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### Staff Report

<b>Applicant:</b> Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	
<b>Location:</b> Giant Mine, NT	<b>Application:</b> MV2012L8-0010
<b>Date Prepared:</b> April 17, 2013	<b>Meeting Date:</b> April 25, 2013
<b>Subject:</b> Change to Type B Water Licence – Schedule 1 Item 1(c)	

#### 1. Purpose/Report Summary

The purpose of this Staff Report is to present a change request for an item contained within the recently issued Type B Water Licence (WL) MV2012L8-0010 (for deconstruction of the roaster complex and underground stabilization activities at the Giant Mine site, NT). This request was submitted by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada – Contaminants and Remediation Directorate, Giant Mine Remediation Project (AANDC-CARD) to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB or the Board) on April 17, 2013.

#### 2. Background

- December 19, 2012 – WL application received;
- March 28, 2013 – WL application issued to AANDC-CARD;
- April 17, 2013 – Change request received by the Board; and
- April 25, 2013 – Request presented to the Board.

#### 3. Discussion

This recently issued Type B WL is for the deconstruction of the roaster complex and underground stabilization at the Giant Mine. A review of the WL by AANDC-CARD found that an item contained within the WL is not possible to complete. This item concerns the tracking of “bleed” water quantities. It appears in the WL under Schedule 1, item 1 (c) and is for inclusion in the Semi-Annual Report(s) to be submitted to the Board by AANDC-CARD.

Schedule 1, item 1(c) states that the Semi Annual Report(s) shall include:

c. The monthly and semi-annual quantities in cubic metres of each and all Waste discharged including but not limited to any "bleed" water collected from the tailings paste;

In an April 17, 2013 letter to the Board, AANDC-CARD states that:

...Due to the nature of the underground stopes and chambers, which are not hydrologically closed systems, such measurement for bleed water are not possible. We respectfully request that the requirement to provide quantities of bleed water be removed from the condition. Reporting on the other waste types is possible and should remain part of the Licence.

...Drainage from each area requiring backfill is not confined to discrete known locations. As many of these seepage locations cannot be accessed due to blocked or unsafe drifts, direct measure of bleed water is not feasible or safe. In addition, bleed water could combine with other drainage flowing through the underground workings before seeping into an accessible location which will further increase the inaccuracies of any measurements made.

The Project Team suggests that the existing condition be revised as follows:

*The monthly and semi-annual quantities in cubic metres of each and all Waste discharged;*

In addition to providing quantities of all waste [sic] discharged, the Project Team will also provide the total volume of water pumped from the underground workings to the Northwest Tailings Pond each month.

Board staff have reviewed this change request and are proposing this revised wording for (c) Schedule 1, item 1:

*The monthly and semi-annual quantities in cubic metres of each and all Waste discharged, including, but not limited to, the total volume of water pumped from the underground workings to the Northwest Tailings Pond each month.*

This combines the suggestion put forward by AANDC-CARD and the sentence after it in which it is stated that they can provide the total monthly

volume of water pumped from the underground workings into the Northwest Tailings Pond.

**4. Comments**

The Distribution List for this file was copied on the email containing the change request letter to Board staff. Thus, Reviewers are aware that AANDC-CARD is not able to meet this condition as it is currently written.

The Board can change items contained in a Schedule for a WL at any time without the need for an amendment application or corresponding formalized process.

**5. Review Comments**

Not Applicable.

**6. Security**

Not applicable.

**7. Conclusion**

It is not possible to track the quantities of “bleed” water as originally thought when this WL was issued. The proposed revised condition allows for tracking of what is possible in terms of the volume of water from the underground workings.

**8. Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Board revise the wording for Schedule 1, item 1 (c) in WL MV2012L8-0010 to read as follows:

*The monthly and semi-annual quantities in cubic metres of each and all Waste discharged, including, but not limited to, the total volume of water pumped from the underground workings to the Northwest Tailings Pond each month.*

**9. Attachments**

- Change Request Letter dated April 17, 2013;
- Revised Schedule 1, item 1;
- WL (issued March 28, 2013);
- Updated Conditions; and
- Draft Approval Letter.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Boettger  
Regulatory Officer