

Appendix C - Effects Assessment Criteria Rankings

Criterion	Description	Low	Moderate	High
Magnitude (of the effect)	Magnitude of an effect relative to the existing conditions and / or expected size of impact following application of mitigation measures.	Effect present at, or nominally above, baseline conditions.	Effect exceeds baseline conditions; however, is less than regulatory criteria or published guideline values.	Effect exceeds regulatory criteria or published guideline values, or it exceeds the background conditions by more than as established conservative value.
Geographic Extent (of the effect)	The geographic / spatial extent of an effect on a VEC following application of mitigation measures.	Effect is limited to the Project Area (PA) / project footprint.	Effect extends into areas beyond the PA; however, is contained within the Local Assessment Area (LAA) or Regional Assessment Area (RAA) extent.	Effect exceeds the Local Assessment Area (LAA) or Regional Assessment Area (RAA) extent.
Duration (of the effect)	The period of time an effect will persist following application of mitigation measures.	Short Term - Effect is evident only during the Site Preparation / Construction phases of the project, or portions thereof.	Medium - Effect is evident during Construction and/or the Operation and Maintenance phases of the Project.	Long Term - Effects will be evident beyond the operational life of the Project and is unlikely to revert to baseline conditions.
Frequency (of conditions causing the effect)	The number of times an effect occurs following application of mitigation measures.	Infrequent occurrence of the effect (e.g. once).	Sporadic occurrence of the effect. (e.g. < once per month).	Regular and frequent intervals or occur continuously (e.g. > once per month).
Permanence (of effect)	The potential that the VEC will recover to baseline conditions following application of mitigation Measures, restoration, compensation, and offset programs are considered.	Effect is reversible over a short period of time (e.g. one growing season).	Effect is not readily reversible; however, can be over during the life of the Project (e.g. >10 years).	Effect is permanent, and not reversible during the life of the Project
Ecological, Land Use and Cultural Context (of effect)	Refers to the general setting and influence of past and current human activity and the disturbance associated with that activity.	Project occurs in a high disturbance area. The effect results in minimal disruption of ecological, land use and cultural functions and relationships within the identified Assessment boundaries.	Project occurs in a moderately pristine area. The effect results in some disruption of ecological, land use and cultural functions and relationships within the identified Assessment boundaries.	Project occurs in a pristine area. The effect results in critical disruption of ecological, land use and cultural functions and relationships within the identified Assessment boundaries.