

MVLWB Registry

From: Tyree Mullaney <tyree@mvlwb.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 4:37 PM
To: 'MVLWB Registry'
Subject: FW: High Winds today and tailings dust mitigation measures

MV2012L8-0010 – AANDC CARD – Giant – Dust Mitigation

Reports and studies
Other

Thanks

T

From: Natalie Plato [mailto:Natalie.Plato@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca]

Sent: May 20, 2015 4:33 PM

To: Johanne Black

Cc: Craig Wells; Jane Amphlett; Katherine Ross; Lisa Colas; Bill Slater; MoragMcPherson; Krista Amey; Amy Sparks; Gordon Hamre; Erika Nyyssonen; Asish Mohapatra; Tyree; shin.shiga@nsma.net; Linda Pickett; kevin o'reilly; ChrisGreencorn; jhumble@yellowknife.ca; Wenyan Yu; Todd Slack

Subject: RE: High Winds today and tailings dust mitigation measures

Hello Johanne:

Shortly after 1 p.m. on May 15, 2015, and well before you contacted me, the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team members observed visible dust blowing off the tailings ponds and tailings stockpiles at the Giant Mine site. Fenceline air quality monitors confirmed the spike in dust levels at approximately 1:45 pm. The dust was caused by a period of extremely high winds (including 69 km/hr gusts), combined with dry site conditions.

The Giant Mine Remediation Project Team took action to contain the dust by stopping work and wetting the tailings, as per standard operating procedures. The dust readings at the fenceline air quality monitoring stations quickly returned to normal and the community monitors did not exceed the 24-hour average criteria. In addition to the real-time monitors, the Project Team collects regular air samples at the community stations every three days. These samples are then sent to a lab and analyzed for metals including iron, nickel, lead and arsenic. Sample results for May 15 are in the process of being analyzed; this process is being expedited. We will share these results with you as soon as we have them.

It is important to note that all air quality criteria are set well below the level that may cause harm. The community monitors did not register dust levels above the set criteria.

This incident did not pose any immediate risk to workers, the public, or the environment. The team will continue to take active steps to manage the dry conditions on site. This includes the daily application of water to the tailings ponds, which began earlier this month, and the application of Soil-Sement®. Soil cement was applied to the Central Pond yesterday and today; it will be applied to the stockpiled tailings within a day or two. Soil-Sement® will be applied to the South pond later this week. As you are aware, the application of **Soil-Sement®** had to wait until conditions were favourable and that did not occur until this week.

High winds may cause blowing dust in the Yellowknife area from time to time. The Giant Mine Remediation Project's Air Quality Monitoring Program enables the Project Team to determine the cause of the dust and, if necessary, to take action to ensure that activities at Giant Mine do not have an impact on the surrounding communities.

Only complete remediation of the site can completely address the risks at Giant Mine. Through programs such as water treatment, air quality monitoring and site stabilization, however, the Project Team is actively working to mitigate risks at the mine site in order to protect the public and the environment. This work will continue until full remediation is complete.

Thank you
Natalie

Natalie Plato, P.Eng.
Deputy Project Director, Giant Mine
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
tele: (867) 669-2838
cell: (867) 445-6499

>>> Johanne Black <jblack@ykdene.com> 5/19/2015 5:11 PM >>>
Hello Natalie,

In light of the visible tailings dust plume that my community members seen and notified me of (it is also captured on video) that occurred on May 15, 2015 and the Ndilo community residents notifying me of this occurrence, I have a couple of questions and concerns.

I was wondering how visible dust is monitored and how does monitoring results feed back into mitigation, and how is this tracked (what days are trucks out spraying and I realize water quantities is tracked)? Or does the community have to monitor the visible dust and notify the project, as it does not seem that site seems to notice these occurrences. What is your procedure in high winds to mitigate dust coming into the communities? Does site monitor wind speed and when? (If wind was monitored in a more proactive manner the day of May 15th then site would have started wetting and my community members never would have seen the visible tailings dust plume coming our way).

Once a year high winds occur in the month of May and wetting of tailings is a must within that month and not to wait until visible dust is seen. These high wind speeds are not a phenomenon as it's a natural occurrence at that time of year (May) as Mother Nature uses these winds to distribute nutrients around to activate growth in the spring. This happens every year and wetting of tailings needs to be done in a more proactive manner especially in the month of May.

As most exceedances, if not all, seems to occur within the NDL station, YKDFN is requesting that perhaps lowering the dust action level at the fenceline may act as a precursor to something more significant and perhaps can be the trigger for action (such as wetting). Let me know if we can work together to ensure visible or not visible tailings dust does not come into the community of Ndilo any longer, as it is highly unacceptable to have tailings dust to continue to come into our communities and we visually see it coming in and that can't be denied.

Also, was samples collected for May 15 to be analyzed for trace metals that includes arsenic?

Mahsi Cho/Thank-you,

Johanne Black
YKDFN

From: Natalie Plato [<mailto:Natalie.Plato@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>]
Sent: May-15-15 5:40 PM
To: Johanne Black
Cc: Craig Wells; Jane Amphlett; Katherine Ross; Lisa Colas; Bill Slater; Morag McPherson; Krista Amey; Amy Sparks; Gordon Hamre; Erika Nyssonen; Asish Mohapatra; Tyree; shin.shiga@nsma.net; Linda Pickett; kevin o'reilly; ChrisGreencorn; jhumble@yellowknife.ca; Wenyan Yu; Todd Slack
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Hi Johanne:

On site they currently have four water trucks working to wet down the tailings. The dust seems to be coming from the south and central ponds. The crews will be working into the evening and through the weekend to keep the tailings wet. Should you have any other concerns please call me on my cell phone (445-6499).

Cheers and have a great weekend.

Natalie

>>> Johanne Black <jblack@ykdene.com> 5/15/2015 4:34 PM >>>
Hello Natalie,

Below is a link to a video of the tailings dust plume that someone from the community has posted.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zD6rH_j9dW8

Johanne Black

From: Johanne Black
Sent: May-15-15 2:47 PM
To: Natalie Plato (Natalie.Plato@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca)
Cc: Linda Pickett; Jane Amphlett; Katherine Ross; Lisa Colas; Tyree; 'Erika Nyssonen'; Amy Sparks; Bill Slater; Asish Mohapatra; Chris Greencorn; Gordon Hamre; kevin o'reilly; Krista Amey; Morag McPherson; shin.shiga@nsma.net; Todd Slack; Wenyan Yu; jhumble@yellowknife.ca
Subject: High Winds today and tailings dust mitigation measures

Hello Natalie,

In light of the strong winds today, I am wondering if dust mitigation measures are currently being enacted for the tailings ponds as there is a big dust cloud on top of the ice in the bay near the tailings that is a concern for my community as residents are phoning the band office of this concern. Please let me know what measures have been put in place in these instances.

Mahsi Cho/Thank-you,
Johanne