



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

IR Response

Round One: Information Request - Environment Canada #15

May 31, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: EC #15

Date Received:

28 February, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs:

YKDFN IR #11

YKDFN IR #12

Date of this Draft:

May 31, 2011

Request

Preamble:

Chapter 14 outlines the Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (EMEF) and a Long-term Environmental Monitoring Program to meet the Terms of Reference established for the Giant Mine Remediation Project EA. The owner or operator of a mine is required to conduct environmental effects monitoring studies as a condition governing authority to deposit under the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER). No mention is made of environmental monitoring requirements under the MMER in Chapter 14.

Question:

Please provide information on effluent, water quality and biological monitoring that will be conducted to meet the requirements specified in the MMER of the Fisheries Act for environmental effects monitoring studies, and how the federal monitoring requirements fit into the EMEF and Long-term Environmental Monitoring Program.

Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections):

s. 14 Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Long-Term Environmental Monitoring

Reference to the EA Terms of Reference:

s. 3.6 Monitoring, Evaluation and Management

Summary





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The effluent and water quality monitoring will occur as required under part 1 of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER).

As much as possible the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team (Project Team) intends to harmonize the MMER requirements with the water licencing requirements (e.g. one report).

This will also be part of the long term environmental monitoring program to be developed under the Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (EMEF) and the Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) as described in Chapter 14 of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR).

The Project Team is committed to involving stakeholders and the public in the design and implementation of the monitoring program.

Response

The effluent and water quality monitoring will occur as required under part 1 of the MMER. If the concentration of effluent in the exposure area is greater than 1% in the area located within 250 m of the final discharge point, a study on fish populations and benthic invertebrates will be conducted.

As much as possible the Project Team intends to harmonize the MMER requirements with the water licencing requirements (e.g. one report). This will also be part of the long term environmental monitoring program to be developed under the Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (EMEF) and the Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) as described in Chapter 14 of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR). The Project Team is committed to establishing an EMEF which can monitor and evaluate environmental protection and regulatory responsibilities throughout the remediation of Giant Mine. The Giant Mine Remediation Project will use the EMEF to establish the blueprint for how environmental protection and regulatory responsibilities will be monitored and evaluated throughout the stages of remediation.

The EMS is intended to include all of the monitoring programs that will be established in response to Review Board recommendations, relevant regulatory requirements from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and other regulators, and input from potentially affected parties. The details of the individual monitoring programs will not be fully developed and finalized until the final project design is completed and the project moves to the regulatory stage. As this information becomes available it will be shared through the means and mechanisms described in the DAR (e.g. DAR Chapter 13).

The Project Team is committed to involving stakeholders and the public in the design and implementation of the monitoring program. It will be done in a manner that is transparent and fair and meets the other principles listed in the response to Review Board IR #27 including credible, adaptive and inclusive. The Project Team will certainly involve Environment Canada in the future discussion on the EMS.

