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April 30, 2015

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: February 2015 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.

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

Encl. Monthly Report March 2015

c.c.: AANDC Inspector  
Distribution List

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

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

**SSP COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**March 2015**

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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 (MVLWB) 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 report has been prepared for the Licence and describes activities that took place in March 2015.

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<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	

## **REGULATORY MILESTONES**

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

**Table 1: Regulatory Milestones during the Reporting Period**

March 2015	Circulated a draft Roaster Complex Deconstruction Waste Management Plan Phase 2, Stage 3 for input by the parties.
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## **ROASTER COMPLEX DECONSTRUCTION – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The bulk of the deconstruction and containerization activities had been completed by the end of November. During the month of March, the on-site activities were limited to the following:

- Completion of site inspections of the Materials Storage Area (MSA). The inspections were completed on March 6, March 13, March 21 and March 28, 2015. No issues or deficiencies were identified during these site inspections.
- Snow clearing was completed in the laydown area located east of the Mill Building in order to store empty marine shipping containers.
- A total of 26 shipping containers arrived on March 30 and March 31, 2015 and were stored onsite. These containers will be filled during the 2015 field activities.

## **UNDERGROUND STABILIZATION – PROGRESS UPDATE**

Please find below the monthly Underground progress for March 2015.

- Continued underground inspections to gather information to complete the ground stabilization plans.
- Preparation work to install barricades and other rehabilitation activities to the underground.
- Mobilization of equipment to site for paste production including site trailers and communications gear.
- 270,038 litres of water have been used for dust suppression on tailings stockpiles during the month of March 2015.

## **ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Table 2 provides a summary of engagement activities related to the Site Stabilization Plan (SSP) during the reporting period. Other topics have not been reported below.

**Table 2: Engagement Activities Related to Site Stabilization Plan during the Reporting Period**

Engagement Activity/Target	Number	Type
Public Events	1	Giant Mine Working Group, YKDFN Giant Mine Advisory Committee, Public Meetings, Community Alliance
Information Distribution	7	Meetings, E-newsletter, e-mails, website, twitter posts
Site Tours	0	City of Yellowknife
Media Interactions (based on # of media involved)	0	Interviews, site tour, emailed responses

## **MONITORING and INSPECTIONS**

### **Health and Safety Inspections**

- 0 lost time incidents
- 1 minor first aid incidents
- 0 property damages.
- 0 reported near misses
- Weekly safety inspections were not completed during the month of March due to the minimal site activities.

### **Spill Events**

No reportable spills occurred during the month of March 2015.

### **Water Quality Monitoring**

No samples were collected from the waste water treatment system as there is no activity occurring on site which required the collection and disposal of water.

### **Sanitary Waste Management**

In the month of March there were no onsite activities that required the collection and disposal of sanitary waste.

### **Air Quality Monitoring**

A tiered ambient air quality monitoring program made up of three distinct parts has been implemented at the Giant Mine site. The three parts to the air quality program include task specific perimeter monitoring around the roaster, fenceline monitoring and community monitoring.

Perimeter air monitoring includes daily, real-time monitoring for Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) as well as 24-hour samples collected every three days and analyzed for PM<sub>10</sub>, total suspended particulates (TSP), and arsenic.

Please find below the summary for air monitoring for the month of March 2015:

Community Program:

- There were no continuous PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations greater than the target criteria for the community stations for the month of March.
- Sampling for TSP (high volumetric air flow), PM<sub>10</sub> (high volumetric air flow), asbestos, total inorganics (trace metals), and arsenic for a twenty-four hour period was conducted every six (6) days for the community sampling program up until March 19, 2015. Sampling frequency has returned to every (3) three days pending the start of the construction season. Sampling of these parameters has been ongoing since June 24, 2013. Laboratory results for the month of March are pending.

Fenceline Program:

- Fenceline air quality monitoring was shut down for the season on Friday, January 23, 2015.
- Fenceline air quality monitoring started limited operations at Site D (Beach) on Friday March 20, 2015, providing surveillance of any windblown dust from the South Tailings Pond. Site D was operating 24 hours per day with maintenance and QC checks performed at 7 AM each day.
- No 15-minute average particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) concentrations above the established Risk Based Action Level (RBAL) criteria were measured at the Site D (Beach) fenceline location during the month. PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations measured at the Site D (Beach) fenceline locations remained typical of background concentrations;
- No 15-minute average total suspended particulate (TSP) concentrations above the established RBAL were measured at the Site D (Beach) fenceline locations during the month;
- Air Quality Monitoring consultant is currently in the process of setting up the remaining fenceline monitors with the expectation of full fenceline monitoring program being in place by the second week in April.

Interim Underground Stabilization (IUS) Program:

- Air quality monitoring was shut down January 20, 2015 and will resume with project start up in mid to late May.

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

No wildlife observations occurred in active work areas and no nesting or rearing habitat was disturbed in the course of work activities.

Site personnel recorded 17 sightings of wildlife (porcupine and foxes) in non-work areas. No issues or concerns were identified.