



Giant Mine Remediation Project
Box 1500
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2R3

August 31, 2012

Mr. Richard Edjericon
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
5102 – 50th Avenue
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Re: Giant Mine Remediation Project (EA0809-001) – Public Hearings Presentation Submission

Dear Mr. Edjericon:

The Giant Mine Remediation Project Team (GMRPT) is pleased to provide the Board with an update on the status of discussions on the proposed establishment of an arms-length committee that would monitor and advise on the environmental monitoring and management of Giant Mine Remediation Project (the Project) activities.

Background

In March 2012 an ad-hoc Oversight Working Group with representation from AANDC, GNWT, the City, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Alternatives North was struck to explore the possible establishment of an arms-length committee that would monitor and advise on the environmental aspects of Project implementation.

Based on the work of the Oversight Working Group, the GMRPT has concluded that establishment of an Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (Committee) would be an effective mechanism to foster ongoing community engagement, public and independent input into the remediation process, and maintain public confidence in the Project. The GMRPT is therefore proposing to work with all interested and affected governments and organizations (including those who were not represented in the Oversight Working Group) to have the Committee in place prior to the commencement of the remediation. The GMRPT proposes that the Committee be established in accordance with the following framework.

Guiding Principles

The Committee will provide arms-length independent advice to the GMRPT regarding implementation of the environmental aspects of the Project.



The Committee will contribute to improving the effectiveness and co-ordination of environmental monitoring and management of the Project, ensuring the public is aware of, and confident in, the environmental management of the Project, the development of long-term operations and maintenance plans and effective communication with future generations.

The Committee and the GMRPT will operate on the principle of full, frank, transparent and timely disclosure of appropriate information, including all annual reports and other relevant program and project-specific reports.

The GMRPT will give full and serious consideration to the reports and recommendations of the Committee, implement those recommendations it considers appropriate, and respond to the Committee with its written reasons within specified periods including if, how and when the recommendations will or will not be accepted.

At all times, every effort will be made to avoid duplication with regulatory requirements.

Mandate

The Committee will be mandated to:

- serve as an arms-length body to monitor the environmental aspects of the Project including implementation of the Environmental Management System, public participation, communications, and information sharing;
- compile and analyze available relevant environmental quality data, in order to review, report, or make recommendations concerning environmental effects monitoring and management, compliance monitoring, environmental management plans and programs, annual reports and environmental impact reports, environmental research, long term operation and maintenance (Perpetual Care) of the site and integration of Traditional Knowledge and experience of the Aboriginal people into environmental plans and programs;
- provide processes for the effective dissemination of information to the Aboriginal people and the general public on matters pertaining to its mandate; and
- provide an effective means to bring to the GMRPT the concerns of Aboriginal people and the general public regarding the project.

Committee Composition and Term

A selection process will be set out that reflects the need for GMRPT, City, Public and Aboriginal input on Committee membership. Members will be selected based on their knowledge of the Project, the concerns of residents and interests of other affected groups, and the technical and environmental issues associated with the Project.

A comprehensive independent review of the terms of reference will be conducted after five years following the establishment of the Committee with a view to ensuring relevance, improving operations, incorporating best practices in all aspects of the Project and ensuring that the operations of and the membership on the Committee remain relevant and valid.



The terms of reference may also be amended at any time by consensus of parties involved in the establishment of the Committee and the Committee itself provided that substantial amendments are made only after public consultations held to discuss possible amendments.

Should there be a consensus among the parties involved in the establishment of the Committee that the Committee is no longer required, and following public consultation on the issue, the Committee may be terminated.

Committee Funding

AANDC will include funding for the Committee as an integral part of all funding requests for the Project. Funding will be subjected to review mechanisms that will enable changes to the agreement as the Project proceeds. The budget for the Committee will be reviewed on a regular basis and linked to the phases of the Project.

Dispute Resolution

A dispute resolution process will be set out to address matters related to the implementation and operations of the Committee. Dispute resolution will not address matters under the purview of the regulatory authorities or with respect to the operations of the project.

Process Going Forward

The GMRPT will work to establish the Committee ahead of the full remediation phase of the project that is currently projected to begin by 2017.

Respectfully,

Adrian Paradis
A/Manager
Giant Mine Remediation Project
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Canada

Ray Case, Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate and Strategic Planning
Environment and Natural Resources
GNWT

cc. Parties to EA0809-001