



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

IR Response Template

Round One: Information Request - Alternatives North #04

May 31, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: AltNrth #04

Date Received

February 28, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs

Date of this Response:

May 31, 2011

Request

Preamble:

Some history is provided of the Giant Mine site based on the following information sources:

- Monthly operation reports to company board of Directors, stored at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre;
- Published papers; and
- Selected correspondence in files located at Giant Mine.

In reading the DAR, it becomes evident that past record keeping left a lot to be desired. For example, surface disposal took place of captured arsenic trioxide dust from July 1949 to February 1950 but the exact location was not recorded (pg. 4-11). There are many other instances where accurate and organized record keeping would assist with current remediation efforts. Records related to Giant Mine were found at the following locations:

1. Prince of Wales Heritage Centre, Finding Aid N2001-014

<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/databases/DigitalResources/Archives/N-2001-014/N-2001-014.pdf>

This accession consists of 3.5 meters of textual material, 328 photographs including 197 colour transparencies, 25 colour prints, 50 colour negatives, 4 black and white transparencies, 2 black and white glass slides and 50 black and white prints. In addition, there are 18 architectural plans, blueprints, site plans and flow charts. The majority of the textual material dates from 1944-1999 and includes monthly operational reports and reports from the President, underground operations, diamond drilling and treatment plant for Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines Ltd. There are also meeting minutes, by-laws and constitution for the Giant Recreation Association and 10 Year Club, as well as menus and dinner invitations from 10 year club celebrations. There are also copies of the Giant Mine newsletter Baker Creek News. The remaining textual material includes correspondence and monthly operational reports for the Salmita Mine, Taurcanis (Bulldog) Mine and Tundra Gold Mine. The architectural plans show





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buildings and mine site layout for Taurcanis Mine. There are also blueprints, site plans and milling flow sheets from Giant Mine. The photographs date from the 1950s to 1991 and include aerial views of Giant Mine, headframe buildings, tailings retreatment plant, tailings ponds, employees at work both above and underground, pouring of the 10,000 gold brick and safety awards. In addition, there are photographs of the Akaitcho Mine, Salmita Mine, Tundra Mine and Crestaurum Mine. There are also several black and white prints that were taken by George Hunter in the 1950s documenting activities at Giant Mine.

2. Northwest Territories Geoscience Office, *Giant Mine File 016266*, Scanned Images 238 MB in 211 files. Reports as PDF. Maps as JPEG.

This file contains many different items related to Giant Mine including early work on the AES Claims at Akaitcho/Supercrest, geochemical studies at the mine and varying era's of sections, plans and underground drawings. Material in these reports was acquired by the Northwest Territorial Geoscience Office (NTGO) from a variety of donors. The collections were received in varying condition, and degrees of completeness.

Many other files are also available on Giant Mine through the Gateway database search engine.

3. Library and Archives Canada (Ottawa), Government of Canada Files searched using ArchiviaNet at: http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020105_e.html

A limited search turned up the following files:

RG29, National Health and Welfare, Volume 2977

File: 851-5-2

Parts: 1=1951/05-1974/11 2=1975/01-1975/03 3=1975/04-1976/07 4=1976/07-1977/01

File Title: Arsenic

Outside Dates: 1951/05-1977/01

Finding Aid number: 29-143

RG85, Northern Affairs Program, Series D-1-A, Volume 40

File: 139-7, Arsenic Surveys, NWT - Accounts

Outside Dates: 1950-1954

Finding Aid number: 85-1

RG22, Indian and Northern Affairs, Series A-1-a, Volume 233

File: 99-2-39, Parts: 1 Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines Limited - General

Outside Dates: 1939-1959

RG22, Indian and Northern Affairs, Series A-1-a, Accession 1995-96/693, Box 32

File: 99-2-39, Parts: 2 Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines Ltd. - General

Outside Dates: 1960-1969/10

Finding Aid number: 22-46





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RG85, Northern Affairs Program, Series D-2-a, Volume 1529

File: 16803-G Clippings and metallurgical reports - Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines

Outside Dates: 1946/10-1951/08

RG85, Northern Affairs Program, Series D-2-a, Volume 1531

File: 53259, [Audit reports - Mining companies - Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines] Notes: Title based on contents of file.

Outside Dates: 1950/08-1950/12

A limited review of some of the above materials has been made.

It will be very important to provide a consolidated inventory of documents, studies, plans and other information related to Giant Mine for current and future management, including the work proposed as part of this Development. This information management system will need to be accessible to future generations forever.

Question:

1. Please provide a file list or inventory of records that currently exist at the Giant Mine site as discussed in Chapter 4 of the DAR.
2. If no such listing or index is available, please describe the records that are available (corporate or company files or any government records) that may be at the site, the general volume of records, current storage condition.
3. Please provide details on the overall information management system that the Developer intends to use including any plans for consolidating known information sources, collaboration with other record holders, digital imaging and other methods of creating a permanent set of records regarding site history, site development and regulatory history.
4. In chapter 4 of the DAR, Giant Mine site records were used to make the following statements:
 - page 4-10, a May 1949 study on the effects of arsenic pollution;
 - page 4-11, according to the records, surface disposal of arsenic trioxide dust occurred in July 1949 and February 1950, but the disposal location is not recorded in any of the documents reviewed;
 - page 4-11, the sand plain option was abandoned due to a high water table, and the Department of National Health and Welfare (the responsible regulatory authority) would not consider the Veronica Lake option until more information was available;
 - page 4-11, in a letter dated July 21, 1950, the Department of National Health and Welfare stated that it regarded the use of concrete vats on surface as the safest method of storage.

Please provide a copy of these specific records and any other relevant document held at the Giant Mine site related to understanding how the arsenic pollution and its effects on people and the environment



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were initially identified and managed, and how the decision was made about underground storage of the arsenic dust.

Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections):

Section 4 Site History

Reference to the EA Terms of Reference

Response 1

The records in Chapter 4 provide a historical context for the Giant Mine Remediation Project (Remediation Project). To fully understand the proposed Remediation Project, it is necessary to describe the circumstances that contributed to Giant Mine's history. Chapter 4 provides a general account of mine's history from the pre-industrial period, the mine's operational phase and eventual transfer of the mine to the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1999.

A general inventory of the records currently available at the mine site and Giant Mine Remediation Project Office is included as an attachment to this Information Response for reference.

Response 2

Please see find records referenced in 4-10 and 4-11 of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) attached.

Response 3

The Remediation Project intends to create an information management system to support consultation tracking the Project Teams responsiveness and changes made in direct response to Aboriginal and public concerns. The information system may be expanded as required.

Response 4

Please find the noted attached the records referenced on page 4-10 and 4-11 of the DAR, previously submitted to Mr. Kevin O'Reilly on February 24, 2011. However, the remaining records requested are not included in this response. The Giant Mine Remediation Project does not intend to research the historical records relating to the decision to place the arsenic trioxide into the underground stopes and chambers.

