



Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development Canada

Affaires autochtones et  
Développement du Nord Canada

Giant Mine Remediation Project

PO Box 1500

YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2R3

Your file - Votre référence

**CIDM# 569063**

Our file - Notre référence

June 7, 2013

Mr. Willard Hagen, Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor – 4910 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2P6

Dear Mr. Hagen;

**RE: May 2013 Monthly Report for Water Licence, MV2012L8-0010, Part B, Item 7**

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) was issued Water Licence MV2012L8-0010 (the Licence) on March 28, 2013 for water use and waste disposal associated with roaster complex deconstruction and underground stabilization at the Giant Mine. Part B, Item 7 of the Licence requires that the commitments made in the *Communications Plan for Duration of Site Stabilization Activities* (SSP Communications Plan) be fulfilled. One of the commitments in the SSP Communications Plan is to provide monthly updates to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and identified Parties during active operations.

This is the first monthly report prepared for the Licence and describes activities that took place in May 2013. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned at (867) 669-2425 or [adrian.paradis@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca](mailto:adrian.paradis@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

Adrian Paradis  
Regulatory Manager  
Giant Mine Remediation Plan

Cc. Clint Ambrose, AANDC Inspector  
Jane Amphlett, AANDC Giant Mine Operations Manager  
Parties

Encl.

**Canada**

**GIANT MINE ROASTER COMPLEX DECONSTRUCTION  
AND UNDERGROUND STABILIZATION**

**WATER LICENCE MV2012L8-0010 – PART B, ITEM 7**

**SSP COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**May 2013**

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## INTRODUCTION

Water Licence MV2012L8-0010 (the Licence) was issued to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) on March 28, 2013 for water use and waste disposal associated with roaster complex deconstruction and underground stabilization at the Giant Mine. Part B, Item 7 of the Licence requires that the commitments made in the *Communications Plan for Duration of Site Stabilization Activities* (SSP Communications Plan) be fulfilled. One of the commitments in the SSP Communications Plan is to provide monthly updates to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and identified Parties<sup>1</sup> during active operations.

The SSP Communications Plan requires that the monthly updates include the following items:

- Progress/status update of the work
- Summary of outcomes from environmental and health and safety related inspections
- Summary of outcomes from air and water quality monitoring

This is the first monthly report prepared for the Licence and describes activities that took place in May 2013.

## REGULATORY MILESTONES

A list of major regulatory milestones and activities is provided in the table below for reference purposes.

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF LICENSING ACTIVITY
March 28, 2013	Issuance of Water Licence MV2012L8-0010 by the MVLWB.
April 17, 2013	Submission of an amendment request by the Giant Mine Project Team to have the wording of Schedule 1, Item 1c changed as it is not possible to measure in the field the volume of bleed water generated by the curing process for the tailings paste used in underground stabilization.
April 25, 2013	The MVLWB approves the amendment request and changes the wording of Schedule 1, Item 1c to the following:  <i>The monthly and semi-annual quantities in cubic metres of each and all</i>

<sup>1</sup> Parties identified in the SSP Communications Plan include the following:

Residents of Yellowknife, N'Dilo and Dettah	North Slave Métis Alliance
Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Lutsel K'e First Nation
Giant Mine Advisory Committee	NWT Métis Nation
Tlicho First Nation	City of Yellowknife
Back Bay Community Association	Alternatives North
Ecology North	Workers Safety & Compensation Commission
City Emergency Services	Media
Members of the NWT Legislature	Giant Mine Community Alliance
Federal and territorial government agencies and inspection agencies, including Government of the Northwest Territories, Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada	

	<i>Waste discharged, including, but not limited to, the total volume of water pumped from the underground workings to the Northwest Tailings Pond each month.</i>
April 19, 2013	Submission of the Roaster Complex Deconstruction Waste Management Plan, Materials Safety Data Sheets, Decontamination and Deconstruction Plans, and Dust Management Plan to the MVLWB for approval. The MVLWB review and approval process remained ongoing throughout the reporting period.
May 1, 2013	Submission of the Roaster Complex Deconstruction Spill Contingency Plan to the MVLWB for approval. The MVLWB review and approval process remained ongoing throughout the reporting period.
May 15, 2013	Issuance of GNWT Wildlife Research Permit for roaster complex deconstruction.
May 27, 2013	Issuance of City of Yellowknife demolition permit for the roaster complex.

## **ROASTER COMPLEX DECONSTRUCTION – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The contract for deconstruction of the roaster complex was awarded to Parsons Canada Ltd. of Calgary on March 12, 2013. During May 2013, mobilization to the Giant Mine site began which included the following activities:

- Worker orientations and site specific training
- Set up and organized office trailers including electrical service and fiber optic cable line
- Prepared laydown areas
- Set up and tested air monitoring system
- Set up water treatment system
- Visually inspected area surrounding roaster stack.
- Set up scaffolding on the south side of the AC Roaster
- Set up HEPA vacuum on the west side of the AC Roaster
- Installation of storage tanks for portable water showers

## **UNDERGROUND STABILIZATION – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The tendering process for the underground stabilization contractor remained ongoing throughout May 2013. Closure date for bid submissions was May 22, 2013.

## **ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Engagement activities that were carried out during the reporting period are summarized in the table below.

### ***Engagement Activities Completed During the Reporting Period***

<b>ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY/TARGET</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
Public Events	7	Meet and greets, public forums and city council presentations
First Responders Meeting	1	Meeting
Media Interactions (based on # of media involved)	11	Interviews and site tour

## **MONITORING and INSPECTIONS**

### **Health and Safety Inspections**

There were no health and safety incidents during the reporting period. Safety training for employees and new hires was initiated.

### **Spill Events**

No spill events occurred during the reporting period.

### **Water Quality Monitoring**

No water quality samples were collected during the reporting period.

### **Air Quality Monitoring**

Air monitoring equipment arrived during the weekend of May 25<sup>th</sup>. During the reporting period, the equipment was tested for quality assurance and quality control.

### **Wildlife Observations and Follow-Up Actions**

Wildlife observations made during the reporting period include the following:

- A pair of American kestrels was observed around the Roaster Complex and the adjacent Mill Complex on May 9, 2013.
- A survey of the Roaster Complex was completed on May 31, 2013 by Golder Associates. Observations include:
  - Barn swallows and tree swallows were observed flying around and perching on the Roaster Complex.
  - Tree swallows were observed perching at and entering a hole in the side of a building within the Roaster Complex (Figure 1). A follow up inspection on June 3, 2013 confirmed

that there was no nest, eggs or chicks were present. The access hole was plugged and inspections will continue in June 2013.

- A male American kestrel was observed perching on the white tank at the north end of the roaster complex (Figure 2). A female kestrel was not observed. However, a potential stick nest was observed on a platform below the kestrel's perch (Figure 2). Follow-up inspections have confirmed that the nest is inactive and kestrels are not using the tank area but rather are using the mill area.
- Daily inspections of the entire roaster complex area will continue to ensure active nests are not disturbed.
- Four bird deterrents (noise makers) were installed between May 8 and May 13 to prevent further use of the roaster complex structures by birds.



**Figure 1: Location of Probable Tree Swallow Nest (circled in red) on the Southeast Corner of the Roaster Complex**



Figure 2: Location of Perched Kestrel and Stick Nest (circled in red) at the North End of the Roaster Complex