

# Giant Mine Remediation Project



Canada

## OVERSIGHT, ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDING



**The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Giant Mine Public Hearings, September 10-14, 2012**

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## PROJECT OVERSIGHT

## EXISTING GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

- Government of Canada
  - Parliament
  - Office of the Auditor General of Canada
    - Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development
      - Audits and Petition Process
      - Panel of Environmental Advisors
- Treasury Board Policies
  - Policy on Management of Real Property and the Policy on the Management of Projects
  - Audits and Reporting



## EXISTING AANDC OVERSIGHT

### **Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)**

- Project Leader – Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs
- Giant Mine Management Board
- Project Leadership Committee
- Giant Mine Oversight Committee
- Regulator (Northwest Territories Waters Act)
- Report on Plans and Priorities / Departmental Performance Report
- Audits and Evaluations
- Contaminated Sites Program Annual Report

## EXISTING REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Environment Canada
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission
- City of Yellowknife

## EXISTING PROJECT OVERSIGHT

### Independent Peer Review Panel

- Acts as an independent expert resource on technical issues for the Remediation Project along with the Independent Engineer
- Provides independent advice and oversight on design, technical issues and design changes
- Reviews and endorses final project proposals prior to submission in order to fulfill regulatory requirements
- Reports to the Management Board

## EXISTING COMMITMENTS

- Establish Environmental Management System Working Group
- Establish Aboriginal and Government Body
- Establish Independent Engineer
- Public reporting:
  - Third Party Audit of Environmental Management System
  - Quarterly public reporting
  - Annual Public Reports to summarize and review all operational and environmental data collected in the one-year reporting period
  - State of the Environment Reports - prepared every three years during the initial 15-year remediation period and every five years thereafter, to summarize, review and interpret the data collected and to provide recommendations for modifications to the monitoring program or site operations

## OVERSIGHT WORKING GROUP

- Parties have expressed a need for an additional mechanism for community input and oversight to build public confidence
- Based on an Oversight Workshop (March 6-7, 2012), an ad-hoc working group with representation from AADNC, GNWT, the City, YKDFN, AN was struck to explore establishing an arm's-length committee to monitor and to advise on environmental aspects of Project implementation
- Based on this critical discussion and input, AANDC is proposing the following for an Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee



## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EMAC)

An Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee will foster community engagement, input into the remediation process, and maintain public confidence in the Project

The GMRP Team commits to work with all interested and affected governments and organizations with the intent to have the Committee in place prior to starting the full remediation phase

## EMAC: MANDATE

- To provide arm's-length advice to the GMRP Team on implementing Project's environmental management system (EMS)
  - Will include advice on adaptive management and best practices
- Will work to increase public confidence through regular engagement with both the proponent and the community
- Provide input to develop and implement EMS and engagement plans
- Advise on long-term operations and maintenance

## EMAC: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Provide advice to the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team
- Improve environmental management, public confidence, long-term operations and maintenance
- Improve communication with current and future generations
  - Transparent and timely
- Assess recommendations
- Avoid duplication of existing regulatory requirements

## EMAC: PROPOSED TERMS

- Composition
  - Independent, qualified members (selection process in discussion)
- Lifespan
  - Exists throughout project implementation and monitoring phases
- Terms Of Reference
  - Reviewed every five years
- Reporting
  - Annually, and as needed
- Dispute Resolution
  - Mechanism in place for disputes related to process



## **PUBLIC AND ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT 1997 - 2012**

## WE ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC

- To hear and respond to concerns
- To show commitment to openness and transparency
- To incorporate concerns into our planning
- To ensure we have a remediation plan that is responsive and robust

## ABORIGINAL/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

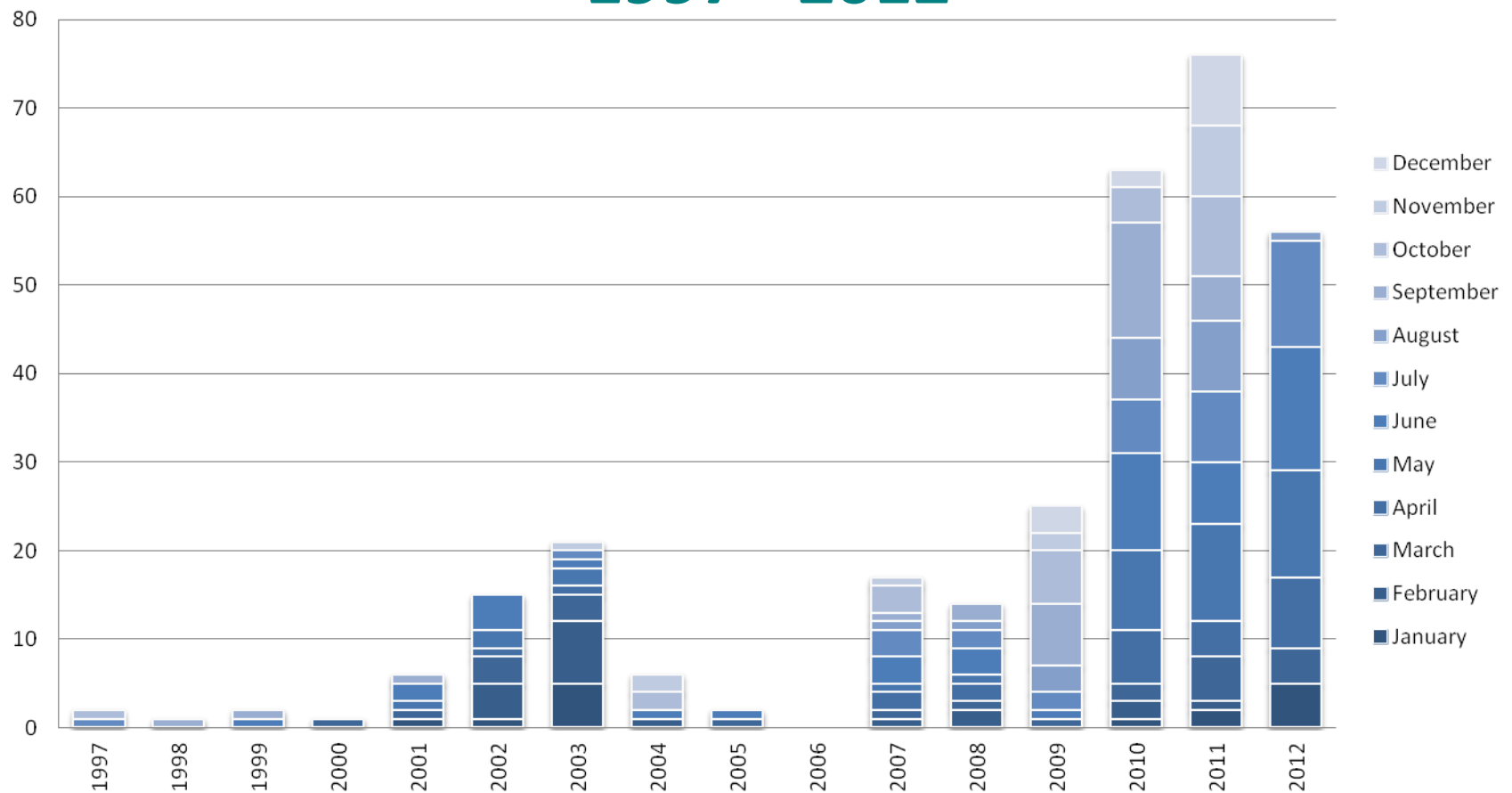
- From 1997 to present
- Face-to-face meetings
- Public Sessions - Dettah, N'Dilo, Lutsel K'e, Hay River, Yellowknife
- Giant Mine Team Sessions with YKDFN and Tlicho
- EMS Working Group of the Parties
- Oversight Working Group
- Giant Mine Advisory Committee (YKDFN), Community Alliance, etc.
- Site tours - First Nations, media, public

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## MEETINGS, OPEN HOUSES AND SITE TOURS 1997 - 2012





## RECENT ENGAGEMENTS

- Open House re: Project Updates - Yellowknife, Dettah, N'Dilo (May)
- Pre-Technical Report Workshop with Parties to the EA (June)
- Meetings of Giant Mine Project Team with City officials (ongoing)
- Meetings with Aboriginal leaders (May, June, ongoing)
- EMS Working Group of Parties (March – ongoing)
  - (YKDFN, AN, City, EC, DFO, and Board staff - observers)
- Giant Mine Community Alliance
  - (Mining Heritage, medical community, NSMA, Federation of Labour, Chamber Commerce, City, YKDFN – observers)
- Giant Mine Advisory Committee (YKDFN) (ongoing)
- Oversight Working Group (2012 –ongoing)

## PUBLIC SESSIONS: MAY 8-10, 2012

- In Dettah, Yellowknife, N'Dilo
- Provided:
  - A forum to receive input from public and Aboriginal groups
  - Updates on Care and Maintenance activities
  - Information on plans for site stability
  - Outline of work planned for near future

## PUBLIC SESSIONS: MAY 8-10, 2012

- Recurring themes raised:
  - Impacts of mine development on traditional ways
  - Recognition and respect for historical events
  - Ongoing and potential impacts – safety of water, tailings dust, ice thinning at diffuser
  - Involvement in future planning and socioeconomic benefits
  - Further discussion of ways to consider Traditional Knowledge
  - Lack of timely information
  - Waste storage plans
  - Remediation of tailings and contaminated soil
  - EA and Regulatory approvals process

## ADDRESSING CONCERNS

- Water quality - comprehensive study of Back Bay and Yellowknife Bay being conducted
- Ice thinning – modeling conducted, indicating no impact on ice thickness; safety monitoring with City Fire Department
- Socio-economic – considered in Procurement Strategy; Industry Days held to inform business of opportunities
- Timely information - improved communications protocols
- Independent oversight – commitment to an Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee



## SESSIONS WITH FIRST NATIONS

- Meetings of Senior Giant Mine Team Held with leadership in
  - N'Dilo (YKDFN) – May 9
  - Yellowknife (Tlicho) – June 13
- Purpose
  - To have Project Team describe the plans for remediating the site and potential for socio-economic benefits
  - To have the Aboriginal groups describe their capacity and aspirations to participate in remediation
- Outcome
  - Aboriginal leaders have expressed strong interest in participating
  - Aboriginal groups continuing to develop their capacity
  - Raised similar issues as those raised during the Public Sessions

## GIANT MINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YKDFN)

- Membership
  - Eight members
- Purpose
  - To provide a forum for the Giant Mine Project Team to engage with the YKDFN
  - To monitor the Project on behalf of YKDFN
  - To keep YKDFN communities informed
- Interaction between Advisory Committee and Project
  - Project provides funding
  - Project will provide technical support as required
  - GMAC and Project will engage in joint review and planning sessions of the closure plans for each mine component

## TYPICAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Giant Mine team consults extensively with the community on a regular basis. Parties engaged in this process include:
  - Giant Mine Advisory Committee (YKDFN)
  - Giant Mine Community Alliance (City of YK, NWT Mining Heritage Society, Northern Territories of Federation of Labour, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, NSMA and YKDFN as observers)
  - City of Yellowknife
  - Universities (e.g., Queen's, University of Alberta)
  - Tours

## SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

- GMRP Team is actively and extensively engaged with the public
- Engagement has been particularly productive and increasing this past year
- The engagement process is being established for the long-term (e.g., strong public and Aboriginal advisory bodies)
- Meaningful engagement is fundamental to the success of the Giant Mine Remediation Project
- The goal of this project is protecting the environment and the health and safety of the people of Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo
- We are committed to working with the communities, the public and Aboriginal groups to help achieve these goals



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## FUNDING

## PROJECT FUNDING MECHANISM

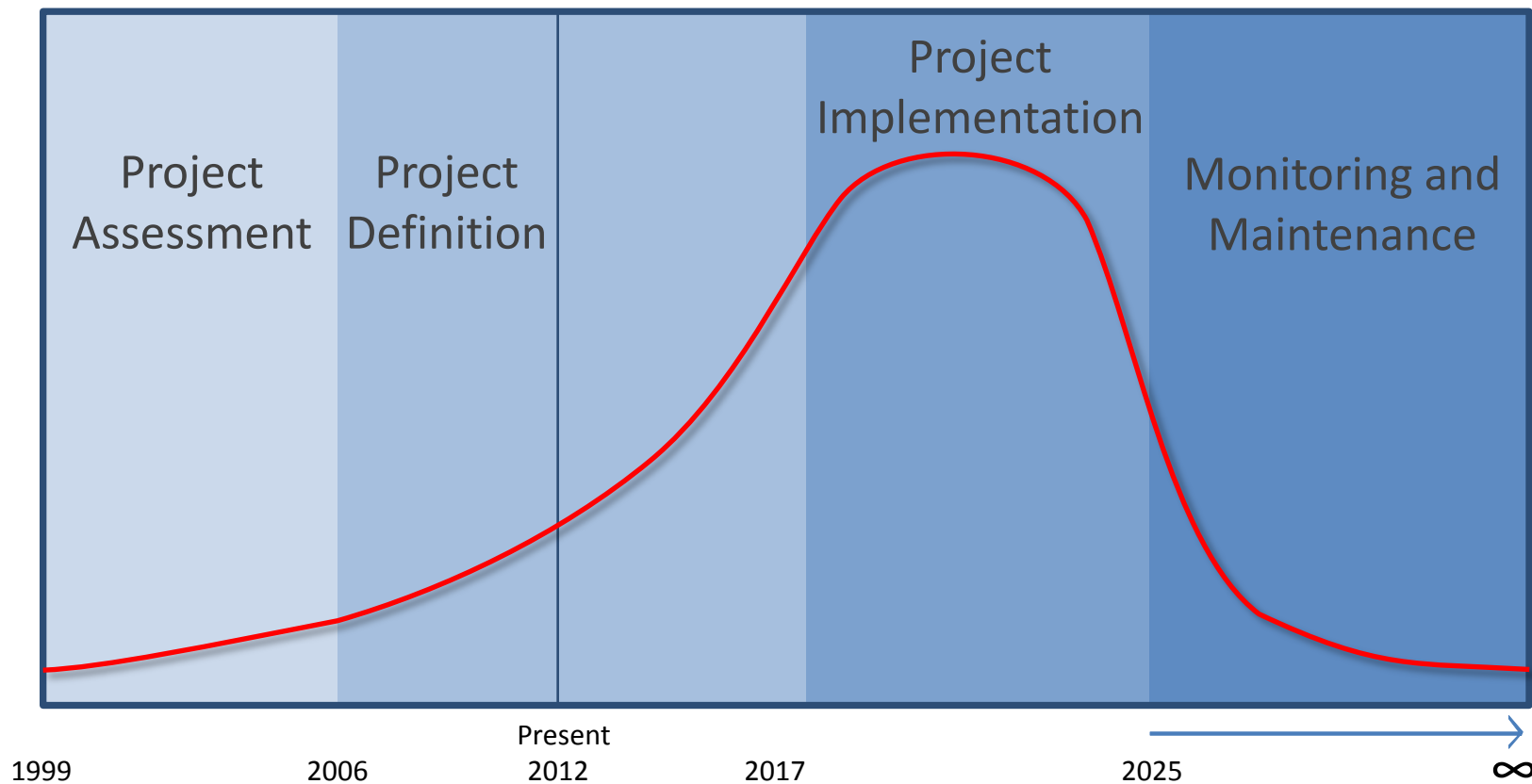
- AANDC is the project sponsor and is responsible for the remediation of the Giant Mine site
- AANDC seeks phased funding for the project through the Government of Canada budgetary process
- Funding for the project is provided by the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP)
- Project funding has been earmarked in the government's fiscal framework until 2019-2020

## EFFECTIVE PROJECT FUNDING

- Funding for the project has been stable and consistent
- The current funding approach has demonstrated the capacity to effectively manage cost variations and ensure the protection of human health and the environment
- Ministers responsible for funding decisions have been made aware of all of the ongoing costs associated with the project

**Since 1999, roughly \$160M has been spent on the Giant Mine project.**

## ANNUAL GIANT MINE EXPENDITURES (SPENT AND PROJECTED)



## OVERSIGHT, ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDING

- The Government of Canada and the GNWT, in selecting the preferred remediation option for the site, have recognized and accepted the GMRP includes long-term care, maintenance and monitoring
- The Government of Canada welcomes the interest and participation of stakeholders and the public in the Giant Mine Remediation Project. We will continue to engage with the public openly, transparently and responsively
- Timely implementation of the remediation plan along with the described environmental management system and oversight mechanisms will ensure that health and safety is protected and that public concerns are addressed and minimized