

Mike Mitchell  
Lot 4 Block 17  
Jolliffe Island  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N3

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Mr. Alan Ehrlich  
Manager of Environmental Impact Assessment  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Dear Alan;

It is with great interest that I have followed the MVLWB hearings for the proposed Giant Mine remediation. While I appreciate the difficulty the Federal Government may have in designing a remediation plan for such a social and ecological liability as Giant Mine, I must register my profound disapproval with many element of the plan as it currently exists. Specifically:

1. Water treatment. As rate-paying resident of Jolliffe Island I am particularly concerned about the less-than-robust plan for water treatment. My family uses Great Slave Lake water for washing, drinking and cooking on a daily basis and I would recommend against approving the current plan until complete water quality modelling can confirm the safety of Giant Mine discharge for human consumption. I have not heard of any plans for AANDC or other federal bodies to establish monitoring stations in Yellowknife Bay; this should be a condition of any approved remediation plan.

2. Independent oversight. As mine stewards and regulator, AANDC finds itself in a fundamental conflict. I would suggest that MVLWB recommend that any approved plan be administered by an arms-length body or third-party contractor – beyond helping to ensure the transparency of the process, such a structure might also help to ensure remediation funding is not subject to future budget cuts.

3 Perpetual care. This is unacceptable solution. At best it is a stop gap measure until a more appropriate solution is found. I suggest that an annual budget be earmarked to the ongoing research and development of a more realistic long term solution. Better yet, an up-front endowment would put this priority beyond the vagaries of governmental budget cycles.

4. Industrial use. With Giant Mine and environs promise to play an important role in the future growth of the City of Yellowknife. Representing some 10% of corporate lands, I submit MVLWB reject the current remediation plan that will only allow for Industrial Use and recommend, instead that a plan should include residential and recreational uses.

In closing I would like to applaud the diligent work you and your staff perform and a regulatory body and hope that you will hold this remediation plan to the highest standards.

Regards,

Mike Mitchell