

## MVLWB Permits

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**From:** Tyree Mullaney <tyree@mvlwb.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 19, 2014 4:25 PM  
**To:** 'MVLWB Permits'  
**Subject:** FW: Question on Giant Mine water use from tailings ponds and underground

MV2012L8-0010 – AANDC-CARD – question and response on use of water from tailings ponds and underground  
Initial application – consultation and reviews.

Thanks

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**From:** Rebecca Chouinard [<mailto:rchouinard@mvlwb.com>]  
**Sent:** February 11, 2014 3:30 PM  
**To:** [Katherine.Ross@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](mailto:Katherine.Ross@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca)  
**Cc:** 'Tyree Mullaney'; 'Angela Plautz - MVLWB'; 'Zabey Nevitt - MVLWB'  
**Subject:** RE: Question on Giant Mine water use from tailings ponds and underground

Hello Katherine,

Regarding your question on the Giant Mine water use from tailings ponds and underground mine water:

The definition of Waters in the NWTWA states that “waters” means any inland water, whether in a liquid or frozen state, on or below the surface of the land in the Northwest Territories.

Our position has been that groundwater (regardless of the natural quality of the water) is captured in this definition. Following this rationale, the use of mine water would qualify as a use of water, and hence, require an amendment to your Water Licence (assuming this source and volume was not considered in your current licence).

However, as per the footnote to Schedule VIII of the Water Regulations, water use does not include water taken from an artificial reservoir with no natural inflow. Provided the tailings ponds do not have natural inflow, use of this water would not trigger the need for a Water Licence.

I hope this helps to answer your questions. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Best Regards,

Rebecca Chouinard  
Regulatory Manager  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

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**From:** Tyree Mullaney [<mailto:tyree@mvlwb.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 3:15 PM

**To:** 'Rebecca Chouinard'

**Subject:** FW: Question on Giant Mine water use from tailings ponds and underground

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**From:** Katherine Ross [<mailto:Katherine.Ross@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>]

**Sent:** January 15, 2014 8:59 AM

**To:** Tyree Mullaney

**Cc:** Chris MacInnis; Adrian Paradis; Anne-Marie Guedon; Nahum Lee; Mark Palmer

**Subject:** Question on Giant Mine water use from tailings ponds and underground

Good Morning Tyree,

The Giant Mine Remediation Project Team is planning for the upcoming 2014 Advanced Underground Stabilization operating season. Due to the shortened field season in 2013 and to accommodate the increased volume of paste tailings required to fill the underground workings (cavity monitoring scans and LIDAR sweeps in 2013 under the land use permit has further defined the sizes of the stopes and chambers), it is necessary to increase the rate of paste production. Increasing paste production can be accomplished by using water from sources upstream from the effluent treatment plant including the tailings pond and underground mine water. This use of untreated mine water would supplement the water use from the Polishing Pond approved in the licence. No additional water from the Polishing Pond is required; the 300 m<sup>3</sup> limit per day set out in Part C, Item 3 in the licence does not need to change.

Based on direction received from Board staff (see attached emails), it appears that using untreated mine water from the tailings ponds and underground does not affect water use thresholds/triggers. What also requires clarification is whether Part C, Item 1 of the licence requires amendment to use untreated mine water.

Please confirm whether an amendment to WL MV2012L8-001 is required to use water from the tailings pond and underground mine workings for paste production.

Thank you,

Katherine

*Katherine Ross*

Project Manager

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