



# Giant Mine Environmental Assessment IR Response

Round One: Information Request – Environment Canada IR #02

May 31, 2011

## INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

**EA No: 0809-001**

**Information Request No: Environment Canada #02**

### Date Received

February 28, 2011

### Linkage to Other IRs

Review Board IR #9  
City of Yellowknife IR #2

### Date of this Response:

May 31, 2011

### Request

Please provide a vegetation monitoring plan for the tailings' covers or a revised design plan for the covers that has a greater vegetation support layer depth so that the cover does not have the potential to be compromised by vegetation growth.

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

DAR, s.6.6.6 Tailings Covers

### Response:

Section 6.6.6 of the DAR, Tailings Covers, of the Developer's Assessment Report explains the two-layer cover concept proposed for the Giant Mine. The upper layer will act as a clean surface for runoff, support vegetation, reduce infiltration, and support future uses of the area. The bottom layer will act as a robust physical barrier to prevent human or animal contact with tailings in the event that the overlying layer is damaged, minimize upwards wicking of arsenic from the tailings, and restrict the penetration of roots into the tailings. The depths of each layer will be determined through further design, and may vary across the site based on material availability, construction difficulty, associated costs and final land use.





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The final design of the tailings covers has not been completed pending further consultations with traditional knowledge holders and the public. Further information on design considerations of the tailings covers, including vegetation management, is included in the response to City of Yellowknife IR #2.

