



Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

January 14, 2011

Mr. Richard Edjericon
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102-50th Avenue
Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Edjericon:

Re: Request for amendment to the Review Board's Revised Workplan for the environmental assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request an amendment to the *Revised Workplan for the Environmental Assessment of the Department of Indian Affairs & Northern Development's Giant Mine Remediation Plan* (**Revised Workplan**) issued by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (**Review Board**) on December 23rd, 2010. We believe that postponing the due-date for the submission of first round Information Requests (**IRs**) until February 14th, 2011 would better serve to promote meaningful and effective public participation in the EA, with no significant implications for the overall efficiency or timeliness of the EA.

Participant Funding for the Giant Mine EA

As you are aware, INAC has made participant funding available for this EA through its regional Renewable Resources and Environment Directorate. This funding is intended to promote public participation at various stages in the EA as described in our *Participant Funding Guide*. Among other things, participant funding is targeted to facilitate participant review of the Developer's Assessment Report, preparation of IRs and participation in associated technical meetings or sessions.

We are currently in the process of reviewing funding applications and approving participant funding allocations to successful applicants.

Negative impact of the Revised Workplan on participant funding and EA

We note that the Review Board set out an initial approach to IRs in its *Workplan for the Environmental Assessment of the Department of Indian Affairs & Northern Development's Giant Mine Remediation Plan* issued on May 12th, 2009 (**Original Workplan**). In this workplan, the Review Board contemplated that public participation was to be engaged in the second round of IRs which were to occur two months subsequent to the first round of IRs generated solely by the Review Board.

Subsequent to the issuance of our participant funding program for this EA, the Review Board issued the Revised Workplan on December 23rd, 2010 and a related Note to File on December 24th, 2010. Among other things, the Revised Workplan appears to compress the IR Process. While two rounds of IRs are still contemplated, both rounds are open to the Review Board and other EA participants. Significantly, the deadline for EA participants to submit IR requests has been accelerated for the first round IRs and is currently set at January 24th, 2011. We do not understand the Review Board's reasons for this change.

Please be advised that this change to the IR process has occurred without sufficient notice for us to amend our participant funding program. We are unable to finalize participant funding allocations, approvals and disbursements to the successful applicants in time for such applicants to receive funding prior to the Review Board's newly imposed deadline of January 24th, 2011 for IR submissions. This will negatively impact the ability of successful applicants to participate effectively at this stage in the EA. While we note that a second round of IRs may be contemplated, this cannot fully compensate for a participant's inability to participate effectively in the first round of IRs and associated technical meetings.

We are concerned that the Revised Workplan was issued without sufficient notice for us to accelerate our participant funding program. We are further concerned that the Revised Workplan may undermine the legitimate expectations of INAC and interested parties to participate fully and effectively in this stage of the EA as contemplated in the Original Workplan.

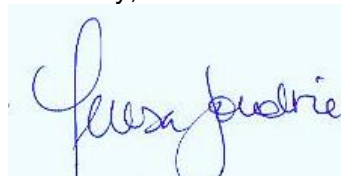
Request for amendment of the Revised Workplan to extend the deadline for filing IRs

For the reasons set out above, we respectfully request an extension to the January 24th, 2011 deadline for parties to submit IRs in relation to the Giant Mine remediation EA. We anticipate that an extension of this deadline until February 14th, 2011 (with a corresponding shift in subsequent affected process-deadlines in the Revised Workplan) would allow us sufficient time to expedite our participant funding allocation, approval and disbursement processes.

We are striving to ensure that successful applicants have access to allocated funding as soon as possible, which in turn will assist the Review Board's goal of facilitating meaningful and effective public participation in a timely and efficient review process. All things considered, we do not believe that this short extension will have significant implications for the overall efficiency or timeliness of the EA.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Review Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Francis Jackson, Acting Manager of Environment and Conservation, at 669-2666 or via email at Francis.Jackson@inac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Teresa Joudrie
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

cc. MVEIRB Public Registry , EA0809-001