



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

IR Response

Round One: Information Request – Review Board #19

May 31, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: Review Board #19

Date Received:

February 14, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs

Alternatives North IR #07

Date of this Response:

May 31, 2011

Request

Preamble:

The DAR establishes that the project has thoroughly examined best available technologies, and that it is open to improvements if technologies advance. It is unclear how future technologies will be recognized and considered.

Question:

Please provide details on how emergent technologies will be considered in the future, and the frequency with which this will occur.

Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections):

DAR s.6.2.2.4 Future Re-Consideration of Alternatives

Reference to the EA Terms of Reference

ToR 3.3

Summary

The Giant Mine Remediation Project Team (Project Team) proposes that a review of emergent technologies be conducted every 10 years following full implementation of the Frozen Block Method, and that the result of the reviews be reported in the State of the Environment Report for that year. Emergent technologies that are identified in such a review will be submitted to the Independent Peer Review Panel for a more detailed technical examination of applicability to the specific situation at the Giant Mine.





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Response:

As described in detail in the DAR, the Frozen Block Method is designed to be a robust and effective remediation solution for the complete life of the project. The conditions at the site prevent any “quick fix” or “walk away” solutions and therefore any approach to remediation of this site requires long-term care and monitoring.

Considering the long-term duration of this remediation solution, the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team (Project Team) proposes a periodic review of technology to ensure that the most effective and efficient solution is in place. This will form part of the adaptive management approach incorporated into the long term Monitoring Plan, which is currently under development. Emergent technologies that are identified in such a review will be submitted to the Independent Peer Review Panel for a more detailed technical examination of the applicability to the specific situation at Giant. Chapter 14 of the DAR introduces the commitment to preparing an Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (EMEP) and an Environmental Monitoring Strategy (EMS). The process for developing these documents and the role of stakeholders and public are described in the Response to MVEIRB IR #27.

The Project Team is proposing that a review of emergent technologies be conducted every 10 years following full implementation of the Frozen Block Method, and that the result of the reviews be reported in the State of the Environment Report for that year.

