

March 13th, 2013

Giant Mine Remediation Team
c/o Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
PO Box 1500
Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3
Attn: Adrian Paradis, A/Manager

Dear Mr. Paradis,

Re: Giant Mine emergency work and environmental assessment scope

Your letter of October 22th, 2012 stated that the Giant Team is preparing to take down the roaster complex and stabilize portions of the underground workings to address health and safety risks. As you are aware, these activities are within the scope of the ongoing environmental assessment. Section 118 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act states that no authorizations may be issued if an authorization is required, and no government agency can take any irrevocable action in relation to a development unless the requirements of Part Five of the Act (which includes environmental assessment) have been satisfied.

The Review Board's letter of March 23th, 2012 regarding the deconstruction of the mill conveyor asked the Giant Team to "describe the legal basis for any other parts of the Site Stabilization Plan which will be undertaken before the completion of the current environmental assessment". Your letter of January 25th, 2013 said that the roaster demolition and underground stabilization were "necessary to proceed with these activities on an accelerated timeline in order to protect the environment, and in the interest of public welfare, health and safety".

Your March 8th, 2013 letter provides much more detail. From the Review Board's perspective, it adequately describes the emerging conditions as unacceptable emergency situations for which you are applying subsection 119 (b) of the Act.



Considering this, the Review Board is prepared to remove these particular aspects of the project from the scope of the environmental assessment at this time, to facilitate your emergency response, provided that it does not compromise or foreclose mitigative options for the remainder of the project. Foreclosing mitigative options would unduly limit the Board's consideration in the current Environmental Assessment.

To prevent confusion between a) potential contamination from the demolition of the roaster and b) existing concentrations of contaminants that form the baseline for predictions in the environmental assessment, the Review Board requests that you monitor dispersal of particulates generated during the demolition using air quality particulate monitors, vegetation and soil sampling. This will also provide you with a measure of the potential impact the demolition may have on human and environmental health, as well as prevent prolonged exposures that may present risk to workers, the environment and the people of Yellowknife.

Considering the large quantity of arsenic in the roaster and the close proximity of a large population, the Board encourages the Giant Team to take every precaution possible when undertaking this emergency work. With the above considerations, the Board is willing to remove these particular aspects of the project from the scope of the environmental assessment. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further information.

(Original signed by)

Alan Ehrlich
Manager of Environmental Impact Assessment

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Cc. Lynn Boettger, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board