



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

IR Response Template

Round One: Information Request - Alternatives North #21

May 31, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: AltNrth #21

Date Received

February 28, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs

Date of this Response

May 31, 2011

Response

Preamble:

Minewater sampling was done from C-shaft beginning in June 2005 but was not possible in the lower parts of the mine after August 2007 due to —blockages. Alternatives North understands that C-shaft is no longer in operation.

Question:

1. Please describe and discuss the current status of C-shaft and the implications, if any, for continued and comparable minewater monitoring.
2. Please provide a copy of the related reference cited in the DAR at page R-17 and any more recent reports of a similar nature:

Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections):

DAR, s. 14.2 Long-Term Environmental Monitoring

Reference to the EA Terms of Reference

ToR s.3.2.6 Public Consultation

Summary

The C-Shaft mine water multi-port (M.P.) monitoring system broke down in 2007. In December, 2008, the Akaitcho pumping system came on-line allowing for composite weekly deep water mine samples. Additional sampling of the groundwater occurs throughout the mine site.

Response 1





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The C-Shaft mine water multi-port (M.P) monitoring system broke down in 2007. It is believed that there was a failure underground which led to a portion of the pipe being displaced. With the pipe displaced, the equipment is no longer functional. As a result no sampling has been done at C-Shaft since 2007. As discussed in section 14.2.2.1 of the Developer Assessment Report (DAR) efforts to restore the C-Shaft mine water "M.P." monitoring system were unsuccessful. Before the recommendations to repair the line could be implemented, C-Shaft and the head-frame were ordered closed and inaccessible by the mine safety divisions of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC). Currently, there is no "stratification" monitoring being done on the mine pool. However, weekly sampling of the mine water continues at the Akaitcho pumping system.

The Akaitcho pumping system came on-line in December 2008. This system pumps mine water from the mine pool and is sampled weekly. Approximately 100ml every hour is collected from an automated sampler. Once a week this composite sample is taken and analyzed at an accredited laboratory.

Although stratification samples can not be taken, the Akaitcho sampling system allows the mine to get regular, composite deep water mine samples

In addition to this mine water sample, the Project Team is monitoring the groundwater at 24 water monitoring wells throughout the mine site. These are sampled annually during the summer for total suspended solids, total dissolved solids, conductivity, hardness, cyanide and both total and dissolved metals, including arsenic.

There are annual reports for this work. *Groundwater & C-Shaft Monitoring: 2009 summary*, by SRK Consulting is the most recent report on file.

INAC is working on alternative methods for stratification sampling.

Response 2

Attached are the Ground Monitoring Reports from 2003-2009

