



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

*copied to MH
TT.*

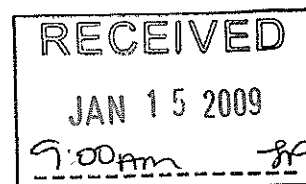
file

P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

File: CIDM #284867

January 9, 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) –
Review Board Scoping Determination and Terms of Reference (TOR)**

I would like to thank the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for notification of its determination of the scope of the development and the scope of the assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan issued on December 19, 2008 and received by INAC on December 23, 2008. We appreciate the thorough work that the Board has done to make this determination.

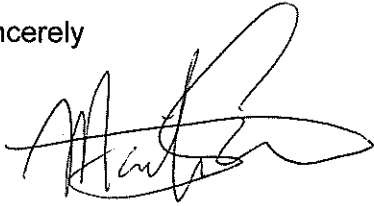
We understand that the Board will now develop a draft TOR that will give specific direction to INAC on information that should be included in the Developer's Assessment Report. INAC looks forward to moving on to this stage of the process in as timely a manner as possible.

The initial timeline developed by Board staff for this EA indicated that the TOR would be issued in August 2008. Given that the process seems to have shifted from the originally anticipated timeline, INAC would appreciate it if the Board could indicate the new expected date for issuance of the draft Terms of Reference. INAC also requests that the Board consider issuing a revised timeline for the EA process to assist all parties in understanding the new anticipated timing of the process going forward.

INAC would also like to raise the Request For Proposal (RFP) recently issued by the Board. INAC has some concerns about this approach, both related to timing and 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.

We would like to once again thank the Board for its work and continued efforts. INAC remains committed to working with the Board and the other parties to achieving a timely and effective process.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Gavin', written in a cursive style.

Martin Gavin
Manager, Giant Mine Remediation Project