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PO Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Your file - Votre référence

April 15, 2010

Our file - Notre référence

6520-1-M2

Alan Ehrlich
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Avenue
PO Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
Email: aehrich@reviewboard.ca

To: Mr. Ehrlich,

Re: 2010 Work Plan for Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is preparing for the summer 2010 work season and will be conducting care and maintenance activities on the Giant Mine site. In preparation for this work INAC is including a list of planned and potential work to keep the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) informed of ongoing activities at Giant Mine. Overall, the work planned for 2010 is anticipated to be moderate and will consist of care and maintenance activities necessary to keep the mine site safe and in compliance with appropriate legislation.

Care and Maintenance:

Infrastructure

- The existing C-Boiler electrical substation is being considered for replacement;
- Remove loose cladding on C-Shaft Doghouse; and,
- Potential decommissioning of the hoist at C-Shaft.

Water Management

- Pumping mine water from underground to surface for treatment;
- Maintenance of pumps/piping and underground access; and,
- Seasonal operation of the Effluent Treatment Plant and discharge of treated water beginning after the young of the year are out of Baker Creek.

Operations of Underground & Arsenic Storage

- Maintenance of underground infrastructure;
- Annual inspections of bulkheads;

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- Maintenance of mine heating systems;
- Improvements to mine ventilation systems; and,
- Access bulkheads 47, 48, 49 in AR2; and bulkheads 11 and 12 in AR3 for stabilization.

Tailings and Surface Water

- Maintaining the surface water collection and diversion systems;
- Tailings dust suppression (soil sediment) and mine road dust suppression (CaCl_2);
- Operations and Maintenance of tailings dam seepage pump back systems; and,
- Routine operation and maintenance of seasonal surface water catchments/sumps, open pits, pumps and pipes systems for contaminated surface water management.

Environmental and Regulatory Monitoring

- Review of the existing dust monitoring program;
- Sampling and reporting under former Water Licence, N1L2-0043;
- Sampling and reporting for Metal Mine Effluent Regulations under the *Fisheries Act*;
- Annual geotechnical inspections of the dams according to the Canadian Dam Association, Dam Safety Guidelines 2007; and,
- Continued aquatic monitoring on Baker Creek.

Securing Buildings

PWGSC on behalf of INAC has contracted AECOM Engineering Ltd. to complete an engineering assessment of the Mill, Roaster and C-head Frame to determine the safety and stability of the buildings. INAC will provide a copy of the assessments and its planned response to the Review Board for their public registry.

In January, 2010, the Fly Kids Foundation, with support of the City of Yellowknife and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, requested that INAC remove or secure the A-Boiler House, Sewage Lift and Storage Shed along Baker Creek due to concerns of Public Safety. These buildings are located along Baker Creek just off Highway #4 at the town site area, and are currently accessible to the public. To address the Fly Kids Foundation request INAC proposes to start assessment and planning this summer and is hoping to undertake this work during the 2010 / 2011 fiscal year.

Frozen Optimization Study

INAC completed the surface drilling for the Freeze Optimization Study in December 2009. In the upcoming months INAC will be completing the installation of the freeze plants and surface and underground infrastructure.

Miscellaneous

INAC will continue inspections and required work under *NWT Mine Health and Safety Act*.

If you have any questions regarding the anticipated work at Giant Mine please contact the undersigned at adrian.paradis@inac-ainc.gc.ca or (867) 669-2425.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Paradis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adrian Paradis
Head, Technical and Environmental Services
Giant Mine Remediation Project
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – NWT Region

cc. Fly Kids Foundation
Morag McPherson, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Mayor Gordon Van Tighem, City of Yellowknife