



Yellowknives Dene First Nation

P.O. Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

August 15th, 2013

Matt Spence
Director General, Northern Projects Management Office
5019-52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 1T5
David.Alexander@cannor.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Spence:

Re: Invitation to Provide Comments on the Giant Report of EA

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) has recently finished our review of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) Report of Environmental Assessment (REA) for the Giant Mine Reclamation. YKDFN applauds the efforts of the Review Board in completing this REA and their attention to the concerns of YKDFN in their assessment.

Your letter of July 30th, 2013 asks if YKDFN is willing to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the project have been identified and addressed in the REA. As it is currently written, the decision addresses many of the concerns that YKDFN had with the project. Comparing the initial Project proposal and the Measures and Suggestions from the Board, we feel that the deficiencies of the proposal have been remedied. It is imperative that the Crown implement the Suggestions provided in the REA to address all of YKDFN's concerns. Suggestions are often regarded as non-essential to the Decision, in this case, YKDFN views implementation of the Suggestions as instrumental to satisfying the Crown's duty.

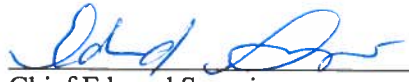
- *YKDFN would like written assurance from the Crown that they intend to implement the suggestions. If these Suggestions are not carried out, then the Duty to Consult has not been discharged as these accommodations are essential.*

YKDFN has been assured by your Department that should the Ministers seek to modify a measure, there would be additional consultation organized by the NPMO. It is our expectation that this consultation would commence with in-person discussions with any follow up to be determined in those discussions.

- *If the Crown commences a consult to modify process, YKDFN anticipates that they would be directly consulted before the response to the Board is released. YKDFN believes there is precedent for this additional engagement and is essential to assessing any impacts or infringements that may result from modification.*

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the public engagement process. This project is one of utmost concern to the YKDFN and its membership and as such our input must be reflected in the remediation decisions for Giant Mine. We look forward to working with the Crown to ensure that the concerns of the YKDFN are adequately addressed.

Sincerely,



Chief Edward Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)

cc. Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, AANDC
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, MVEIRB
Mimi Fortier, Director General, Northern Petroleum and Mineral Resources Branch, AANDC
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, EC
Amanda Jane Preece, Director General, Safe Environments Directorate, HC
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, DFO
Jack Bird, ADM-Operations, ENR, GNWT
Shannon Gault, Director, Land Management, YKDFN