avium</i>)	Bacteria	Birds, bison, cervids
Tularemia (<i>Francisella tularensis</i>)	Bacteria	Beaver, hare, rabbit, muskrat

5.6.2 Exposure Assessment for Caribou Exposure to the Tailings Impoundment Area

5.6.2.1 *Introduction*

As described in Section 5.6.1.3, concerns were identified regarding the potential for caribou to ingest tailings and water from the TIA. Therefore, the potential exposure to caribou from COPCs in tailings and TIA water is evaluated in this section. The exposure assessment methodology follows that described in the existing conditions ERA (Section 5.5.2).

5.6.2.2 *Ingestion of Tailings*

The 95th percentile metal concentrations from 14 tailings samples obtained from Appendix V3-4A (SRK 2016c) and SRK (2015) were used as an input into the equation to calculate the EDI of COPCs caribou

receive from ingestion of tailings during the Construction and Operational phases. The equation used to calculate caribou exposure to COPCs (mg/kg BW/day) from tailings ingestion was Equation 13 provided in Section 5.5.2.2 of the existing conditions ERA.

The COPC EDI via the soil ingestion exposure route for the Construction and Operational phases for caribou are presented in Table 5.6-4. The assumptions used in the calculation of the EDI of COPCs via ingestion of tailings were the same as those described in the existing conditions ERA (Section 5.5.2.2). A sample calculation was also provided in the existing conditions ERA.

Table 5.6-4. Estimated Daily Intake of Contaminants of Potential Concern for Caribou from the Tailings Impoundment Area

COPC	EDI _[tailings]	EDI _[TIA water]	EDI _[total]
Arsenic	1.06E-03	1.49E-04	1.21E-03
Beryllium	6.38E-05	1.84E-06	6.56E-05
Chromium	7.60E-04	2.38E-06	7.62E-04
Copper	1.77E-04	5.22E-06	1.82E-04
Molybdenum	2.39E-05	2.54E-05	4.93E-05
Nickel	9.54E-04	1.14E-05	9.66E-04
Selenium	6.62E-06	2.26E-06	8.88E-06
Sulphate ^a	-	-	-
Tin	2.96E-03	2.07E-07	6.00E-03

Notes:

All EDIs are in mg/kg BW/day.

COPC = contaminant of potential concern

BW = body weight

EDI = estimated daily intake

EDI_[tailings] = estimated daily intake of COPC from tailings consumption (mg/kg BW/day)

EDI_[TIA water] = estimated daily intake of COPC from TIA water consumption (mg/kg BW/day)

EDI_[total] = total estimated daily intake of COPC caribou receives from tailings and TIA water consumption (mg/kg BW/day)

(-) = not applicable

^a Exposure to sulphate occurs through water only. The TRV for sulphate is equivalent to the CCME water quality guideline in mg/L; therefore, the EDI calculation is not necessary.

5.6.2.3 Ingestion of Water from the Tailings Impoundment Area

The predicted 95th percentile concentration of COPCs from the base case surface water quality model from the Tail Lake node (in the TIA) was used as an input in the equation to calculate the EDI of COPCs for caribou ingesting water from the TIA. The equation used to calculate caribou exposure to COPCs (mg/kg BW/day) from ingestion of water in the TIA was Equation 14 provided in Section 5.5.2.3 of the existing conditions ERA.

The surface water quality model did not provide predicted concentrations of tin at the Tail Lake node. Therefore, to be conservative, the maximum baseline concentration of tin measured in surface waters in the freshwater environment LSA (0.000967 mg/L; Rescan 2010d, 2011g) was used in the EDI calculations instead.

The COPC EDI via the TIA water ingestion exposure route for the Construction and Operational phases for caribou are presented in Table 5.6-4. The assumptions used in the calculation of the EDI of COPCs

via ingestion of water in the TIA were the same as those described in the existing conditions ERA (Section 5.5.2.3). A sample calculation was also provided in the existing conditions ERA.

5.6.3 Toxicity Assessment for Caribou Exposure to the Tailings Impoundment Area

The toxicity assessment is the same as that presented in Section 5.5.3 of the existing conditions ERA. The same TRVs for caribou for the COPCs in tailings were used in the existing conditions ERA (Section 5.5.3.2, Mammalian and Avian Wildlife) were used in the assessment of risk to caribou from the TIA. However, a few additional COPCs were identified based on the COPC selection process from floatation tailings and TIA water chemistry. The TRVs for these new COPCs are described in the following sections.

5.6.3.1 Sulphate

The CCME livestock guideline for sulphate is 1,000 mg/L (CCREM 1987). Based on a search of available literature, no additional studies for sulphate toxicity in mammalian wildlife apart from studies included in the CCME sulphate guideline were identified. Therefore, the CCME livestock guideline of 1,000 mg/L for sulphate was selected as the TRV for caribou.

5.6.3.2 Beryllium

The Eco-SSL document for beryllium (US EPA 2005b) provides an oral mammalian TRV of 0.532 mg/kg BW/day (Schroeder and Mitchener 1975), which is based on a NOAEL for survival in juvenile mice (*M. musculus*). A study by Freundt and Ibrahim (1990) provides the only other NOAEL reported for mammalian species in the beryllium Eco-SSL document, which is 0.953 mg/kg BW/day for growth effects in sexually mature rats (*R. norvegicus*) exposed to oral doses of beryllium in drinking water. Because the lowest chronic NOAEL reported for reproduction, growth, or survival effects in mammals is 0.532 mg/kg BW/day, this value was adopted as the TRV for caribou.

5.6.3.3 Tin

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) document “*Toxicological Benchmarks for Wildlife: 1996 Revision*” (Sample, Opresco, and Suter 1996) provides a mammalian LOAEL for tin of 35 mg/kg BW/day, which is based on observed reproductive effects following a chronic oral exposure of tin to a critical lifestage (gestation) of mouse (Davis et al 1987). Observed reproductive effects included decreased fetal survival and increased frequency of litter resorption. The corresponding NOAEL from this study was reported as 23.4 mg/Kg BW/day, and was adopted as the TRV for caribou in this assessment.

5.6.4 Risk Characterization for Caribou Exposure to the Tailings Impoundment Area

Using the results of the exposure assessment and TRV assessment, ecological health risks were quantified using HQs. The HQ is the ratio between the total EDI and the TRV and provides a measure of exposure to a COPC through the various exposure pathways. Environment Canada (2012) states that an HQ of less than 1.0 indicates that the existence of adverse effects to ecological health is unlikely, while an HQ greater than 1.0 indicates a possibility of adverse effects to ecological health.

For sulphate, since the exposure occurs only through drinking water, the exposure is evaluated based on the concentration in water from the TIA. The predicted 95th percentile concentration (441 mg/L) of sulphate in the water of the TIA is below the CCME water quality guideline for the protection of livestock (1000 mg/L). Therefore, no risk to caribou would be expected based on sulphate exposure.

The total EDI of the remaining COPCs (in mg/kg BW/day) for caribou was calculated by summing the EDI from the two exposure pathways from the TIA (Table 5.6-4; ingestion of floatation tailings and

water within the TIA). The total EDI was then divided by the TRV (in mg/kg BW/day) to obtain the HQ for caribou, using Equation 17 provided in Section 5.5.4.4 of the existing conditions ERA. Table 5.6-5 shows the HQ for caribou exposure to COPCs in the TIA.

Table 5.6-5. Caribou Toxicity Reference Values and Hazard Quotients for Contaminants of Potential Concern from the Tailings Impoundment Area

COPC	Mammal TRV (mg/kg BW/day)	Hazard Quotient
Arsenic	1.04	0.0012
Beryllium	0.53	0.00012
Chromium	2.4	0.00032
Copper	5.6	0.000032
Molybdenum	0.26	0.00019
Nickel	1.7	0.00057
Selenium	0.143	0.000062
Sulphate ^a	1000	0.44
Tin	23.4	0.00026

Notes:

COPC = contaminant of potential concern

TRV = toxicity reference value

BW = body weight

^a *TRV is in mg/L. The hazard quotient is calculated by dividing the 95th percentile concentration predicted in TIA water (441 mg/L) by the TRV.*

All hazard quotients for caribou exposure to COPCs from the TIA were well below 1.0. Even if more conservative assumptions are made (e.g., exposure occurs 365 days per year, background uptake of COPCs from vegetation in the diet are added to the EDI), the HQs are still below 1.0. Based on this assessment, the risks and potential for effects to caribou from TIA exposure are expected to be negligible.

5.6.5 Conclusions for the Phase 2 Project-related Environmental Risk Assessment

This Phase 2 Project ERA integrated the results of the environmental media predictive studies, ecological receptor characteristics, and regulatory-recommended TRVs. Existing environmental conditions (e.g., naturally-occurring environmental media concentrations of COPCs) were also considered to enable to identification of Phase 2 Project-related sources of risk to ecological receptor health. This assessment considered potential ecological receptor health risks associated with the summed exposure to COPCs from several exposure pathways (i.e., ingestion of soil, ingestion of drinking water, and ingestion of vegetation or prey items).

Concerns were raised about the potential for exposure of caribou to COPCs in tailings or water contained within the TIA. Therefore, a special assessment of risk for this exposure scenario was provided. A number of COPCs were identified in both floatation tailings and in water within the TIA (Section 5.6.1.3). The EDI for these COPCs was calculated (Section 5.6.2) and compared to TRVs for caribou (Section 5.6.3). The calculated HQs for caribou through ingestions of floatation tailings and water from the TIA were well below 0.2 for all COPCs. Therefore, the risks and potential for effects to caribou from TIA exposure are expected to be negligible.

For other ecological receptors across the wider LSA and RSA, screening for COPCs based on predictive model results indicates that the concentrations of parameters in soil and water are predicted to remain below applicable guidelines or within the range of natural variability (i.e., below guidelines and/or the same as existing conditions). No COPCs were identified in soil or water, indicating that the concentration of COPCs are not likely to change in freshwater or marine sediments, vegetation, or prey items (since the quality of these are dependent on soil and water). No COPCs were identified for ecological receptors, and risk characterization for ecological receptors would be similar to those described in the existing conditions ERA (Section 5.5.4).

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