



Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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

February 3rd, 2010

Martin Gavin
Manager, Giant Mine Remediation
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2R3
Fax: (867) 669-2439

Dear Mr. Gavin:

Re: Giant Mine Letter – January 19th, 2010

Thank you for your letter of January 19th, 2010, regarding the GIANT Mine Remediation EA (0809-001).

The Chiefs and Council of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation will be pleased to meet on February 9th, 2010 at 7pm in the Council Chambers of the Chief Drygeese Government Building in Dettah. YKDFN are open to the agenda, but the one mentioned in your letter seems appropriate.

Secondly, YKDFN Land and Environment is concerned that the GIANT staff is employing an old trick that is often used by mineral exploration companies who submit applications to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. These companies often “pad” their consultation log by calling organizations repeatedly. YKDFN are aware of the many, many phone calls that your staff has placed to a variety of YKDFN employees since the beginning of January. As staff have re-iterated many times over, special meetings are scheduled at monthly Chiefs and Council meetings. Council met over the course of several evenings Jan 1 –Feb 2 and determined the date of the meeting following our internal processes.

We would like to place a record of events on the record, so that there can be no issue of YKDFN frustrating the consultation process.

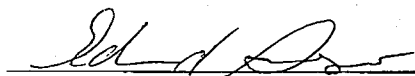
- Aug 31 - Tara Kramer requested to make a short presentation to Chiefs and Council.
- YKDFN requested a written one-page summary of what they wanted to present
- Sept 8 - One-page summary was provided
- Sept 8 – Giant remediation team was placed on the council agenda as a “public audience” item behind existing public audience requests
- Oct – YKDFN L&E staff work together to discuss forming Elders Committee
- Dec 3 – You, Lisa Dyer, Tara Kramers, Lisa Colas and others met with Jennifer Drygeese and Todd Slack of YKDFN Land and Environment at the Greenstone building. Land and Environment committed to working with the staff to develop and implement this process

in the new year, but we had to get input from leadership. The next step established at that meeting was to arrange a special Chiefs and Council meeting (as opposed to making a presentation at a regular council meeting). This was suggested because of the sheer amount of consultation requests that they receive, and this would represent the fastest method, as there is generally only one or two public audiences at each regular meeting. If I recall correctly, there were 47 items on the agenda at that point in time. On that same day, Land and Environment emailed the Chiefs EA and she added this special council meeting as an item to schedule at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

What GIANT staff do not seem to be sympathetic to is the effect that the Crown's suspension of Treaty Rights has had on the agenda's and workload of both staff and Chiefs and Council. While there can be little doubt that the environmental tragedy that is GIANT is of importance, but it is an existing site and frankly – it's not getting any worse nor going anywhere soon (the remediation plan could be summarized as such). Meanwhile, the crisis surrounding caribou is deepening and becoming more critical.

As this caribou crisis continues, we must ask for patience as it will remain *THE* priority issue for some time and the demands arising from this process have far exceeded the available resources and capacity. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact YKDFN Lands and Environment at 766-3496.

Sincerely,



Chief Edward Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)



Chiefs Ted Tsetta
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilo)

Copy: Todd Slack, YKDFN – Land and Environment, Yellowknife, NT (867) 766-3497
: Julie Jackson, Consultation Support Unit - INAC, Yellowknife, NT Fax: (867) 669-2710

Alan Ehrlich, MVEIRB, Yellowknife, NT Fax: (867) 766-7074
Steve Ellis, Akaitcho IMA Office, Lutsel K'e, NT Fax: 1-888-714-3209



Lands & Environment Office

Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P8

Phone: (867) 766-3496
Fax: (867) 766-3497
Email: jennifer@ykdene.com

Facsimile Transmittal Form

To: Martin Gavin
Manager, Giant Mine Remediation

From: Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Land and Environment Department

Fax: (867) 669-2439

Date: February 3, 2010

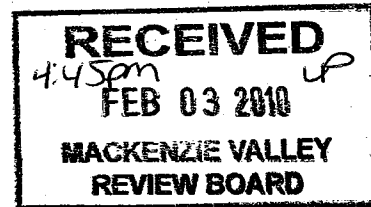
Copy: Chief Edward Sangris @ 873-5969
Chief Ted Tsetta @ 873-8545
Steve Ellis @ 1-888-714-3209
Julie Jackson @ 669-2710
Alan Ehrlich @ 766-7074

Number of Pages including cover: 2

RE: Giant Mine Letter – January 19th, 2010

Regards/Message:

Please pass onto the recipients.



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