

Richard Edjericon
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
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Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

September 24, 2012

Erin Suliak
19 Taylor Road
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L2

Dear Mr. Edjericon,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my letter of concern regarding the Giant Mine remediation plan. As someone born in Yellowknife under the shadow of Giant Mine, I felt it was important to voice my concerns over certain aspects of the plan as submitted to your Board for consideration.

There are many people in Yellowknife who are involved with the site in one way or another, and have a conflict of interest in voicing their concerns. Voicing my concerns is in no way a judgement of the professional capacities of those involved in the remediation or review process. My concern is to have publicly accountable systems put in place to ensure the safety of our citizens.

I am concerned that there is a lack of independent oversight currently in the plan. I don't feel that the public can be assured accountability when the same governments who are undertaking the remediation are also responsible for monitoring the site. I believe it is important to have a funded independent body to whom the remediation project is accountable.

I am concerned at an apparent lack of willingness on the part of the proponents to guarantee ongoing funding to the project. The proponents' apparent lack of concern over the absence of guaranteed funding is troubling to me. As the arsenic trioxide is remaining on site, I believe it is vital for the project to have ongoing funds earmarked and dedicated to the maintenance of the site, as well as for ongoing research on the residual effects of the contamination on site and in the region. I believe that research funds need also be dedicated to exploring the possibility of eradicating or neutralizing the arsenic trioxide in a more permanent way. The current freezing plan may be the one we are working with, but future technological developments should continue be investigated to safeguard citizens. Dedicated funding towards this end should form part of the long term remediation plan.

I am also gravely concerned with what I see to be a lack of willingness on the part of the proponents to publicize and minimize the level of arsenic leaching into Yellowknife Bay. There seems to be a tolerance for certain levels of leaching to occur into Yellowknife Bay, but these levels are not widely known. There is little information being widely shared with the public on this matter. I would like to see more rigorous

monitoring and public reporting on the actual levels of arsenic making its way into the Bay so that the public can be better informed and hold the proponents accountable to minimizing public risk.

Further to this, I am disappointed that the current remediation plan does not assume responsibility to maintain an upstream drinking water supply for the Yellowknife region. The current Yellowknife River system is entering its last years of service. It is my understanding that that system was put in place in 1969 by the federal government to ensure public safety. I would like to see some statement of responsibility for maintaining and upgrading the current upstream water supply system, since the remediation site is federal jurisdiction and continues to be a threat to public safety.

Overall I feel that the plan as proposed by the proponents does not ensure enough public accountability. I look to the Board to make recommendations above and beyond what the proponents suggest, in order to ensure ongoing public safety. The lives of thousands of people, and generations to come, are at stake.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erin Suliak