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Mark Palmer  
Executive Director of Giant Mine  
Indian and Northern Affairs  
4914 - 50th Street  
PO Box 1500  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 2R3 Canada

Re. Environment Canada response to Giant Mine Remediation (EA0809-001), Information Requests – Round #1, Yellowknives Dene First Nation IR #26

May 24, 2011

Dear Mr. Palmer,

Environment Canada would like to respond to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Information Request #26. This response also addresses the Alternatives North Information Request # 1.4. In addition to this response, the comments on the draft Developer's Assessment Report that Environment Canada submitted to INAC on February 2010 are attached.

**Source: Yellowknives Dene First Nation**  
**To: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**  
**Subject: Federal groups collaboration**

**Preamble:**

It was indicated that the project collaborated with other federal departments including as follows:

- Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP)
- Environment Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Health Canada

It was stated that input from the federal groups were utilised to provide advice on various items of the remediation project including site assessment, risk assessment and the evaluation of remedial option/risk management for the site. It was further indicated that collaboration with federal groups has proven to be important in the selection of remediation options for site components such as Baker Creek. Given this input, it seems that the current remediation plan has the effective endorsement from the other responsible ministries and the degree of technical review to be provided during the forthcoming EA processes will be substantially reduced compared to other similar projects.

**Request:**



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It is requested that a summary of the collaboration process and how the technical issues of the federal groups were addressed are provided. At minimum information should be provided on the following remediation items:

- Foreshore historical tailings remediation;
- Baker Creek remediation options selection;
- Open pits remediation;
- Proposed outfall and diffuser system

**Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board**  
**Round One Information Requests to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and GNWT**  
**EA 0809-02: Giant Mine Remediation Project**  
**Alternatives North IR# 1 Roles and Responsibilities**

**Preamble**

It is important to understand exactly who the Developer is, how conflicting mandates may be dealt with and the roles and responsibilities of other bodies such as the Oversight Committee and the Independent Peer Review Panel.

**Request**

Please provide the following:

4. What role if any, did other federal or territorial government departments (e.g. Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, or others) play in the preparation of the Developer's Assessment Report? Please provide any reviews or correspondence that demonstrates such input and how it was dealt with.

**Environment Canada Response:**

Environment Canada has participated in the Giant Mine Remediation Project and the associated Environmental Assessment in many ways over the years. Environment Canada has a role as an expert support department in the Federal Contaminated Sites Program (FCSAP) and as such has worked extensively with INAC-CARD on the Giant Mine Remediation Program. Environment Canada provides technical advice on project activities such as remediation options, sampling/study design, and data gaps.

EC has reviewed and provided comments and advice on the draft Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) in January 2010. EC submitted information requests to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) based on a review of the final DAR in February 2011.

EC attended the workshop on remedial options for Baker Creek in September 2009 and participated in the working group formed from this workshop that held meetings in September, October, November 2009 and July 2010. During these meetings remedial options and outfall routes were discussed.

EC reviewed and provided comments on the Tier 2 Risk Assessment Giant Mine Remediation Plan in December 2009.

In January 2008 Environment Canada provided comments on the Giant Mine Remediation Plan to the MVLWB from the Type "A" Water Licence Application, MV2007L8-0031 (Preliminary Screening)



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The 2005 version of the *Draft Giant Mine Remediation Plan* was reviewed by Environment Canada in June 2005. The scope of EC's review included the Main Document, and various Supporting Documents including "*Tier 2 Risk Assessment*", (SENES Consulting Ltd., 2005). Technical comments were submitted to DIAND on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005.

Environment Canada, in consultation with a multi-agency technical advisory panel, has provided written review comments on 3 Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) study designs (2004, 2006 & 2010) and 2 EEM interpretative reports (2005 & 2008) submitted by Giant Mine. As part of the EEM review process, Environment Canada also took part in 3 face-to-face meetings (2006, 2008 & 2010) with Giant Mine staff and the technical advisory panel. EC also reviews and provides written comments on EEM Effluent Characterization and Water Quality Monitoring reports, submitted annually by mines.

Environment Canada enforcement officers review quarterly and yearly Giant Mine Effluent Monitoring reports to ensure that they are compliant with the discharge requirements set out in Schedule 4 of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER).

Environment Canada will continue to provide expert support to the Giant Mine Remediation Project team and work with the MVEIRB as the project progresses through the EA and into implementation.

cc. MVEIRB Public Registry  
Tara Kramers, INAC  
Adrian Paradis, INAC  
Morag McPherson, DFO



EC comments draft  
DAR