

MVLWB Registry

From: Tyree Mullaney <tyree@mvlwb.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 12:23 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: Chris Greencorn [mailto:cgreencorn@yellowknife.ca]
Sent: May 27, 2015 12:00 PM
To: Johanne Black
Cc: Natalie Plato; Craig Wells; Jane Amphlett; Katherine Ross; Jennifer Lukas; Lisa Colas; Sharon Low; Bill Slater; MoragMcPherson; Krista Amey; Amy Sparks; Gordon Hamre; Erika Nyssonen; Asish Mohapatra; Tyree; shin.shiga@nsma.net; Linda Pickett; kevin o'reilly; Jeffrey Humble; Wenyan Yu; Todd Slack
Subject: Re: High Winds today and tailings dust mitigation measures

Good Morning,

The City of Yellowknife really has no comment on the dust emanating from the Giant Site.

If there is a question regarding public health we expect the GNWT to act in the public's best interests as it is their mandate. We do not have the expertise to comment on the dangers of this airborne material.

Regards,

Chris Greencorn, P.Eng.
Director, Public Works & Engineering

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse any spelling errors or the brevity of any messages.

On May 27, 2015, at 9:29 AM, Johanne Black <jblack@ykdene.com> wrote:

Hello Natalie,

YKDFN's response is attached.

Furthermore, since Ndilo is within the City of Yellowknife, I wonder if the City of Yellowknife has any comments on the fugitive tailings dust?

Mahsi Cho/Thank-you,
Johanne Black
YKDFN

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

Sent: May-27-15 7:17 AM

To: Johanne Black

Cc: Craig Wells; Jane Amphlett; Katherine Ross; Jennifer Lukas; Lisa Colas; Sharon Low; Bill Slater; MoragMcPherson; 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

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

Hello Johanne:

Please find my responses to your questions. I am traveling this week but am available to meet with you on Monday June 1, 2015 should you wish.

Cheers

Natalie

Is 1.25 hours enough time to respond with action (wetting) with the amount of water trucks you have on site?

As the site is very dry and the soil sement had not yet been appiled, the site has been taking a proactive approach and wetting the tailings on a regular (daily) basis regardless of the RBAL being reached or the presence of visible dust. However, on the morning of Friday May 15 as the water truck was starting the usual first applicaiton of water to the tailings pond it's water pump was damaged and required repairs. A second water truck was called over while the first truck underwent repairs. This second water truck became stuck in the tailings and required heavy equipment to remove it. The original truck was repaired and out applying water around 4 pm along with the second truck. In the meantime the site found three an additional trucks (one from town and two from other areas of the site).

How many water trucks were used to wet the tailings down?

There were a total of 5 trucks. Three water trucks spraying down the Central Tailings Pond (2 that got repaired/un-stuck and a 3rd one sourced locally) and 2 water trucks spraying down the South Tailings Pond.

What is the water capacity of the water truck?

DCN Truck #1 = Weatherby GMC Water Truck = 10,001.4 Liters

DCN Truck #2 = Weatherby Kenworth Water Truck = 18,184.36 Liters

DCN Truck #3 = Mack Water Truck = 18,200 Liters

NUNA Truck #1 = RTL Water Truck = 18,000 Liters

NUNA Truck #2 = RTL Water Truck = 18,000 Liters

How long does it take to empty one water truck?

It takes approximately 30 minutes to fill each of these water trucks and 30 minutes to empty.

What size area does one water truck wet down?

Each one of these water truck can cover approximately 175 meters by 75 meters with water = 13125 meters squared per load

If the action level was lowered, would this lowering help site to act in a more proactive manner so that tailings dust does not become visible?

I do not believe that a lower RBAL level would have made a difference in this case. As stated above, the site has been taking a proactive approach and wetting the tailings on a regular (daily) basis regardless of the RBAL being reached or the presence of visible dust. The mechanical failure and the stuck truck resulted in a slight delay. However, once the trucks were back on line the dust levels were reduced.

This incident did not pose any immediate risk to workers, the public, or the environment. And it is important to note that no dust exceedances were recorded at the community stations and the air quality monitoring program worked as it should.

Is the project willing to reduce this action level at the fenceline?

As indicated in my letter to Chief Betsina, I would like to work with you to find an acceptable solution to improve how we anticipate and respond to future events. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss options for improving our standard operating procedures for dust management at the site.

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

Sent: May-20-15 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 Nyssonen; 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 fence line 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
Subject: RE: High Winds today and tailings dust mitigation measures

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

<Chief Betsina letter to GM after GM response on May 25, 2015.pdf>