



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Western Arctic Area
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Pêches et Océans
Canada

Secteur de l'Arctique
Suite 301 5204, 50^e Avenue
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Your file Votre référence
EA0809-001

Our file Notre référence
07-HCAA-CA6-00126
YK-05-0045

Mr. Richard Edjericon, Chairman
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

February 28, 2011

Dear Mr. Edjericon:

Subject: Developer's Assessment Report – Information Request

Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Western Arctic Area (DFO) has reviewed the *Giant Mine Remediation Developer's Assessment Report* (October, 2010) submitted by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories.

After review of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR), DFO has concluded that we are satisfied with the DAR and that we do not have any information requests at this time.

We would like to bring to the attention of the Board, that the Giant Mine Remediation project is being undertaken by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Contaminants and Remediation Directorate (INAC-CARD) as part of the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) program. DFO is a science-based expert support department within the FCSAP program. As such, DFO provides project-specific advice to allow Custodians (in this case, INAC-CARD) to make a final decision on project activities; contribute to the understanding and management of ecological issues; participate in interdepartmental regional working groups; advise on risk management approaches, risk communication strategies and public outreach; and act as sources of expert knowledge and information related to environmental assessment. In addition, we continue to carry out our mandate and regulatory responsibilities in respect of the Fisheries Act.

DFO has worked extensively with INAC-CARD as part of the FCSAP program. Most pertinent to the Environmental Assessment process, we provided comments on the draft Terms of Reference (2009), and reviewed a draft of the Developer's Assessment Report in January 2010 and provided comments and advice to INAC-CARD. In addition, DFO attended a workshop in September 2009 on Remedial Options for Baker Creek. An interdepartmental working group was formed and numerous follow-up meetings (September, October, November 2009 and July 2010) occurred in which DFO participated and provided advice on remedial options and outfall routes.

DFO collaborated with INAC to develop "Baker Creek Restoration Concepts" (2005) that outlines key restoration elements for Baker Creek and identifies reach-specific restoration options including specific fish habitat structures, as well as provided comments on the "Giant Mine Remedial Action Plan" (2005).

We have been providing ongoing advice on active monitoring programs and studies in Baker Creek (environmental effects monitoring, fish use studies, habitat mapping, etc.). DFO has also been providing advice regarding remedial options (including sediments), data gaps and required studies for Baker Creek.

DFO is committed to continue working with INAC-CARD and the MVEIRB to ensure potential impacts to fish and fish habitat are addressed during the environmental assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Project. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Nicola Johnson by telephone at (867) 669-4933, by fax at (867) 669-4940, or by e-mail at Nicola.Johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Beverley Ross
Regional Manager, Environmental Assessment for Major Projects
Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Copy: Jim Elliott – DFO
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