Doris North Gold Mine Final Environmental Impact Statement October 2005

Health Canada Technical Comments Summary

With respect to the socio-economic impact assessment, Health Canada finds that the assessment is still inadequate. The two valued components used (community infrastructure and economy) do not reflect possible effects to human health.

With respect to air quality, Health Canada has the following comment: the methods used to assess effects due to particulate matter (e.g., fine dust) are inadequate. Health outcomes associated with predicted particulate matter levels need to be examined.

With respect to the Human Health Risk Assessment (supporting document F2), Health Canada's comments are summarized as following:

Health Canada is recommending that contaminants in fish tissues consumed by the local population need to be better estimated. Also, there is a possibility of an important exposure to methylmercury should toddlers consume fish caught from Tail Lake. After the project starts, Health Canada recommends monitoring mercury in the filet of fish from Tail, Doris and Little Robert Lakes. Furthermore, the use of certain threshold values such as that used for mercury need to be corrected.