



Alternatives North

April 1, 2012

Richard Edjericon
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
Yellowknife NT
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Edjericon

**Re: EA0809-001 [2008] YKDFN Further extension to deadline
for technical reports and public hearing**

Alternatives North has reviewed the letter submitted by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation on March 14, 2012 requesting a delay in the filing date for Technical Reports until mid-July 2012, and a delay in the public hearing.

We note that this is the first request for a substantive delay in this proceeding from any party other than the developers. Our March 8, 2012 letter to the Review Board noted the numerous delays caused by the developers including 8 extensions for a total of 191 days, not including the year delay in submitting the Developer's Assessment Report.

After more than 10 years developing the Giant Mine Remediation Plan, it is our understanding that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada finally provided financial resources to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in late 2011. Given the late provision of this assistance, it appears to be reasonable that the Yellowknives Dene First Nation be afforded an opportunity to properly prepare for the public hearing.

Alternatives North therefore supports the request for the delay to the filing date for Technical Reports and the public hearing. A delay would have the added benefit of allowing further time for progress by the recently established working groups on oversight and environmental management plans.

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However, we remain very concerned about the developers' commitment to this proceeding as discussed in our March 8, 2012 letter to the Review Board. Alternatives North would not want to see this delay used as a further excuse by the developers to continue project splitting and exempting portions of the development from the ongoing environmental assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin O'Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin O'Reilly
Alternatives North

cc. Chiefs, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Adrian Paradis, A/Manager, Giant Mine Team, AANDC
Ray Case, Environment and Natural Resource, GNWT
Gordon Van Tighem, Mayor, City of Yellowknife
Bob Bromley, MLA Weledeh
Willard Hagen, Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board