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October 26th, 2009

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi
Regional Director General
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife NT
X1A 2R3

Dear Ms. Merrithew-Mercredi

We are intervenors at the Environmental Assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Project currently under way by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB). On January 10, 2009 we submitted a joint proposal to Mr. Martin Gavin of your Contaminants and Remediation Directorate for funding to carry out a study of independent oversight bodies and experiences, with letters of support from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the City of Yellowknife (see attachment).

Our proposal is to examine experiences with independent oversight of environmental remediation and mining projects in other areas to see what model might be best suited to the Giant Mine Remediation Project. The need for independent oversight on the Giant Mine Remediation Project has been heightened by the recent confusion over DIAND's role as proponent, regulator and inspector. Because of this, the work is best conducted by intervenors, and will make an important contribution to the Environmental Assessment. The relatively small amount of funding requested can begin to build some measure of public confidence in the Project's future.

Our proposal followed a commitment made by Bill Mitchell at the MVEIRB's scoping public hearing on the Giant Mine Remediation Project on July 22, 2008 whereby DIAND would seriously consider funding proposals related to the Environmental Assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

Mr. Mitchell stated:

Mr. Chair, yes, as I indicated previously, I think we'd certainly entertain receiving proposals for participant funding from specific groups that are interested. These would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. (Transcript of July 22, 2008 Scoping Hearing by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, page 134)

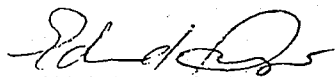
Every intervention at the public hearing recognized the need for some form of independent oversight of the Giant Mine Remediation Project and the MVEIRB itself has incorporated this concept into the terms of reference for the Developer's Assessment Report:

Describe any plans the developer has to continue public consultation and involvement during implementation of the project and afterwards, with particular regard to reporting monitoring results and adaptive management and a description of how public complaints will be addressed and the dispute resolution process. (Giant Mine Remediation Plan Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference, section 3.2.6.6)

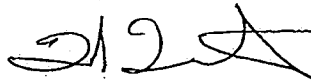
On March 23rd, 2009, Mayor Van Tighem on behalf of the City of Yellowknife, Todd Slack representing the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Kevin O'Reilly met with Mr. Gavin and some of his staff to further discuss the proposal. Since that time, numerous attempts have been made to contact Mr. Gavin and/or Teresa Joudrie, Acting Director of Contaminants and Remediation. Emails on May 15, July 3, September 2 and September 24, 2009 enquiring as to the status of the proposal have gone without substantive reply. We expected that our proposal and communications should have been dealt with in a more timely and respectful manner.

Our proposal has now been outstanding for more than nine months. Would you kindly inform us whether your Department is prepared to fund this work or not? Please direct all correspondence to all three parties as this is a joint proposal. Thank you and we look forward to your reply.

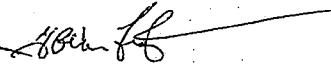
Sincerely,



Chief Edward Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nation



Chief Ted T'Setta
Yellowknives Dene First Nation



Mayor Gordon Van Tighem
City of Yellowknife



Kevin O'Reilly

cc. Minister Michael Miltenberger, Government of the Northwest Territories
Richard Edjericon, Chair, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly
Dennis Bevington, MP Western Arctic



Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Lands Management / Land & Environment Office

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R.E.

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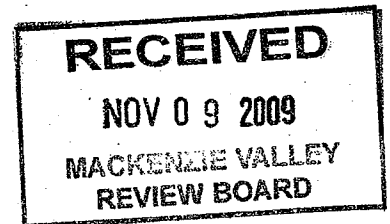
TO: Trish Merrithew Mercredi FROM: YKDFN
 COMPANY: INAC DATE: November 9/09
 FAX NUMBER: (867) 669-2703 TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3
 RE: Correspondence

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Copy to:

- Minister Michael Miltenberger @ 873-0596
- Richard Edjericon @ 766-7074
- Dennis Bevington @ 920-4233
- Wendy Bisaro @ (800) 661-0879
- David Ramsay @ (800) 661-0879
- Bob Bromley @ (800) 661-0879
- Robert Hawkins @ (800) 661-0879
- Sandy Lee @ (867) 873-0169
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