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Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

March 27, 2020

Shannon Allerston, Regulatory Specialist
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor, 4910-50th Avenue
PO Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

RE: Addressing water compensation claims in the Giant Mine Remediation Project Water Licence Proceeding MV2007L8-0031

Dear Ms. Allerston

Please accept the Giant Mine Remediation Project's ("GMRP") response to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board's request ("MVLWB") (dated February 5, 2020) for a status update on water compensation claims related to the water licence application MV2007L8-0031.

With respect to the City of Yellowknife's ("the City") water pipeline claim for compensation, the GMRP maintains its position as laid out in its November 15, 2019 response to the MVLWB on the compensation claim applications. The GMRP maintains there are no grounds to award compensation to the City of Yellowknife based on the information it presented in its compensation claim application related to the water pipeline. No further discussions or negotiations have taken place between the GMRP and the City of Yellowknife on this matter.

With respect to the Yellowknife Historical Society's ("YHS") claim for compensation, the GMRP maintains its position as laid out in its November 15, 2019 response to the MVLWB on the compensation claim applications. The YHS currently occupies and makes use of a contaminated site. The GMRP, at the City's request, will attempt to remediate the Town Site area to a residential soil standard. In the event that the City and Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) agree to lease the property to the YHS after remediation is completed, the YHS will benefit from a safer and healthier state. The ability to conduct this remediation project is dependent upon access to the area for the GMRP. The GMRP will continue to engage with the YHS, as laid out in the GMRP Engagement Plan and as required, as it has done to date.

With respect to the City of Yellowknife's Town Site compensation claim, insofar as it relates to access and use of the Giant Mine Town Site where the City has a pre-existing lease with the GNWT and holds two-sub-lessees, the GMRP has made significant efforts to negotiate an access agreement with the City in order to allow us to carry out project activities at the Town Site. Through that process and as outlined in the November 15, 2019 response to the MVLWB on the compensation claims applications, the GMRP has committed to making best efforts to plan and conduct the project to minimize the time required and the impact on the users of the Town Site area. The GMRP will make best efforts to maintain continuous public access to Great Slave Lake for boating through the Town Site area during boating season. The GMRP has proposed achieving this by constructing a boat launch comparable to the existing one at the





Giant Mine boat launch near the site of the GSSC if necessary, and to make sure that at least one of the existing or new boat launches will be accessible by the public over the duration of the project during boating season to the greatest extent possible (as outlined in the October 10, 2019 letter to the City of Yellowknife from the GMRP¹.) The GMRP has continued to work with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), with the GNWT being both a co-proponent and the land-owner of the Town Site area, as well as the City of Yellowknife, as shown in Appendix A, to reach an agreement on access. Unfortunately, those efforts have not yet been successful.

With respect to the Great Slave Sailing Club's ("GSSC") compensation claim and individual claimants, the GMRP maintains its position as laid out in its November 15, 2019 response to the MVLWB on the compensation claim applications. The GMRP has made commitments to the GNWT, City of Yellowknife and GSSC membership that it would continue to work with all parties to minimize disruption to the greatest extent possible. As expressed in the March 10, 2020 letter to the GMRP from the GSSC, this is a positive relationship with both parties working cooperatively. To this end, the GMRP has committed to maintaining lake access to the extent reasonably possible at either the existing boat launch or at a new ramp in the GSSC area. It has also committed to maintaining or replacing the existing dock at the GSSC site if disturbed during remediation work. This work requires access and will not take place without permission from the land-owner.

The GNWT has confirmed that they will provide the GMRP free and unrestricted access to the Town Site as set out in the Co-operation Agreement as outlined in its April 16 2019 letter submitted to the Board². The GMRP will continue to attempt to negotiate an arrangement with the City for access to the Town Site. If we subsequently arrange access, or negotiate another agreement with respect to compensation, we will notify the Board.

Should you require any clarification on the above, please contact Natalie Plato, Deputy Director of the Giant Mine Remediation Project via email at Natalie.Plato@Canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Natalie Plato
Deputy Director
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Giant Mine Remediation Project

Encl. Appendix A Summary of Engagement Related to Compensation and Access

¹ CIRNAC letter to City of Yellowknife dated October 10, 2019 <http://registry.mvlwb.ca/Documents/MV2007L8-0031/MV2007L8-0031%20-%20DIAND-GIANT%20-%20Letter%20to%20City%20of%20YK%20Re%20-%20Water%20Compensation%20Claims%20Mitigation%20and%20Accomodation%20-%20Oct10-19.pdf>

² Giant Mine Remediation Project Reserves; Letter from GNWT dated April 16, 2019 <http://registry.mvlwb.ca/Documents/MV2019X0007/MV2019X0007%20MV2007L8-0031%20-%20DIAND-GIANT%20-%20GNWT%20Description%20of%20Federal%20Reserve%20Lands%20for%20Giant%20Projexct%20-%20Apr16-19.pdf>





Appendix A Summary of Engagement Related to Compensation and Access Engagement with the Claimants related to Compensation Claims

The GMRP has had regular engagement with many of the claimants. The GMRP has consulted with the City of Yellowknife, the Great Slave Sailing Club and some of its members, and the Yellowknife Historical Society with a view to minimize project impacts and disruptions to the greatest extent possible and accommodate their respective use of the site to the extent reasonably possible.

Engagement with City of Yellowknife

July 5, 2018 – Regular Monthly Meeting – Established who should be involved in discussions regarding relocation of boat launch

October 30, 2018 – Regular Monthly Meeting - City notes they will be requesting funding for a marina study

March 19, 2019 – Regular Monthly Meeting - Discussion around budget for a new dock

May 7, 2019 – Regular Monthly Meeting - Inquiring with Municipal and Community Affairs and Industry, Tourism and Investment regarding funding for new dock at Con

June 4, 2019 – Regular Monthly Meeting – City is looking into whether or not they will put in a claim

June 17, 2019 – Access Agreement Meeting – Discussion of draft access agreement with CIRNAC, GNWT, and City of Yellowknife

July 19, 2019 – Specific claim discussions on a “without prejudice” basis

August 14, 2019 – Follow up discussion on claim on a “without prejudice” basis

September 4, 2019 – Status update on information requests with CIRNAC, GNWT, and City of Yellowknife

September 20, 2019 – GMRP Proposes comparable dock built at GSSC

October 10, 2019 – Letter to City of Yellowknife committing to staging and sequencing to enable access

November 27, 2019 – Meeting between City and GMRP to discuss proposed zoned approach for remediation and the concept of lake access corridors within the access agreement and Town Site area

December 10, 2019 – Meeting between the City, GMRP and representatives from both the Great Slave Sailing Club and the Great Slave Yacht Club to discuss the possibility of a revised Access Agreement

Engagement with Great Slave Sailing Club

October 1, 2018 – Letter from GSSC regarding remediation and requesting a meeting

October 30, 2018 – Discussion around closure of boat launch, sequencing dredging, City of Yellowknife exploring Con site





September 17, 2019 – Compensation Claim Meeting

March 15, 2020 – Call with individual boat owner; GMRP re-iterated position

Engagement with Yellowknife Historical Society

November 30, 2018 - Annual Meeting, discussion of upcoming mining activities. It is noted they would be able to make a presentation during water licence process

April 16 2019 – Historical Society Recommendations received and discussed

September 4, 2019 – Letter from GMRP confirming access to museum would not be affected

September 19, 2019 – Compensation Claim Meeting

