

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59558

Title: Integrating Stage-Gate Governance, Digital Project Controls and Risk Management to Improve Execution Readiness in Saudi Mining Projects under Vision 2030.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Id: JPR-374

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The manuscript presents a relevant conceptual framework integrating stage-gate governance, digital project controls, and risk management to improve execution readiness in Saudi mining projects under Vision 2030. The proposed evidence register, readiness domains, decision rules, and pilot indicators offer practical value for project owners, project management offices, and investment decision-makers. A positive aspect is the authors' clear acknowledgment that the framework remains untested and that improved project outcomes cannot yet be claimed. However, minor revisions are recommended to strengthen methodological transparency and practical applicability. The authors should provide more detail on the targeted literature-search process, including the search terms, source-selection criteria, and approach used to assess the relevance and quality of the selected publications. The rationale for selecting the seven readiness domains and the three-state maturity classification should also be explained more explicitly. Furthermore, the proposed pilot indicators would benefit from clearer guidance on baseline measurement, data collection, and evaluation criteria. The authors should clarify how independent reviewer agreement will be assessed and how differences in project scale, commodity, and engineering maturity will be considered during validation. Finally, the manuscript should be checked for consistency in terminology, table formatting, citations, and references. These revisions would improve the reproducibility, clarity, and practical usefulness of the proposed framework.