

Alan Ehrlich

From: kevin o'reilly <kor@theedge.ca>
Sent: July-04-12 10:07 AM
To: Alan Ehrlich
Cc: Adrian.Paradis@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca; Todd Slack
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Halocarbon Release at Giant Mine
Attachments: R-507 Halocarbon Spill Report.pdf; R-507 MSDS.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Alan

I am not sure whether AANDC has sent the e-mail below and the attachments to the Review Board for the Giant Mine public registry. If not, please file them along with this e-mail.

I don't think this is a significant environmental issue, and the public notification process for spills seems to have been improved, at least in terms of notification to the parties to the Environmental Assessment. However, this incident raises two concerns for Alternatives North.

Firstly, we are only into the second year of the test freeze and a major spill and shutdown has already occurred. This shows how frequent malfunctions may be and the need for constant maintenance and vigilance for the freeze system to work well. There are no publicly available (and perhaps not even developed yet) performance criteria for the frozen block method or equipment associated with it, and no triggers or thresholds that would lead to specific courses of action. Not sound environmental management when perpetual care is required. Accidents and malfunctions will be inevitable, which is why low energy, low technology, low maintenance, low perpetual care requirement solutions or options should be chosen wherever possible. While the Environmental Management working group is a hopeful sign, it is unclear when performance criteria, triggers and specific actions will be developed for the frozen block method, the most important part of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan.

Secondly, the emergency phone number for Environment Canada is "out of service". Definitely not a good thing for an operator seeking knowledge and expertise. Not sure if this is a result of the recent budget cuts by the Harper government, but we would like to know the reason why the phone number is no longer operational and how emergency information is to be provided to an operator.

We will raise both issues in our Technical Report and possibly through questioning at the public hearing. Should the Developers feel inclined, we would welcome a response to these two issues in advance of the hearing.

Please file this e-mail and attachments on the Giant Mine public registry. Thanks.

Kevin O'Reilly
Alternatives North

----- Original Message -----

From: Adrian Paradis <Adrian.Paradis@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>

Date: Tuesday, July 3, 2012 22:36

Subject: Fw: Halocarbon Release

To: kor@theedge.ca, dkefalas@yellowknife.ca, gvantheghem@yellowknife.ca, tslack@ykdene.com
Cc: Lisa Colas <Lisa.Colas@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>

> Greetings,

>

> As a follow-up to our discussions on Friday afternoon there was a release of 385 kg of halocarbon on Thursday, June 28 from hybrid freeze plant at the Giant Mine site.

>

> Halocarbon is the refrigerate used in the active Freeze Optimization Study. No one was affected. An alarm alerted the on-site staff to the issue and the system was shut down immediately.

>

> The release was reported to the NWT Spill Line as well as to Environment Canada. The system has been shut down. A specialist has been called in to investigate the cause and the Project Team is currently undertaking an assessment of impact to the environment. A report to Environment Canada is required within 14 days of the release.

>

> The hazard posed by the refrigerant is primarily in the immediate inhalation. The MSDS is attached for your reference.

>

> Adrian Paradis

> A/Manager

>

> >>> Mike Borden <mikeb@nunalogistics.com> 6/29/2012 7:34:37 PM >>>

> Copy of the R-507 MSDS and Spill Report.

>

> Regards,

>

> **Michael Borden, C. Tech.**

> Mine Manager

> T 867.669.3702

> C 867.445.5610

>

> **DETON' CHO/NUNA JOINT VENTURE**

> Giant Mine P.O.Box 2951, Yellowknife NT, X1A 2R2

>

> mikeb@nunalogistics.com

> www.nunalogistics.com

>