



# Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

## IR Response

Round One: Information Request - City of Yellowknife #10

May 31, 2011

### INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

**EA No: 0809-001**

**Information Request No: CityYK #10**

**Date Received**

February 28, 2011

**Linkage to Other IRs**

City of Yellowknife #1, 7

**Date of this Response:**

May 31, 2011

**Request**

**Preamble:** The DAR recognizes the heritage value of the existing buildings and townsite and also mentions the Treasury Board Framework for Investment Planning in government program delivery in federal projects. The program identifies the protection of heritage, the environment, and sound stewardship as key objectives. Other sections of the DAR emphasize the need for incorporating traditional knowledge into the process. From the City's perspective, the integration of the heritage and traditional knowledge into the remediation process is essential and should be reflected in the Remediation Plan. While the Plan discusses the history of the mine and the traditional knowledge and heritage of the YKDFN, it does not demonstrate how these will be practically integrated into the remediation process and the future use of the site. In addition to a clear heritage preservation strategy the City believes that the opportunity to embrace the Giant Mine legacy and its opportunities for the future may be missed unless carefully incorporated into the process.

**Question:**

1. Please explain the heritage preservation strategy for the Giant Mine Townsite and what form of investment will be made to preserve or restore some of the existing site assets (i.e. heritage dwellings, buildings, Great Slave Cruising Club docking facility). When will this planning commence?
2. Please outline the heritage and traditional knowledge significance of utilizing the Giant Mine Townsite and waterfront as a place of residence, recreation, and business for the communities of Dettah, N'dilo, and Yellowknife. Will further analysis of this issue be provided along with meaningful consultation which engages the communities on how this will be practically pursued?





# Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

## IR Response

Round One: Information Request - City of Yellowknife #10

May 31, 2011

3. What opportunities for public education regarding the history and heritage of Giant Mine have been discussed by the Project Team? How will these be integrated into the site to reflect the legacy of the mine on the adjacent communities?

### Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections):

DAR, Page 1-27 and 1-28, Treasury Board Framework for Investment Planning – Assets and Acquired Services

DAR, Page 2-28 and 2-29, Use of Traditional Knowledge

DAR, Page 6-4, 6.1.2 Summary of Post-Remediation Conditions

### Summary

Giant Mine was a significant part of Yellowknife's social and industrial history and deserves recognition for this role. The Giant Mine Remediation Project Team (Project Team) will work with interested parties to minimize impacts to heritage assets. However, the Giant Mine Remediation Project (Remediation Project) is a remediation development and will not be making any investments into the preservation of the existing heritage site assets given the significant environmental and/or safety risks associated with these buildings. Much of this Information Request is outside the scope of the Remediation Project.

### Response

Giant Mine played a significant role in Yellowknife's social and industrial history and deserves recognition for this role. As part of the Project Team's consultation and engagement plans the historical context of the Giant Mine site is discussed and will continue to be provided in future consultations and engagements. However, much of this Information Request is outside the scope of the Giant Mine Remediation Project; those elements of the request that are included in the Project are discussed below.

In Chapter 8, Table 8.10.3 the Project Team committed to undertaking an archaeological and heritage assessment overseen by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre prior to the initiation of the remediation to determine the archaeological heritage potential. After the report is completed the Project Team will work with the parties to ensure that during remediation activities best efforts will be made to minimise impacts on heritage assets. This assessment will also assist the City of Yellowknife and other parties in any future educational programs they may initiate.

However, based on current plans, and the significant environmental and safety risks, the following buildings with potential heritage value will be demolished unless other parties (e.g., the NWT Mining Heritage Society or the City of Yellowknife) assume associated significant environmental and/or safety risks:

- House No. 217





# Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

## IR Response

Round One: Information Request - City of Yellowknife #10

May 31, 2011

- House No. 168
- House No. 203
- House No. 206
- A-Shaft Head Frame
- A-Shaft Powerhouse and Hoist Room
- A-Shaft Commissary
- Recreation Hall

In the case of the A-Shaft Head Frame, the presence of the structure may impede a component of the Giant Mine Remediation Project (i.e., the sealing of the shaft). As a consequence, the Project Team anticipates that this structure will have to be demolished.

Should no arrangements be made with the City of Yellowknife or other parties to transfer environmental and/or safety risks to other institutions, the Project Team will:

- Work with interested parties to carry out photo documentation prior to demolition;
- Allow for the removal of contents that may be of heritage value (safety permitting); and
- Work with interested parties to facilitate the relocation of buildings off site.

