



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

File: CIDM #288177

January 21, 2009

Mr. Richard Edjericon
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre
5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT X2A 2N7

Dear Mr. Edjericon:

**Re: Environmental Assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan (EA0809-001)
– Request for Proposals – Technical Experts**

In a letter recently submitted to the Review Board (dated January 9, 2009), INAC noted that it has some concerns about the approach the Review Board has taken with regard to the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for technical experts for the Giant Mine Remediation Project environmental assessment (EA). Upon further review of the letter, it has been discovered that INAC may have been unclear in its explanation of these concerns. The intent of this letter is to clarify INAC's concerns with the Review Board's recent RFP.

INAC is supportive of the Review Board's decision to obtain technical expertise for the Giant Mine Remediation Project EA. However, considering the wording of the RFP, there appears to be some intention that such experts will have some involvement in the drafting of the Terms of Reference. If this is in fact the case, INAC has some concerns related to how this may impact timing and related to the fact that these experts were not present throughout the scoping phase, and in particular at the scoping hearings. INAC respectfully requests that the Review Board clarify its intended approach. INAC would also like to propose that the Review Board consider whether the expert advisors could alternatively be incorporated at the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) stage, as was done in Taltson Hydro Expansion Project EA.

We apologize for the confusion and hope the above helps to clarify our concerns.

Sincerely

Martin Gavin P.Eng
Manager, Giant Mine Remediation Project