



Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

IR Response

Round One: Information Request - City of Yellowknife #06

June 17, 2011

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

EA No: 0809-001

Information Request No: CityYK #06

Date Received

February 28, 2011

Linkage to Other IRs

Date of this Response

June 17, 2011

Request

Given the enormity of the project, why wasn't the underwater video reviewed at the end of each day to determine the quality of video and whether or not it was useful? Please provide the proposed schedule to obtain additional video.

Reference to DAR (relevant DAR Sections)

s.7.4.2.1, Habitat

Reference to the EA Terms of Reference

s. 3.5.2 Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Summary

The underwater video was reviewed throughout the field study but was affected by environmental conditions (wave action). Available footage is sufficient to generally characterize the habitat in the vicinity of the proposed outfall locations. Additional video footage will be collected upon selection of the preferred outfall alignment, which is expected to occur before the end of the summer of 2012.

Response

The underwater video was reviewed on a regular basis throughout the implementation of the field program. However, wave action affected the stability of the sampling vessel. As a consequence, the depth of the video camera varied significantly. The variable depth of the camera limited the clarity of the image available at some locations along the proposed outfall alignments.

As noted in the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR), although environmental conditions affected video quality, the available footage is sufficient to develop general conclusions regarding fish habitat





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within the vicinity of the proposed alignments. The conclusions reached are consistent with other lines of evidence used to characterize conditions of the area (e.g., sediment sampling as described in Golder 2005a).

As indicated in Section 7.4.2.1 of the DAR, The Giant Mine Project Team (Project Team) has proposed collecting additional underwater video footage to verify the findings of the previous video. In this regard, the underwater video survey was conducted as a preliminary review of habitat along the three potential alignments. It was and continues to be the Project Team's expectation that additional video will be collected upon selection of the preferred outfall alignment, which is expected to occur before the end of the summer of 2012. In the event that unique habitat is identified along that alignment, a detailed review of potential impacts will be conducted and appropriate mitigation will be considered. If necessary, selection of alternate alignments will be considered and subjected to the same level of review.