



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

IR Response

Round One: Information Request - Yellowknives Dene First Nation #11

June 17, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: YKDFN #11

Date Received

February 28, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs

Alternatives North IR #14
YKDFN IR #12

Date of this Draft

June 17, 2011

Request

Preamble:

It was stated that the effluent discharge for the existing water treatment system and the new system which will use an outfall and diffuser will be in accordance to the regulatory limits of the Federal Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER)². The MMER are considered to be applicable for operating mines and for closed mine under certain operating conditions. It should be noted that the MMER are generally considered applicable for operating mines, they normally permit higher discharge limits than would be applicable for a closed mine that is being rehabilitated. It should be noted that the discharge of treated water according to the MMER will result in the exceedance of the CCME water quality guidelines for the protection of freshwater aquatic life. The applicability of using the MMER for effluent discharge during rehabilitation activities is unclear at this time. It should be further noted that no other development in the North would would (sic) willingly exceed the guidelines as an initial position and to propose this is unacceptable.

² Metal Mining Effluent Regulations, SOR/2002-222.

Question:

It is requested that the applicability of the MMER as the authority for regulating the regulatory discharge limits is provided. It is further requested that if the MMER do not apply then a regulatory limit for the sampling point in the vicinity of the outfall diffuser be designated. CCME regulatory limits for the protection of aquatic life and Health Canada drinking water quality guideline would be appropriate in this circumstance.





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Response

It is the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team's intention to design a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) that will produce a higher quality effluent (i.e. lower concentrations of contaminants) than the minimum national standard listed in the Federal Metal Mining Effluent Regulations. However, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board will set the effluent discharge criteria for the Giant Mine WTP during the water licensing phase of the project. The Parties are respectfully referred to the response to Alternatives North Information Request #14, Question 1, for details on the expected performance of the WTP.

In response to the second part of the IR regarding a sampling point in the vicinity of the diffuser, the Parties are respectfully referred to the more detailed response to YKDFN Information Request #12.

