



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

IR Response

Round One: Information Request - Alternatives North #19

June 17, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE TEMPLATE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: Alternatives North #19

Date Received

February 28, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs

Alternatives North IR #02, 20, 22
Review Board IR #11
YKDFN IR #05, 13, 18, 26
City Of Yellowknife IR #02
Environment Canada IR #02, 15

Date of this Response

June 17, 2011

Request

Preamble:

The DAR states at page 14-5:

“INAC will facilitate third-party access to data for research and/or analysis, subject to the applicable government legislation, policies and contractual obligations. Whenever possible, this access will be through the Giant Mine Remediation Project website. Comments received from the public on monitoring data will be considered in the development and amendment of EMPs.”

This statement does not provide much assurance that this information and data will be made readily available or what sort of rules may govern the availability of various types of data. For example, three Access to Information requests were filed with INAC in 2009 regarding various aspects of the Giant Mine. A formal response with copies of records took over a year and is still outstanding, well over the statutory requirements under federal legislation.

Question:

1. Please clarify whether access to monitoring data related to the Giant Mine Remediation Project will be made available only subject to formal requests under the Access to Information Act.
2. Please indicate what types of information will routinely be made available through an informal request.



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Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections)

s. 14.1.4 Access to Monitoring Data

Reference to the EA Terms of Reference

s. 3.2.5 Accidents and Malfunctions

Response

The Government of Canada recognizes the right of access by the public to information in records under the control of government institutions as an essential element of our system of democracy. The Giant Mine Remediation Project Team (Project Team) is committed to openness and transparency by respecting the spirit and requirements of the *Access to Information Act (ATIP)*, its Regulations and its related policy instruments.

The Project Team further acknowledges the importance of facilitating access to records in its care by making every reasonable effort to assist the public and ensure a high standard of care for records under its control.

With respect to monitoring data, the Project Team anticipates that the results of the monitoring programs will be reported through the Annual and State of Environment Reports to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB). For specific contents of the Annual and State of the Environment Report please refer to the response to Alternatives North Information Request #02.

Subject to limitations set out in ATIP, the Project Team is committed to providing all final research and data regarding monitoring, environmental management plans, spills and any information required by legislation, regulation, policy and guidelines.

The Project Team will provide information for informal requests that are within the public realm, i.e. monitoring data from Surveillance Network Programs. Where possible, the Project Team will discuss the preferred method to receive this information and appropriate timeline to respond.

