

March 20, 2009

Our file: EA0809-001

To the distribution list for the Giant Mine Remediation Plan environmental assessment:

RE: Disclosure of experts that have been engaged by the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has retained Oboni Riskope Associates Inc. and BGC Engineering Inc. for the provision of expert services during the environmental assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan. At this time, the Review Board wishes to disclose the following information regarding these consultancy firms.

Oboni Riskope Associates Inc.

The Review Board has retained Oboni Riskope Associates Inc. to provide the Review Board with expert advice regarding the following topics:

- *Risk Assessment* –Review of the proponent’s human health and ecological risk assessment; and an evaluation of risk factors during active operation of the frozen block system.

A listing of Oboni Riskope Associates Inc. personnel identified for this proceeding, including their curricula vitae, has been attached to this notice. The Review Board would like to take this opportunity to inform participants in this environmental assessment of Oboni Riskope Associates Inc.’s current and prior relationship with the developer. Oboni Riskope Associates Inc. has never done work for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada that relates to the Giant Mine Remediation Plan. The only service provided to INAC was a seminar delivered in 2002 on risk assessment. Oboni Riskope Associates Inc. has never done work for the Government of the NWT, Royal Oak Mines Inc. or Miramar Mining Inc.

BGC Engineering Inc.

The Review Board has retained BGC Engineering Inc. to provide the Review Board with expert advice regarding the following topics:



- *Hydrology and Hydrogeology* – Consideration of surface and groundwater behaviour at the mine site; groundwater-contaminant interaction and transportation; and surface water-contaminant interactions.
- *Geotechnical Engineering* - Stability of mine workings, including potential for subsidence; effectiveness of tailings covers; and durability and effectiveness of reclamation infrastructure, such as bulkheads and the thermosyphon array.
- *Effectiveness of Frozen Block System* - expertise possibly required for, but not necessarily limited to: Reviewing the adequacy of the system, including an evaluation of the proponent's assumptions regarding freezing of arsenic chambers.

A listing of BGC Engineering personnel identified for this proceeding, including their curricula vitae, has been attached to this notice. The Review Board would like to take this opportunity to inform participants in this environmental assessment of BGC Engineering Inc.'s current and prior relationship with the developer. BGC Engineering has participated as a technical reviewer, including supporting INAC at public hearings, conducting site visits and geotechnical inspections and preparing reports and reviewing documentation, in the following projects:

- Giant Mine Dam Safety Review (NT) – A review of the aboveground tailings disposal facility at the Giant Mine site (2004)
- Cullaton Lake Gold Mine (NU) – A geotechnical inspection and audit of closure and remediation activities for an underground gold mine
- Polaris Mine (NU) – Annual geotechnical inspections of closure and remediation activities
- Colomac Dam 1 (NT) – Third-party review of the design and construction of a new dam designed to contain leaking from a tailings facility

In addition to the Dam Safety Review in 2004, BGC Engineering conducted stability assessments of the underground mine workings on behalf of the NWT Chief Inspector of Mines in 1998, prior to any remediation activities or planning. BGC Engineering has done no other work on behalf of the Government of the NWT, Miramar Mining Corp. or Royal Oak Mines Inc.

In addition to the above mentioned experts, the Review Board proposes to retain Dr. Jerome Nriagu in the following area of expertise:



- *Environmental Chemistry & Toxicology* - Fate, behavior and effects of arsenic originating from the Giant Mine in groundwater and surface environments; and consideration of potential cumulative impacts of contaminants on living things.

Dr. Nriagu has not performed any work on behalf of the developer or any other organization or company involved in this environmental assessment.

Opportunity to comment

Should anyone wish to make a comment regarding the provision of these experts, they should send their comments should be my attention at ttestart@reviewboard.ca or at (867) 766-7050.



Attachment 1:

CVs of expert advisors: All CVs may be downloaded from the Review Board web site at this location:

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project_detail.php?project_id=69&doc_stage=14

For hard copies, please contact the Review Board office.

