



Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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Press Release

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The communities of Ndilo and Dettah have concerns that are related to the windblown tailings that were visually seen being distributed off the Giant Mine property that occurred on the afternoon of May 15, 2015. Last year, the same incident occurred on May 4, 2014. Once a year high winds occur in the month of May, and active and thorough wetting of tailings is a must within that month. These high wind speeds are not a phenomenon, as it's a natural occurrence at that time of year, as Mother Nature uses these winds to distribute windblown nutrients 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.

Our community wants the Project to up its safe guards that are in place to reduce the chance of visible tailings dust from reaching us. These are close calls and too close for comfort. If we can see it then it's a problem regardless of what the air measurements read. It is unacceptable to see it heading our way in a seemingly threatening manner. Visually seeing the tailings dust plume coming our way and wondering if there are potential long term health effects as a result of it causes an extreme amount of stress for the community residents of Ndilo and Dettah.

YKDFN understands the constraints the project has to deal with, such as:

- The Project not able to perform tailings remediation until the Project advances its work on the Boards Measures in order to be issued a water license to begin remediation; and
- The tailings area is massive (<1 km²) and huge quantities of water is needed to wet the tailings; and
- Soil cement conditions may not be ideal to apply prior to the yearly expected high winds.

These are some of the constraints that we are aware of.

YKDFN understands that there are mechanisms in place to reduce this from occurring, such as the Giant Mine Air Quality Program that has a 3-tier air monitoring system that includes monitoring of dust for: (1) task-specific perimeter monitoring around the roaster; (2) air monitoring around the fenceline, (3) and the community air monitoring stations.

One of the ways YKDFN believes would minimize the occurrences of visible tailings dust is if the Project lowered the dust action level at the fenceline so that it may act as a precursor to something more significant, such as a tailings dust plume in the event of extreme winds. Perhaps it can be the trigger for action, such that wetting of the tailings can be achieved way ahead of time in a more proactive manner to reduce the menacing appearance of the tailings dust plume.



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My question to the project is:

Is the project willing to reduce this action level at the fenceline? We will continue to ask for this measure until it is enacted, or, to continue to ask to work together to find an acceptable solution to the stress effects the visible tailings dust poses on our community so that this does not occur in the 2016 spring season.

YKDFN realizes the constraints the project has to deal with and we want to work with the project to find a solution to deal with our concerns.

Mahsi Cho/Thank-you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Betsina".

Chief Ernest Betsina
Yellowknives Dene First Nation