

January 23, 2009

Martin Gavin, Manager
Giant Mine Remediation Project Office
Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Dear Mr. Gavin,

In a letter recently submitted to the Review Board (January 21, 2009) INAC has clarified its concerns related to the Review Board's retention of expert advice in the EA of the proposed Giant Mine Remediation Plan. The Review Board recently issued a Request for Proposals for the provision of expert services and subsequently has retained the services of several technical experts that submitted proposals. The Review Board often chooses to hire expert advisors for large or technically complex projects, both of which describe the Giant Mine Remediation Plan. In this case, the Review Board has chosen to retain the services of experts to help analyze and comprehend the issues and the volume of information that has been presented by the developer. The role of these experts is to provide advice to the Review Board and using this advice, the Review Board will be in a better position to draft effective guidance for the developer in the upcoming Terms of Reference. The experts will then continue to assist the Review Board throughout the EA process.

INAC has expressed concerns regarding the timing of the RFP and the absence of expert advisors from the scoping phase of the EA. It was necessary to complete the scoping phase in order to determine the type of expertise that would be required in this EA. The Board was able to refine its focus in the Giant Mine EA and concentrate its available resources by coming to a decision on scope prior to seeking expert advice. As with any member of the public, the scoping phase (including transcriptions of the scoping hearing) are readily available to the Board's technical experts and will be thoroughly reviewed by them. The timing of the EA is not linked in any way to



the activities of these technical experts and the Review Board will be issuing a draft Terms of Reference that includes an updated workplan for public comment at the earliest possible opportunity.

I hope this letter helps to clarify the Review Board's process and its position on seeking and using outside technical advisors in the EA process.

Regards,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Tawanis Testart, EAO