



# Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

## IR Response

Round One: Information Request - Yellowknives Dene First Nation #17

May 31, 2011

### INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

**EA No: 0809-001**

**Information Request No: YKDFN #17**

**Date Received**

February 28, 2011

**Linkage to Other IRs**

City of Yellowknife IR #01

**Date of this Response:**

May 31, 2011

**Request**

***Preamble:***

The Giant mine contains legacy buildings that were used to house employees and visitors to the site (collectively referred to as the Town Site). The soil in the vicinity of the Town Site has been identified as a risk to any humans living at the town site<sup>4</sup>. Currently, the Town Site land is leased to the City of Yellowknife, and there are proposed plans to develop the Town Site as a nature area/walkway. In general, remediation proposed for the Town Site includes the demolition of the buildings and the removal of soil that contains arsenic at concentrations above the suggested human health risk-based soil quality objective<sup>1</sup> of 340 µg/g total arsenic derived for Yellowknife soils at industrial sites. During INAC's public engagement process, which was detailed in the DAR, select participants involved in the engagement expressed a desire to have the Town Site and marina remediated. The DAR indicates that all soil that contains arsenic in excess of the 340 µg/g industrial arsenic objective will be removed and stored, however detailed soil excavation locations and extents have not been provided, making discerning the extent of the soil remediation at the Giant Mine site difficult. It should be noted that the soil at the marina has been identified as containing arsenic above the 340 µg/g, however no direct statements are provided about proposed remediation activities at the Marina location.

***Question:***

1. Limited details were provided regarding the remediation of the marina soils. It is requested that additional details are provided regarding the proposed remediation in this location. It is requested

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson, G.M. 2002. Determining Natural (Background) Arsenic Soil Concentrations in Yellowknife NWT, and Deriving Site-Specific Human Health-Based Remediation Objectives For Arsenic in The Yellowknife Area. Final report, submitted by Risklogic Scientific Services Inc. to the Yellowknife Arsenic Soils Remediation Committee (YASRC), Yellowknife. April 2002.





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that details are provided to explain the potential limitations on land and water use in this region post-remediation.

2. The YKDFN recognized that discussion of the selection of the industrial arsenic soil concentration objective for the remediation criteria is outside the scope of the assessment, however due to the planned future recreational use of the Town Site and marina the risks of adopting this standard should be assessed. It is requested that additional details are provided with regard to the increase in risk to humans that may result from redevelopment of the Town Site and Marina as a recreational area after the proposed remediation plan. Discussion of the increased risk to humans should take into consideration the input from the community engagement sessions were considered in the proposed remediation plan for Town Site.

### Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections):

S.5.10 Contaminated Surficial Materials

S.6.10 Contaminated Surficial Materials

### Reference to the EA Terms of Reference

S.3.2.3 Description of the Existing Environment

### Response 1

Areas identified as having contaminants exceeding the industrial land use criteria will be excavated or covered with clean material. The final disposal options are presented in section 6.10 Contaminated Surficial Materials in the Developer's Assessment Report. Restrictions on activities are consistent with those listed in the Government of the Northwest Territories *Environmental Guideline for Contaminated Site Remediation, November 2003*.

### Response 2

As mentioned in the question, the discussion of remediation criteria for soils is outside the scope of the Giant Mine Remediation Project (Remediation Project). The Giant Mine Remediation Project Team will continue to work with interested parties to minimize impacts on the continued use of the marina and the townsite. As part of ongoing community consultation, the Project Team will continue to gather feedback from interested parties on the implementation of the remediation plan, including soil criteria.

