



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment IR Response

Round One: Information Request Review Board #10

May 31, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: Review Board #10

Date Received:

February 14, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs

Date of this Response:

May 31, 2011

Request:

Preamble:

To evaluate the proposed remediation of tailings ponds, the Board requires more information on their current state and predicted physical changes. No information on the current state of tailings consolidation or predicted additional future consolidation settlements of the tailings ponds was available in the DAR.

Question:

Please provide best estimates of current and future consolidation settlements, if any, of the tailings ponds that may also be relevant to surface water flow and pond cover integrity.

Reference to DAR:

S. 5.5 Tailings and Sludge Containment Areas

Reference to the EA Terms of Reference:

S. 3.2.4 Development Description, Point 8

"A detailed description of the proposed method(s) and location(s) of tailings disposal and/or containment, including a description of any technologies or materials that may be used, and any temporary or permanent measures to control fugitive dust from tailings disposal areas."

Summary:

The Project Team has not yet generated estimates of tailings consolidation. Design of the tailings cover and surface drainage system are currently conceptual only. Investigations to advance the design are ongoing.





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Response:

Tailings consolidation estimates have not yet been completed.

Consolidation will be taken into account in further design of the tailings cover and its surface drainage system. The current conceptual design generally is not expected to be sensitive to consolidation, but does allow for varying thicknesses of material to be placed as needed. On the other hand, alignment of the surface drainage system is expected to be sensitive to predicted tailings consolidation. The current conceptual surface drainage design accounts for consolidation only in that it generally routes water from areas of coarse tailings towards areas of fine tailings. The latter are expected to consolidate more than the former.

Further work is needed to support design of the tailings cover. That work will include field investigations, development of grading plans that take consolidation into account, and alignment of surface drainage swales or channels. Golder Associates initiated further field investigations of the tailings in March 2011. The scope of the geotechnical investigation was filed with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in December, 2010 and is available on the public registry. The investigation report will be available prior to the technical hearings.

